

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
February 17, 2025
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Pat Ferris Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars 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 6:31 p.m.

4. Announcements

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. Ordinance: 2025 Zoning Map

Consideration for approval of an Ordinance to adopt the 2025 Official Zoning Map for the City of Kennesaw. Case # MISC2025-01

Assistant Zoning Administrator and Planner Chanelle Campbell presented an ordinance to adopt the 2025 Official Zoning Map for the City of Kennesaw. There were only two rezonings in 2024. Changes included the following: 2573 Summers Street, rezoned from Light Industrial (LI) to Central Business District (CBD), for the renovation and redevelopment of a vacant structure establishing a Sherwin Williams paint store, and 3045 Cherokee Street, rezoned from R-15 Single Family Residential to CBD, for the construction of a mixed-use development.

The public hearing was properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on January 17, 2025.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve [Ordinance No. 2025-02](#) adopting the 2025 Official Zoning Map for the City of Kennesaw as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Jones.

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

No comments.

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

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

11. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: January 27, 2025 Special Called Public Hearing

Approval of the January 27, 2025 Special Called Public Hearing minutes (Intent to Opt Out of Statewide Homestead Exemption)

B. Minutes: January 27, 2025 Work Session

Approval of the January 27, 2025, City Council work session minutes

C. Minutes: February 3, 2025 Special Called Public Hearing

Approval of the February 3, 2025, Special Called Public Hearing minutes (Intent to Opt Out of Statewide Homestead Exemption)

D. Minutes: February 3, 2025, Regular Meeting

Approval of the February 3, 2025, City Council regular meeting.

E. Resolution: Amended and Restated Galleria Convention Funding Agreement

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the execution of the amended and restated Galleria Convention Funding Agreement as presented by the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority.

Resolution No. 2025-11

- F. **Resolution: Amended and Restated Galleria Convention Operating Agreement**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the execution of the amended and restated Galleria Convention Operating Agreement as presented by the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority.

Resolution No. 2025-12

- G. **Resolution: Proposal for Depot Park Concrete Repairs**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting the proposal presented by Gay Construction Company.

Resolution No. 2025-13

- H. **Road Closures: 2025 Events**
Consideration for approval of road closures pertaining to the 2025 Kennesaw Grand Prix Series, Concert Series, and Salute to America.

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

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

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

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett shared some local history regarding Mount Zion AME located on Wade Green Road near I-75 [See **Exhibit A**].

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

19. City Manager's Report

- A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Dr. Drobney shared that the bands for the 2025 Concert Series will be announced this Friday!

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.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris to reappoint Tavares Chambless to the License Review Board for a term ending December 2025 and Angelo Brown to the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission for a term ending December 2026. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

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

Mayor Easterling announced the retirement of Finance Director Gina Auld. Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Gordy has been recommended for the position.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to ratify the appointment of Jennifer Gordy to Finance Director. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Gutierrez is navigating tax season filing jointly with his wife!

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris noted a couple of weeks ago, he was spoiled by the spring weather. He is not looking forward to how cold it will be this week.

Councilmember Jones wished his twins a happy first birthday!

Councilmember Orochena thanked the volunteers who showed up for Community Volunteer Day at Smith-Gilbert Gardens today. She is looking forward to several dance events this week. On Friday, at the Community Center, there are salsa lessons if anyone is interested!

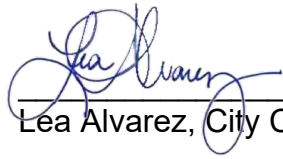
Councilmember Viars wished a happy birthday to Chief Westenberger and Councilmember Jones' twins! She is looking forward to all the events we have ahead of us.

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 6:41 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, February 24, 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 positioned above a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

KENNESAW HISTORY

Mount Zion AME

There is conflicting information about when Mount Zion AME was founded, but it is still one of the oldest churches in Kennesaw. It is located on Wade Green Road near I-75. Some accounts say the church was founded in the late 1860s by Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, at one time one of the state's most important African American leaders.

Church member Alfred Jackson, however, mentioned in a 1987 oral history interview that the congregation may date back as far as the 1830s. According to Mr. Jackson, Turner used the church as a base to grow churches across the state in the 1870s and 1880s. A marker dedicated to Turner is just outside the historic sanctuary.

One of the few early newspaper accounts of the church comes from the August 7, 1915 *Atlanta Independent*. It mentioned that Rev. A. L. Henderson was leading a revival service, and raised over \$90.



Mt. Zion had a school building for local African American students. It was operated by the county, but owned by the church, and included the first through seventh grades. The oldest existing church building was built around 1910, and a newer building was built next door several decades later.

Mount Zion AME

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the February 17, 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

**City Council Meeting
2/17/2025
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	<u>Andrew J. Brummett</u>	<u>2990 Summerfield Ct.</u>	<u>Local history</u>
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