

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
December 2, 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 6:31 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

A. Update: Taste of Kennesaw

Update on the Taste of Kennesaw provided by Mike Everhart of the Kennesaw Business Association.

Mike Everhart with the Kennesaw Business Association (KBA) spoke about the 16th Annual Taste of Kennesaw. Mr. Everhart thanked Chief Westenberger, his officers, staff and commanders and advised they were delightful to work with. Mr. Everhart also thanked Public Works Director Ricky Stewart and his phenomenal crew. Over thirty restaurants participated in the event. The event received positive press from the Marietta Daily Journal and Mr. Everhart appreciates the relationship that the KBA has with the City. Years ago, the Taste of Kennesaw was rebuilt with KBA organizing the event and community service in mind. JRM worked the event for no fee. The KBA has given approximately \$230,000 back to the community over the last 15 years and this year will give \$20,000 to four local beneficiaries: Shop with a Warrior, Shop with a

Mustang, Shop with a Longhorn, Jerry Worthing Christmas Memorial Fund, and Kennesaw State Cares, a program designed to assist university students who struggle with food insecurity or homelessness. Mr. Everhart would like it to be known and celebrated that in addition to the KBA donations to Kennesaw State Cares, local high schools raised over 2000 non-perishable food items for the university students with food insecurity.

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:36 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comment

No comments.

6:37 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comment

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. Resolution: Transfer 2022 SPLOST Funds

Consideration of approval for a Resolution to transfer excess 2022 SPLOST funds to the Public Safety Facility SPLOST fund for an amount not to exceed \$7 million.

Dr. Drobney advised that the Public Safety facility has been long in the planning stages. Decisions can be made and construction moved forward with the additional amount stated in the resolution as discussed in the work session.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to approve [RESOLUTION 2024-56, 2024](#) authorizing the transfer of 2022 SPLOST excess funds to the SPLOST 2022 Public Safety facility account. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez. There was no discussion. Vote unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

9. Committee and Board Reports

A. Update: Kennesaw City Cemetery

Year in Review to be provided by Lewis Bramlett, Chair of the Cemetery Preservation Commission.

Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Commission Chair Lewis Bramlett presented updates on the Kennesaw City Cemetery including information about members of the Commission and Foundation, kiosks, temporary grave markers, plant/tree removal, Section III survey work, lot markers, gravel road removal, City and DAR events, donations, structure maintenance, signs, and memorial trees. Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Foundation Chair Stephen King provided information on the October "Life in the Cemetery" Tour which was their most successful event to date and netted almost \$7000 in donations. The Foundation will use those monies to support projects at the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by

Mayor Pro Tem Jones. There was no discussion.

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

- A. **Minutes: November 12, 2024 Executive Session**
Approval of the November 12, 2024, City Council executive session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: November 12, 2024 Work Session**
Approval of the November 12, 2024, City Council work session minutes.
- C. **Minutes: November 18, 2024 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the November 18, 2024, City Council regular meeting minutes.
- D. **Resolution: City Clerk Contract Renewal**
Approval of a Resolution authorizing a contract renewal with the City Clerk.

[RESOLUTION 2024-57, 2024](#)

- E. **Resolution: City Manager Contract Renewal**
Approval of a Resolution authorizing a contract renewal with the City Manager.

[RESOLUTION 2024-58, 2024](#)

- F. **Resolution: City Hall Entrance Improvements**
Approval of a Resolution approving the bid and awarding the contract for City Hall Entrance Improvements to S.H. Creel Contracting, LLC.

[RESOLUTION 2024-59, 2024](#)

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

- A. **Resolution: Right of Way Abandonment Process for 2995 and 2997 North Main Street**
Consideration of approval for a Resolution authorizing the start of the Right of Way Abandonment Process for 2995 and 2997 North Main Street.

Councilmember Orochena recused herself from the discussion because her parents own the properties, and she left the dais.

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart advised about the agenda item. Public Works has received a request from the owner of 2995 and 2997 North Main Street that the City abandon 30 feet of the current 50 feet right of way. If the City did abandon the 30 feet, the right of way would then align with the neighboring properties on Main Street. Mr. Stewart researched the area and it is his belief that at some point that area may have been meant for a turn wing for a street that was abandoned in the 1980's. Mr. Stewart recommends approval for this first step of the process.

Motion by Councilmember Gutierrez to approve [RESOLUTION 2024-60, 2024](#) authorizing the start of the right of way abandonment process for 2995 and 2997 North Main Street. Seconded by Councilmember Viars. Discussion held regarding future need of the right of way. Mr. Stewart advised that due to the closeness of neighboring houses to Main Street, if there was a sidewalk widening it would most likely be done on the other side of the road. Councilmember Ferris inquired about utilities. Mr. Stewart stated that if there are unknown utilities in the portion that is to be abandoned, the utilities would have to work with the property owners. Any new utilities would be placed under the sidewalk or on the other side of the road. Councilmember Ferris asked that Mr. Stewart think about giving only 20 feet of right of way to the property owners instead of the 30 feet proposed. Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked if the utility companies would have to pay a fee to the owners for use of the property. Councilmember Ferris and City Attorney Bentley agreed that the utility company may pay a minimal fee.

Vote taken, motion approved unanimously 4-0. Motion passed.

Councilmember Orochena returned to the dais.

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:58 p.m. Floor Opened for Public Comment

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett presented a local history story regarding Kennesaw Postmasters. (See Exhibit A)

7:00 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comment

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Dr. Drobney thanked Communications Director Becca Graham & her team and Public Works Director Ricky Stewart & his team for their work on the holiday lights in downtown Kennesaw and encouraged residents to visit Depot Park. There are additional things to view this year.

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 Gutierrez thanked the Police Department for their quick actions over

the holiday weekend, and reminded everyone "if you see something, say something."

Councilmember Ferris advised he was thankful for the volunteers in the community like the KBA, the Cemetery Commission and Foundation and appreciated the incredible role they play to help make the city what it is.

Councilmember Orochena advised her family had a great Thanksgiving, and they are looking forward to the upcoming city events including A Day with Santa.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones had no comments.

Councilmember Viars advised of the downtown merchants Holiday Loyalty Program and encouraged residents to stop and shop at the local downtown vendors. The loyalty cards can be turned in to City Hall and a drawing will be held for three prizes.

Mayor Easterling thanked Mr. Everhart for his update and agreed with Councilmember Ferris that the City has great people who do great things for the community.

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 7:04 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via the Public Meeting Portal on the city's website.

Christie Burgner
Deputy City Clerk

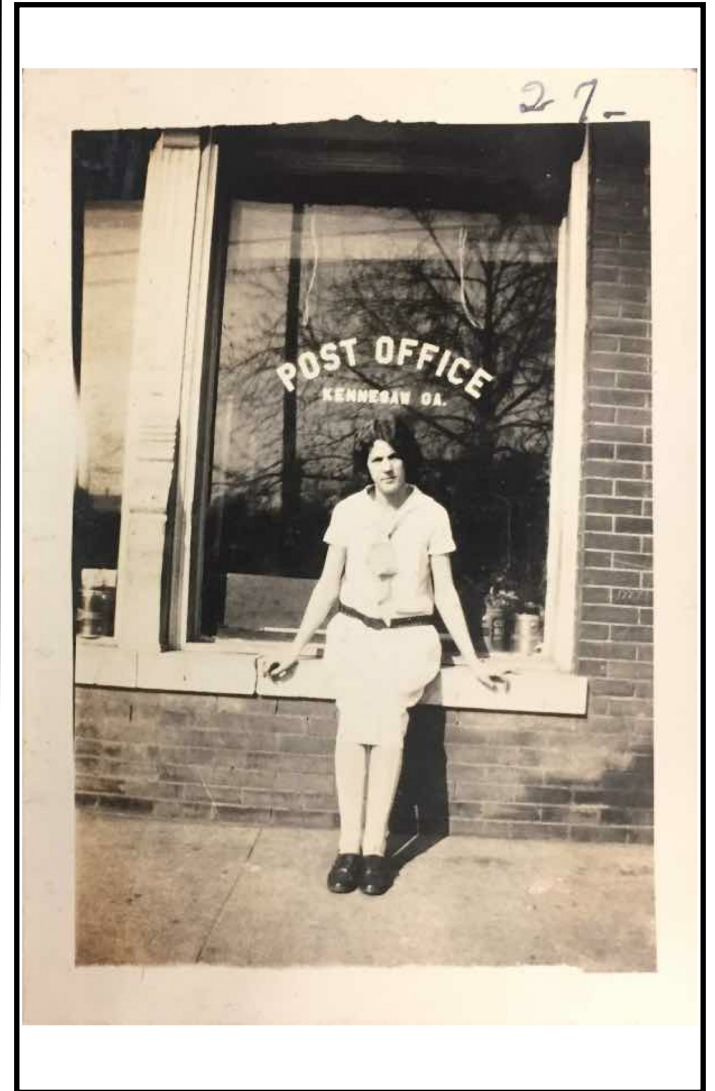
KENNESAW HISTORY

Postmasters

A post office named “Kenesaw” was established near Kennesaw Mountain on August 8, 1853, under postmaster William M. Elliott. It would be moved and renamed twice in the next decade. It first moved to Moon Station and then to Big Shanty. On January 25, 1869, the name of the Big Shanty post office was officially changed to Kennesaw. The first postmaster under the new name was Nelson Timlick.

Since that time, a number of notable citizens have led the post office. A very unique story comes from Sylvanus J. Baldwin, a Civil War veteran wounded at Kennesaw Mountain. He was appointed postmaster in 1895, but according to the *Marietta Journal* refused to serve because “there was too much gossip about it to suit Mr. Baldwin.”

The first woman to serve as Kennesaw’s postmaster was Carrie Plyant, who served as acting postmaster in 1934. The first woman to be full postmaster was Nancy Kemp Ellis, who was appointed in 1939. The best known local to serve in the role was Helen Odom, who led the post office from 1949 until 1972. Local folklore says she was the nation’s first female postmaster, but the rumor is sadly untrue.



Kennesaw Post Office, c. 1925
Image from Sara Dick

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the December 2, 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

12/2/2024

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew J. Bramlett	2990 Summerfield Ct.	Local history
2	Lewis Bramlett	2990 Summerfield Ct 30152	covered
3	Michael Everhart	4502 Grapevine Ct NW 30102	Taste of Kennesaw
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