

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
April 14, 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**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Call to Order**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Presentations**
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**

A. Resolution: Master Fee Schedule Updates

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to update various portions of the Master Fee Schedule.

City Clerk Lea Alvarez presented a resolution updating various portions of the Master Fee Schedule regarding fees related to the Southern Museum and Smith-Gilbert Gardens.

After receiving confirmation from the Council, Mayor Easterling suggested moving the item to the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

B. Resolution: Update to Mayor and Council Meeting Procedures

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to update the Mayor and Council Meeting Procedures document.

Ms. Alvarez presented a resolution to update the Mayor and Council meeting

procedures document regarding public comment. The document was revised to clearly define mutual expectations and establish general guidelines for conduct during public comment. In addition, a public comment card was proposed to help organize the public comment process in alignment with other municipalities.

Councilmember Jones expressed his concern about the proposed changes and their impact on First Amendment rights.

Suggestions for changes include the addition of changing the public comment sign up from 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; having speakers at 3 minutes each, for a total of 30 minutes; and including an online public comment form for those who cannot make it to the meeting in time to sign up before 6:30 p.m.

C. Report: 2022-2024 Strategic Goals

Update and close out of the City of Kennesaw's 2022-2024 Strategic Goals.

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes provided a progress report on the adopted 2022-2024 Strategic Goals.

After receiving confirmation from the Council, Mayor Easterling suggested moving the item to the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

D. Resolution: 2025-2027 Strategic Goals

Consideration for approval of a Resolution approving the City of Kennesaw's 2025-2027 Strategic Goals.

Mr. Hughes presented a resolution outlining the 2025-2027 Strategic Goals for the City of Kennesaw. These goals were created in collaboration with the Mayor and City Council, department heads, and members of the community. The five principal areas of focus are fiscal responsibility through efficient governance, talent development optimization, community engagement and commitment, advancement of quality-of-life indicators, and planned growth through data-driven planning, zoning and economic development.

After receiving confirmation from the Council, Mayor Easterling suggested moving the item to the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

E. Resolution: Chalker Park Design Proposal

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of professional services from Patterson & Dewar Engineers for the phased design of the new Chalker Park.

Mr. Hughes presented a resolution authorizing the purchase of professional services from Patterson & Dewar Engineering for the phased design of the new Chalker Park. A while ago, the City was unable to construct the full design of Chalker Park due to budget constraints. Currently, the City is strategically phasing in this project, trying to optimize design elements to better align with the construction budget. Patterson & Dewar Engineers has submitted a proposal to the City that will build upon the existing design to develop a phased approach that will prioritize key park features such as the inclusive playground, the restrooms, and the parking lot.

After receiving confirmation from the Council, Mayor Easterling suggested moving the item to the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

[Mayor Easterling added on Item 7. F, titled, "**Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement with Georgia Department of Natural Resources**".]

City Manager Jeff Drobney presented a resolution for an intergovernmental agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR). City staff submitted proposals through the mid-year budget process and were able to receive \$500,000 for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Hiram Butler House. State Representative Jordan Ridley submitted the proposal, and it was signed by Representative Lisa Campbell and Representative Devan Seabaugh. The City has to sign a memorandum of understanding with the GDNR and will receive the money within 30 days.

Councilmember Ferris asked about the term of the agreement, which is 20 years. Dr. Drobney shared that the state is giving the City 20 years to spend the money.

Dr. Drobney and the Council discussed the process for project submissions.

After receiving confirmation from the Council, Mayor Easterling suggested moving the item to the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

8. Committee and Board Reports

9. Public Hearing(s)

A. Ordinance: Amendment to Events, Parades, and Public Gatherings

Consideration for approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 78, "Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Places," Article III, "Events, Parades, and Public Gatherings," as prescribed by the Code of Ordinances of the City of Kennesaw, Georgia.

City Clerk Lea Alvarez stated it would be recommended to postpone this ordinance to amend Chapter 78, "Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Places," Article III, "Events, Parades, and Public Gathers," in the Code of Ordinances until the June 30, 2025, City Council Work Session and the July 7, 2025, City Council meeting to allow staff more time to review and refine.

10. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: March 31, 2025 Work Session

Approval of the March 31, 2025, City Council work session minutes.

B. Minutes: March 31, 2025 Executive Session

Approval of the March 31, 2025, City Council executive session minutes.

C. Minutes: April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting

Approval of the April 7, 2025, City Council regular meeting minutes.

D. Minutes: April 7, 2025 Executive Session

Approval of the April 7, 2025, City Council executive session minutes.

11. General and Administrative

12. Public Safety

A. Crime Statistics: March 2025

Consideration to accept the March 2025 Crime Statistics.

Chief Bill Westenberger presented the March 2025 crime statistics [See **Exhibit A**].

[Mayor Easterling tabled item 14. A until the end of the meeting].

13. Information Technology

15. Recreation and Culture

A. Resolution: Playground Expansion

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing GameTime to complete playground expansions at Kennesaw Station and Adams Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Bill McNair presented a resolution authorizing GameTime to complete the playground expansions at Kennesaw Station and Adams Park. At Kennesaw Station, planned improvements include replacing an outdated swing set, adding a dome climber, a fox spring rider, and installing new and upgraded seating options. At Adams Park, staff would like to add a new playground structure, swing set, and zipline.

Councilmember Jones asked about the enhancements to the Kennesaw Station park, including whether it would be expanded. Mr. McNair shared it would be expanded, but would have a fence around it to protect it from the retention pond nearby. Councilmember Jones mentioned his interest in the Council collaborating more with Parks and Recreation on park design.

Councilmember Orochena asked if any of the trees would be removed in the Adams Park area. Mr. McNair responded there would not be any trees removed.

After receiving confirmation from the Council, Mayor Easterling suggested moving the item to the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

16. Community Development

18. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Dr. Drobney thanked everyone who made the Big Shanty Festival a success.

19. 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.

20. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Gutierrez echoed Dr. Drobney's sentiments about the Big Shanty Festival. It was a great event.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris also stated the Big Shanty Festival was a great event. He mentioned that in the Marietta Daily Journal, Cobb Chamber selected its top 25 businesses, which included some businesses here in Kennesaw or those that have influence on our community.

Councilmember Orochena mentioned several events going on in the City this week, including the Job Fair and Taco Time with the Kennesaw Police Department.

Councilmember Viars noted how busy the Big Shanty Festival was when there were tons of other events going on around the state on the same weekend. She reminded everyone that the Kennesaw Downtown Merchants are having a comedy show on May 2, 2025, in the Downtown Plaza.

21. 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.

[Councilmember Orochena recused herself from participating in Executive Session].

Motion by Councilmember Gutierrez to enter into Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-3 for the purpose of discussing land, motion seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

7:13 PM Recess to Executive Session

Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney attended Executive Session.

7:23 PM Reconvene to Open Session

Councilmember Gutierrez read the Board back into Open Session and directed the Mayor and City Council to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4, motion seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

14. Public Works and Building Maintenance

A. Resolution: Offer for Abandoned Right-of-Way at 2995 and 2997 North Main Street

Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting the offer for the purchase of the right-of-way at 2995 and 2997 North Main Street.

Mayor Easterling shared that the item would be on the agenda for the regular meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025.

17. Public Comments

7:23 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

MARY WHITLOCK [City Resident]: Ms. Whitlock thanked the City for adding microphones to the work session so attendees in the back of the Council Chambers can hear the Council.

7:24 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

22. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m. The regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

March 2025 Crime Statistics



Group A Crimes	Mar 2025	Mar 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	2 (+1)	1	11 (+4)	7
INTIMIDATION	14 (+9)	5	38 (+20)	18
SIMPLE ASSAULT	16 (+3)	13	41 (-11)	52
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (-1)	1	0 (-1)	1
SEX OFFENSES	2 (+1)	1	7 (-2)	9
KIDNAPPING	0 (+0)	0	2 (+0)	2
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2 (-1)	3	8 (+3)	5
BURGLARY	1 (+0)	1	8 (+0)	8
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
EMBEZZLEMENT	0 (-1)	1	1 (-1)	2
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ROBBERY	0 (+0)	0	2 (+2)	0
FORGERY	0 (-1)	1	3 (-3)	6
EXTORTION	0 (-1)	1	3 (-1)	4
FRAUD OFFENSES	20 (+14)	6	50 (+13)	37
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	15 (+6)	9	46 (+5)	41
VANDALISM	4 (-4)	8	13 (-6)	19
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	0 (-2)	2	5 (+1)	4
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	28 (+1)	27	86 (+5)	81
PORNOGRAPHY OBSCENE MATERIAL	0 (-2)	2	0 (-3)	3
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	3 (-1)	4	13 (+3)	10
Totals	107	86	337	309

	Mar 2025	Mar 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Auto Accidents	114 (-1)	115	296 (-5)	301
Accident w/ Injury	6 (-4)	10	36 (+12)	24
Hit and Run	13 (+0)	13	37 (+0)	37
Hit and Run w/ Injury	0 (+0)	0	2 (-1)	3
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	0 (+0)	0	1 (+1)	0

	Mar 2025	Mar 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Dispatched Calls for Service	788 (+41)	747	2,173 (-13)	2,186
Self-Initiated Activity	1,278 (-33)	1,311	3,834 (+582)	3,252
Traffic Citations	520 (-110)	630	1,661 (-32)	1,693
Traffic Warnings*	645 (-39)	684	2,098 (+450)	1,648
Arrests**	78 (-7)	85	249 (-6)	255

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings
Arrests do not include juvenile arrests

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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 Work Session

4/14/2025

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Dean Klein	2995 + 2997 N. Main St.	ROW
2	Mary Klein	" " "	ROW
3	Mary Whittocks	2927 Lewis St	microphones
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