

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)**

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>
**September 16, 2024
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Pat Ferris Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez Deputy City Clerk Christie Burgner City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr.
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1. Invocation

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. led the Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Andrew Bramlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

4. Announcements

- A. If you are not able to attend a meeting in-person and would like to provide public comment on a specific agenda item, you can email kennesawcouncil@kennesaw-ga.gov no later than 6:00 PM the night of the regular meeting. Your comments on a specific agenda item will be read aloud or grouped into categories for the record. **Facebook Live is not monitored for public comment.**

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:31 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:32 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. Final Public Hearing: FY25 Operating Budget

Consideration to approve a resolution to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating Budget for the City of Kennesaw and adopt the organizational chart.

For the adoption of the FY25 Operating Budget at this final public hearing, Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Gordy provided information including: general fund operating revenues, general fund expenditures, proposed operating budget, proposed internal service fund budget, operating reserves, personnel recommendations, and proposed capital expenditures.

Floor open to public comment at 6:36 p.m. There was no public comment. Floor closed to public comment at 6:37 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve [RESOLUTION 2024-45,2024](#). Seconded by Councilmember Ferris. There was no discussion.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

B. Final Public Hearing: FY25 Capital Improvement (SPLOST) Budget

Consideration to approve a resolution to adopt the FY 2024-2025 Capital Improvement (SPLOST) Budget for the City of Kennesaw.

For this final public hearing of the FY25 Capital Improvement (SPLOST) Budget, Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Gordy provided information on the proposed SPLOST budget fund including the remaining dollars to be spent.

Floor open to public comment at 6:38 p.m. There was no public comment. Floor closed to public comment at 6:39 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve [RESOLUTION 2024-46, 2024](#). Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez. There was no discussion.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

11. Consent Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Ferris to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Viars. There was no discussion.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

A. Minutes: September 3, 2024 Regular Meeting

Approval of the September 3, 2024, City Council regular meeting minutes.

B. Minutes: September 3, 2024 Executive Session

Approval of the September 3, 2024, City Council executive session minutes.

C. Final Plat Application: 1972, 1994 & 2004 Duncan Drive

Approval of a final plat application submitted by Gunnin Land Surveying for 1972, 1994 & 2004 Duncan Dr. (Parcel numbers 20043801900, 20013801940 & 20013800470). Case #FP2024-03.

D. Final Plat Application: 2400 Ellison Lakes Drive

Approval of a final plat application submitted by Eric Federspiel for 2400 Ellison Lakes Dr. (Parcel numbers 20017501120 & 20017500170) ; this plat intends to adjust the property line between the two parcels. Case #FP2024-04.

E. Resolution: 2881 North Main Street Intergovernmental Agreement

Approval of a Resolution for the City to loan the Kennesaw Development Authority \$700,000 to purchase 2881 North Main Street via an intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

[RESOLUTION 2024-47, 2024](#)

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett presented a local history story about a ledger from the Kennesaw Guano Company which was actually located in Atlanta (See Exhibit B).

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

1. Appointment: Information Technology Director

Ratify the appointment of Berry Wilson, Information Technology Director.

City Manager Dr. Jeff Drobney presented his new appointee for IT Director, Berry Wilson. Mr. Wilson introduced himself, spoke of the good things he has seen happening in the City of Kennesaw, and discussed information technology. Councilmember Ferris moved to ratify the appointment of Berry Wilson as Information Technology Director. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez. There was no discussion. Vote taken, motion unanimously approved (5:0). Motion passed. Mayor Easterling welcomed Mr. Wilson to Team Kennesaw.

Dr. Drobney recognized staff who worked at the concert Saturday night; it was a great time. In the last 24 years, that concert was one of the most exciting and fun filled events

in Kennesaw. Although there was uncertainty regarding the weather, the staff worked together to create a fun event for attendees and Dr. Drobney is thankful for staff. He is looking forward to next year. Mayor Easterling noted that Dr. Drobney seemed to know all the words to all the songs and was somewhat surprised by the younger people in the crowd who knew all the words.

20. Mayor's Report

- A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

Mayor Easterling called for a motion to accept the resignation of Chelsea Bodenhamer from the Arts and Culture Commission. Motion by Councilmember Viars. Second by Councilmember Orochena. There was no discussion. Vote taken, motion unanimously approved (5:0). Motion passed.

Mayor Easterling called for a motion to appoint Deputy City Clerk Christie Burgner to the Events Committee. Motion by Councilmember Viars. Second by Councilmember Orochena. There was no discussion. Vote taken, motion unanimously approved (5:0). Motion passed.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Gutierrez stated that while at the concert on Saturday night, he unexpectedly saw a friend who was working security for the concert.

Councilmember Jones thanked staff for the concert series. He advised he had asked for a fence to be placed at the McCollum Park, saw today that it had been placed, and thanked Parks Director Bill McNair.

Councilmember Orochena stated the concert was fun and was thankful that the rain held off as her family attended.

Councilmember Ferris recounted stories of previous Parks & Recreation Director Danny Jones who was a great guy but could never seem to predict the weather properly for an event such as the concert. Kudos to Dr. Drobney and his team for their weather prognostication.

Councilmember Viars congratulated Jennifer Gordy and Gina Auld in the Finance Department on their great work on the budget.

22. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, September 30, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

Names and Addresses will be disclosed in the Permanent Minutes of the
City of Kennesaw

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting

9/16/2024

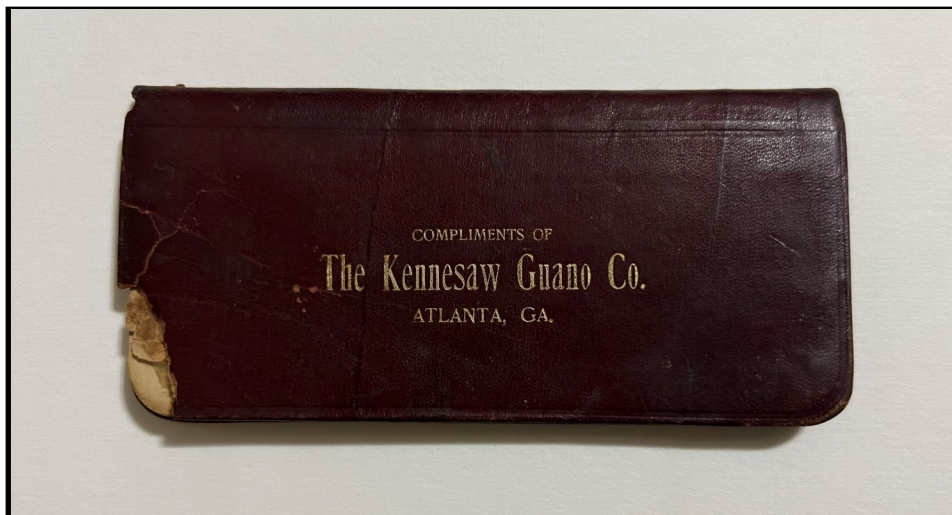
Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	<u>Walter D. Brubitt</u>	<u>2990 Jennifer Ct.</u>	<u>Kennesaw history</u>
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KENNESAW HISTORY

Kennesaw Guano

Ledger from the Kennesaw
Guano Company



When looking into Kennesaw history, I occasionally run across some odd uses of our community's name. Recently, I added a very odd item to my collection: a small ledger from the Kennesaw Guano Company. It was probably intended to be small enough to fit in a pocket, and has some advertising material and handwritten notes inside. The Kennesaw Guano Company was not in fact from Cobb County, and was instead based in Atlanta. The company's founders were evidently hoping to capitalize on the name of Kennesaw Mountain. It was founded in 1889, and promised to sell "a very superior grade of guano."

Guano was used as a fertilizer, and by the mid-1890s at least eight guano businesses could be found in Atlanta alone. It is unclear where the company found its product, though some may have come from oxen. After all, a ox head logo was prominently featured on every bag sold. In 1902, the business was acquired by the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company. Though there were occasional references to the business in legal ads, the brand seems to have vanished by 1910.