

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

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>
**October 7, 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 City Clerk Lea Alvarez Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes Assistant City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
---------	---

1. Invocation

City Resident Carlene Fregeolle led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

City Resident 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. Starting with the October 14 City Council Work Session, we will no longer be streaming meetings via Facebook Live. To watch a meeting live or to view a recording after the meeting, please visit the Public Meeting Portal on the City website at www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/.
- B. 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

Chief Westenberger shared that on Saturday, October 5, 2024, the Kennesaw Police Department held its annual awards banquet. At the banquet, the department

acknowledged the hard work and actions of several officers, including Officer of the Year, Joshua Ange. Chief Westenberger introduced Officer Ange to the Mayor and Council and thanked him for being a part of the team. Officer Ange responded that he loves the City of Kennesaw and is grateful for the opportunity to work here.

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)

11. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: September 9, 2024 Work Session

Approval of the September 9, 2024, City Council work session minutes.

B. Minutes: September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting

Approval of the September 16, 2024, City Council regular meeting minutes.

C. Resolution: 3238 Cherokee Street and 3248 Cherokee Street ROW and Property Acquisition

Consideration to approve a resolution to acquire the Right of Way, Permanent Easement and Temporary Easements from 3238 Cherokee Street and 3248 Cherokee Street (Parcels 23, 24 and 25) needed for the Cherokee Street Improvement Project

[Resolution No. 2024-48](#)

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

12. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: Amigos Food Mart

Consideration for approval of an Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for OMSKY7893 INC d/b/a Amigos Food Mart located at 2851 Cobb Pkwy NW Kennesaw, GA 30152. Applicant: Sangitaben Patel

Business License Manager LaMaya Edmonds presented an alcohol license for beer,

wine, and Sunday sales for OMSKY7893 INC d/b/a Amigos Food Mart located at 2851 Cobb Parkway NW. The applicant has completed the required alcohol workshop, signs have been posted, and it has been properly advertised. The applicant's background check and fingerprints are on file.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to approve the alcohol license for beer, wine, and Sunday sales for OMSKY7893 d/b/a Amigos Food Mart located at 2851 Cobb Parkway NW as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

B. Alcohol License: Cigar Gallery Club

Consideration for approval of an Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, Liquor and Sunday Sales for Cigar Gallery Club LLC d/b/a Cigar Gallery Club located at 3600 Cherokee St NW, Suite 102 Kennesaw, GA 30144. Applicant: Victor Rodriguez

Mayor Easterling announced that the City received some information prior to the meeting that needed to be reviewed prior to the vote. He recommends postponing the item until the regular meeting on October 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to postpone the item until the regular City Council meeting on October 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

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

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Statistics: August 2024

Chief Bill Westenberger presented the August 2024 crime statistics (See **Exhibit A**).

Motion by Councilmember Viars to receive the August 2024 crime statistics as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones.

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

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

A. Purchase Authorization: Vehicles for Public Works, Building Maintenance, Parks and Recreation, and Police

Consideration to authorize purchase of vehicles approved in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart requested authorization to purchase seven (7) vehicles for Public Works (2), Building Maintenance (1), Parks and Recreation (2), and Police (2) approved in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Motion by Councilmember Gutierrez to authorize the purchase of vehicles approved in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Ferris.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked if, as long as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money is earmarked by this year, could the product be received next year. Mr. Stewart deferred to Finance Director Gina Auld. Ms. Auld said that the ARPA funds have to be earmarked by December 2024. So, the City has to commit those dollars and enter into an agreement with a vendor by that date.

Councilmember Ferris asked if all the vehicles are being paid for by the ARPA funds or are some General Fund dollars being allocated as well. Mr. Stewart said all the vehicles listed in the item are being purchased with ARPA dollars.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked if we could place the order for electric vehicles this year and receive them next year. Mr. Stewart said that, based on what Ms. Auld said it would be a possibility, but that staff had decided not to buy electric vehicles. Mayor Pro Tem Jones clarified that staff chose not to purchase electric vehicles despite the Council agreeing to go a different direction. Mr. Stewart pointed out that after reviewing the July 8, 2024, minutes, staff was asked to consider purchasing electric vehicles and after consideration, chose not to pursue them.

Councilmember Ferris said his recollection was similar to what Mr. Stewart said. After discussing electric vehicles, staff was asked to look into it, see if it made sense, and then come back with a recommendation. Mr. Ferris noted that the Council did not direct Mr. Stewart to go out and buy electric vehicles. Although he wants the staff to keep considering electric vehicles, right now, staff is saying it is not the time.

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

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:41 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett discussed Jimmy Carter's connection to Kennesaw in honor of his 100th birthday (See **Exhibit B**).

ROBERT [Roswell Resident]: Robert wanted to make people aware of the MSPLOST vote coming up in November. It is a one cent sales tax that would go toward developing transit here in Cobb County. He believes it would benefit Kennesaw after looking at the plan.

CARLENE FREGEOLLE [City Resident]: Ms. Fregeolle mentioned she is not for MSPLOST. She wanted to give a shout-out to the City and the Downtown Merchants regarding the fantastic concert series being held at the new Amphitheater.

6:44 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes is filling in for City Manager Jeff Drobney while he is out on vacation. Mr. Hughes noted that this Friday, the City will have a staff appreciation luncheon. It is a small way for the City to show thanks for all the hard work staff does for this community.

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.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Ferris mentioned Scarecrows on Main has received a lot of positive feedback. Also, he went to the Kennesaw Police Department awards banquet on Saturday night. He heard a lot of great stories about our officers and their contributions to our community. One time a year is wonderful, but he hopes that department leadership recognizes these guys on a regular basis.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones thanked Ms. Fregeolle for her prayer at the beginning of the meeting and thanked Chief Westenberger for inviting the Council to the awards banquet. He shared that his wife, Chantelle, has been putting food together and giving it to a neighbor from North Carolina to help provide relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. He gave kudos to the Council as he was approached and thanked by staff for paid parental leave.

Councilmember Gutierrez just came back from a family vacation in California. He had forgotten how concentrated everything was there. In a mile radius from the hotel he stayed at was his childhood home, the hospital he was born at, and all the theme parks. He shared that when his mother's water broke with him, the hospital was so close that she just walked there.

Councilmember Orochena had a wonderful time at the awards banquet. She was grateful to give respect and honor to those that have dedicated their lives to protecting the community. She was also grateful for the wonderful weather over the weekend for the cemetery cleanup event held at the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

Councilmember Viars wished Joe Bozeman a happy birthday and thanked those who did a lot of work on the concerts this year.

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 6:53 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk



August 2024 Crime Statistics

Crimes	August 2024	August 2023	YTD (01/01/24)- (08/31/24)	YTD (01/01/23)- (08/31/23)
Assault Offenses	16	33	220	247
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	1	21	9
Burglary	1	5	23	21
Homicide Offenses	1	0	2	0
Larceny	9	8	76	92
Sex Offenses	1	1	10	15
Robbery	0	1	2	7
Total	31	49	354	391

	August 2024	August 2023	YTD (01/01/24)- (08/31/24)	YTD (01/01/23)- (08/31/23)
Dispatched Calls for Service	779 (-57)	836	6121 (-559)	6680
Self-Initiated Activity	1377 (+193)	1184	9549 (+1207)	8342
Traffic Citations	593 (-436)	1029	4667 (-1646)	6313
Traffic Warnings*	687 (+512)	175	4807 (+2635)	2172
Arrests**	73 (-34)	107	766 (+54)	712

*Warnings do not include verbal warnings
 **Arrests statistics do not include juveniles

	August 2024	August 2023	YTD (01/01/24)- (08/31/24)	YTD (01/01/23)- (08/31/23)
Auto Accident	106 (-11)	117	836 (-29)	865
Accident W/ Injury	9 (-4)	13	67 (-28)	95
Hit and Run	8 (-9)	17	89 (-32)	121
Hit and Run W/ Injury	0	0	1	1
Person Hit by Auto W/ Injury	0 (-1)	1	5 (-1)	4



KENNESAW HISTORY

Jimmy Carter

On Tuesday of last week, former president Jimmy Carter celebrated his 100th birthday. In honor of this occasion, I wanted to share about Carter's connections to Kennesaw.

In 1972, the *General* was permanently returned to Georgia. Before it made its way to Kennesaw, the engine was taken to Atlanta for an unveiling. On hand for the occasion was the governor, Jimmy Carter. After the Atlanta ceremony, the engine was moved to Kennesaw.

When Carter successfully ran for president in 1976, Kennesaw resident Jimmy Carter (unrelated) expressed his support.

Lastly, in 1977, Carter helped Kennesaw make national news. During his time as governor, his daughter Amy was a member of the Little General Cloggers. The group was founded by Olivia Smathers, and served as the city's goodwill ambassadors. On entering the White House, Carter invited the Cloggers to perform. In May 1977, they clogged in the East Room of the White House, and word of the performance was in newspapers as far away as Anchorage, Alaska.



Jimmy Carter with the *General*

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the October 7, 2024,
City of Kennesaw Mayor & Council Meeting

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

10/7/2024

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew J. Brantlett	2990 Sumnerfield Ct.	Local history
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
19			