

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
January 6, 2025
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Pat Ferris Councilmember Antonio Jones Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez City Clerk Lea Alvarez 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

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

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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

No comments.

6:33 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. Resolution: Qualifying Fees

Consideration for approval of a Resolution setting qualifying fees for the November 2025 election for City Council Posts 3, 4, and 5 and authorization to

advertise said notice and fees.

City Clerk Lea Alvarez presented a Resolution setting the qualifying fees for the November 2025 election for City Council Posts 3, 4, and 5, which is \$360.00, respectively. Further, Ms. Alvarez requested authorization to post the fees in the Marietta Daily Journal prior to the February 1, 2025 state-mandated deadline.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve [Resolution No. 2025-01](#) setting qualifying fees for the November 2025 election for City Council Posts 3, 4, and 5 and to authorize the advertisement of said notice and fees as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: December 9, 2024 Work Session

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

B. Minutes: December 9, 2024 Executive Session

Approval of the December 9, 2024, City Council executive session minutes.

C. Minutes: December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting

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

D. Meeting Schedule: 2025 City Council Work Sessions and Regular Meetings

Approval of the 2025 City Council work sessions and regular meetings schedule.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Ferris.

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

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

6:34 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

ANDREW BRAMLETT: Mr. Bramlett shared local history about Kennesaw's first bank [**Exhibit A**].

6:35 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

20. Mayor's Report

A. Appointment: Mayor Pro Tem

Consideration for the appointment of the 2025 Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to appoint Councilmember Pat Ferris as the Mayor Pro Tem for 2025. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

Vote taken, motion approved 4-0-1 [Councilmember Ferris abstained]. Motion passed.

B. Registration: 2025 Lobbyist Session

Consideration for approval for the Mayor to sign a lobbyist registration letter authorizing Fred Bentley, Jr. and Randall Bentley, Sr. to lobby on behalf of the City of Kennesaw.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the Mayor to sign a lobbyist registration letter authorizing Fred Bentley, Jr. and Randall Bentley, Sr. to lobby on behalf of the City of Kennesaw. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris.

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

C. Resolution: 2025 Alternate Check Signer

Consideration for the appointment of an alternate check signer and approval of a Resolution to designate an alternate check signer for 2025.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to appoint Councilmember Tracey Viars as an alternate check signer and approve [Resolution No. 2025-02](#). Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris.

Vote taken, motion approved 4-0-1 [Councilmember Viars abstained]. Motion passed.

D. Resolution: 2025 Bank Signature Cards

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing signatures for the City of Kennesaw and transmission of documents to the bank for 2025 new signature cards.

Motion by Councilmember Gutierrez to approve [Resolution No. 2025-03](#) authorizing signatures for the City of Kennesaw and transmission of documents to the bank for 2025 new signature cards. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

Vote taken, motion approved 4-0-1 [Councilmember Viars abstained]. Motion passed.

E. Appointments: 2025 City Appointments

Consideration for the ratification of the following City appointments: H. Luke Mayes (Chief Judge/ Probable Cause Judge); Charles Chesbro (Associate Judge); Randall Bentley, Sr. (Solicitor); Bentley, Bentley, and Bentley (City Attorney); City Manager; and City Clerk.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris to ratify the 2025 City Appointments as presented.
Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

F. Appointments: 2025 Boards and Commissions

Consideration for the ratification of (re)appointments to any board, committee, authority or commission.

2025 COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS

CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Pat Ferris

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Anthony Gutierrez

KENNESAW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Pat Ferris

KENNESAW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Tracey Viars

PLANNING COMMISSION: Tracey Viars

SISTER CITIES: Anthony Gutierrez

YOUTH COUNCIL: Antonio Jones and Madelyn Orochena

911 ADVISORY BOARD: Tracey Viars

2025 MAYORAL APPOINTED COMMITTEES

EVENTS COMMITTEE:

APPOINT Elizabeth Weaver (Parks and Recreation), Kamil McElwee (Southern Museum), Anna Trapp (City Manager), and Rachel Mikell (Communications) to the Events Committee.

2025 BOARDS/COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

REAPPOINT Lewis Bramlett and Lizz Gray to the Cemetery Preservation Commission with terms ending December 2028.

ETHICS BOARD:

REAPPOINT Ron Davis, Dan Salter, and Shannon Ortiz to the Ethics Board with terms ending December 2026.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

REAPPOINT Andrew Bramlett, Patrick Gallagher, and Sharon Blandford to the Historic Preservation Commission with terms ending December 2026.

LICENSE REVIEW BOARD

REAPPOINT Robert Thornton to the License Review Board Post 3 with a term ending December 2025.

SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

REAPPOINT Sheb True and Leslie Patton to the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission with terms ending December 2026.

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

APPOINT Jeff Stahagen to the Urban Redevelopment Agency with a term ending December 2027

COBB MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

APPOINT Anthony Gutierrez and Madelyn Orochena as the 2025 delegates to the Cobb Municipal Association.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to ratify the appointments and reappointments as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris appreciates Mr. Bramlett's compilation of local history stories. He is looking forward to 2025 and another year of serving alongside everyone.

Councilmember Gutierrez was thankful for the holiday break and cautioned everyone about the cold front coming in at the end of this week!

Councilmember Orochena did not have anything to add tonight.

Councilmember Jones is excited about 2025. He asked everyone to keep his hometown of New Orleans in their thoughts and prayers.

Councilmember Viars is also looking forward to 2025 and cannot think of a better place to spend it than in Kennesaw.

Mayor Easterling is excited about 2025 and reminded everyone that the State of the City is next Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

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 6:47 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lea Alvarez", is written over a horizontal line.

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

KENNESAW HISTORY

Kennesaw's First Bank

The first bank in Kennesaw was established in September 1908. Simply known as the Bank of Kennesaw, it counted some of the town's most prominent citizens among its founders. In fact, several of the founders served as mayor, and as such have photos inside the council chambers.

The arrival of the bank was seen as heralding a new era of prosperity for the community. It was also novel to some: the *Atlanta Semi-Weekly Journal* recorded in January 29, 1909 that J. T. Carrie, at sixty-two years old, had not "done any banking business" before he opened his account.

For the first two years, all was successful. However, in early 1910, a scandal emerged when it was revealed the bank's cashier had stolen \$10,000 and fled town. This eventually led to a manhunt, and, much later, a small siege on a Main Street House. The bank closed soon after the embezzlement was revealed. Two months later, in March 1910, a new bank was founded by many of the same individuals. This bank, the slightly larger Kennesaw State Bank, would remain open until 1952.

A NEW BANK.

As will be seen in the items from Kennesaw, Ga., in this issue, a new State bank is being organized at that thriving little town, the money being rapidly subscribed by the citizens there. Some of the most prominent citizens are identified with the movement.

John W. Bennett was elected president; J. G. Lewis, vice-president; B. H. Hill, secretary and treasurer. Directors—W. M. Webb, W. P. Whitaker, B. H. Hill, B. H. Carrie, J. H. McClure, Dr. J. W. Ellis and S. J. Baldwin.

This will give this splendid and growing town good financial facilities for all business purposes.

This will give to Cobb county six banks—one State bank at Marietta, one at Powder Springs, one at Roswell, one at Acworth and one at Kennesaw, and one National bank at Marietta.

September 10, 1908 *Marietta Journal*

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the January 6, 2025,
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
1/6/2025
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	<u>Andrew J. Brantley</u>	<u>2940 Cornfield Ct.</u>	<u>Local history</u>
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