

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
April 7, 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

Rabbi Zalman Charytan 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 6:33 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

A. Proclamation: Education and Sharing Day

Proclamation presented by Mayor Easterling recognizing April 9, 2025, as Education and Sharing Day in the City of Kennesaw.

Mayor Easterling presented a proclamation recognizing April 9, 2025, as Education and Sharing Day in the City of Kennesaw to Rabbi Zalman Charytan.

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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

No comments.

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

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

- A. **Resolution: 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Short Term Work Program**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution to submit the transmittal of updates to the Capital Improvement Element and the Short Term Work Program (CIE/STWP) covering the five-year period of 2025-2029. Case #MISC2025-03

Zoning Administrator Darryl Simmons presented a resolution to submit the transmittal of updates to the Capital Improvement Element and the Short Term Work Program (CIE/STWP) covering the five-year period of 2025-2029. This annual report is prepared by staff to maintain the City's qualified local government status. In 2010, the City of Kennesaw adopted a development impact fee ordinance and an associated fee schedule. This ordinance would impose a one-time development fee on new construction for both residential and commercial uses. The annual report shows the financial and capital improvement projects, as well as short-term work goals, over a five-year increment. After review and approval by the Council, Mr. Simmons stated that staff would transmit the report to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review and response. If deemed sufficient by the ARC and DCA, City staff will follow the required public hearing procedures to adopt the report by June 2025.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve [Resolution No. 2025-22](#) to submit the transmittal of updates to the Capital Improvement Element and the Short Term Work Program (CIE/STWP) covering the five-year period of 2025-2029, as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris.

6:39 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:40 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

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

11. Consent Agenda

- A. **Minutes: March 10, 2025 Work Session**
Approval of the March 10, 2025, City Council work session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: March 17, 2025 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the March 17, 2025, City Council regular meeting minutes.
- C. **Cemetery Deed: Section III-11-E**
Authorization for Mayor to sign a deed for a cemetery lot purchased by Marlene Zachman.

D. Cemetery Deed: Section III-48-E & F

Authorization for the Mayor to sign a deed for cemetery lots purchased by Cary Todd and Mildred Nesmith.

E. Cemetery Deed: Section III-37-B

Authorization for the Mayor to sign a deed for a cemetery lot purchased by Fraternel Amuri Misako

F. License Review Board: UHP Partners LLC, d/b/a SuBourbon Bar and Social Club

Ratify the actions by the License Review Board from their hearing held on March 17, 2025, for UHP Partners LLC, d/b/a SuBourbon Bar and Social Club; and to receive the meeting minutes.

G. Resolution: 2025 General Election Contract

Approval of a Resolution authorizing the 2025 General Election qualifying dates and authorization of the Mayor to execute the contract with the Cobb County Board of Elections and Registration to conduct the City's election for Council Posts 3, 4 and 5 to be held on November 4, 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-23

H. Resolution: Replacement of Adams Park Electrical Service

Approval of a Resolution accepting the proposal presented by Allstar Lighting & Electrical Services, Inc. for the replacement of electrical services at Adams Park.

Resolution No. 2025-24

I. Road Closures: Taste of Kennesaw

Approval of road closures for the Taste of Kennesaw festival, November 1, 2025.

J. Road Closures: 2025 Pigs and Peaches

Approval of road closures for the 2025 Pigs and Peaches Festival, August 15 - 16, 2025.

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

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

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Statistics: February 2025

Consideration to accept the February 2025 Crime Statistics.

Captain Kevin Mitchell presented the February 2025 crime statistics [See **Exhibit A**].

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris to accept the February 2025 crime statistics as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

A. Resolution: Land Appraisal for Abandoned Right-of-Way at 2995 & 2997 North Main St.

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the sale of the portion of abandoned right-of-way fronting 2995 and 2997 North Main Street.

[Councilmember Orochena recused herself from discussion and vote related to this item due to her parents owning the subject property].

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart presented a resolution authorizing the sale of the portion of abandoned right-of-way fronting 2995 and 2997 North Main Street. The abandonment would be for a depth of 25 feet and the road frontage in its entirety, which is about 198 feet. The property owners initiated this discussion of abandonment and, as part of the process, they received an appraisal in the amount of \$9,000. Mr. Stewart stated the City had its own appraisal done, which was \$15,600. At the work session, the Council agreed to split the difference, which was \$12,300. Mr. Stewart's recommendation is to allow staff to move forward with the abandonment process and to approve the sale of the property for \$12,300.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris to approve the sale of the portion of abandoned right-of-way fronting 2995 and 2997 North Main Street for \$12,300 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Vote taken, motion approved 3-1-1 (Councilmember Viars opposed and Councilmember Orochena abstained). Motion passed.

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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

DEAN AND MARY KLEIN [Property Owners of 2995 and 2997 Main Street]: The Kleins wanted to clarify some comments from the work session regarding the potential abandonment of the right-of-way in front of their properties. They noted discussions held with City staff regarding solutions to the unsightliness of the subject portion of property and the erosion it is causing. It is their intention to pursue abandonment so that the right-of-way will be maintained and the issues caused by runoff be remedied.

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City resident]: Mr. Bramlett presented some local history regarding the spelling of Kennesaw [See **Exhibit B**].

6:54 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Dr. Drobney deferred to the Council to share about the Big Shanty Festival coming up.

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.

Mayor Easterling appointed a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to research and generate a list of projects for approval by Mayor and Council, which will be submitted to Cobb County. Voters will decide on the SPLOST that begins in January 2028.

The members of this committee are as follows: Marty Hughes, Assistant City Manager; Jennifer Gordy, Finance; Robbie Balenger, Facilities; Bill McNair, Parks and Recreation; Ricky Stewart, Public Works; Madelyn Orochena, Council; and Tracey Viars, Council.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Gutierrez is excited about the Big Shanty Festival this weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris shared that there is only one year and four shopping days until the Big Shanty Festival next year. He is looking forward to the Final Four - he might root for the University of Florida!

Councilmember Jones is excited about great weather this weekend for Big Shanty.

Councilmember Orochena is looking forward to being on the SPLOST Committee.

Councilmember Viars said there are five days until Big Shanty!

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.

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 unanimously 5-0. Motion passed.

6:58 PM Recess to Executive Session

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

7:03 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 unanimously 5-0. Motion passed.

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, April 14, 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

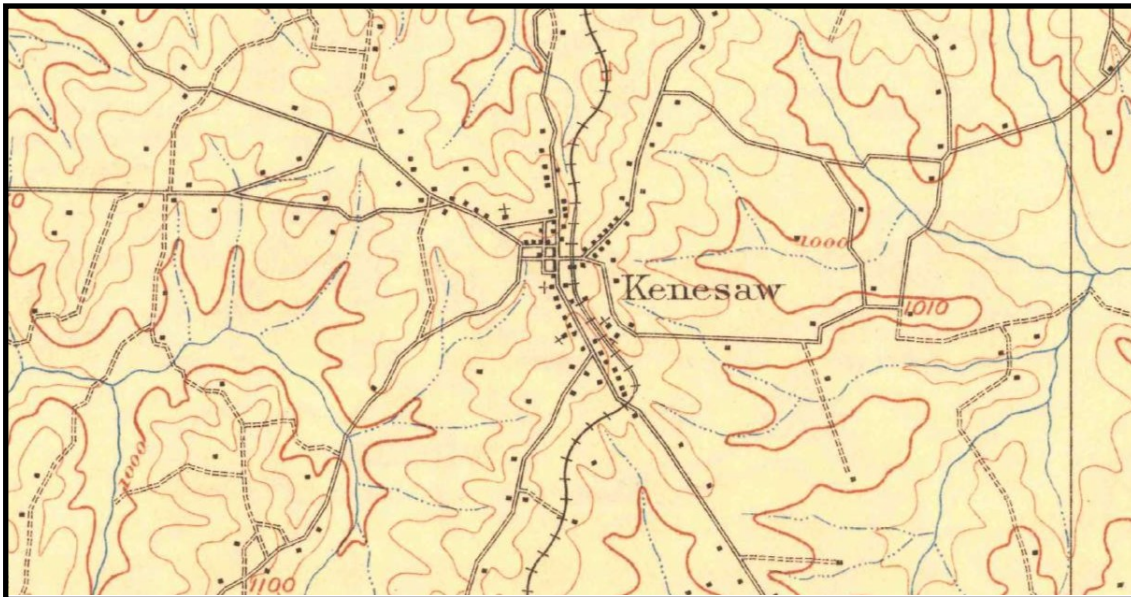
Kennesaw or Kenesaw

Since before the Civil War, mapmakers have been a bit unclear about how to spell the name Kennesaw. For instance, in 1853, a post office was established close to Kennesaw Mountain named Kenesaw, with just one letter n. The post office moved several times, and was eventually renamed Moons and Big Shanty. In 1869, it was moved a short distance west and renamed again, this time becoming Kennesaw, with a double n.

The Civil War managed to complicate matters. According to rangers at Kennesaw Mountain, while each side of the war often disagreed about what to call a battle (i.e. Bull Run or Manassas), here they only differed on the spelling. Southern troops tended to use the double n, while northern troops used the spelling with just one.

When the city was incorporated in 1887, the charter very clearly used the double n. This was not good enough for the United States Geological Survey, who officially decided to use the single letter spelling in

1895. However, in 1911, the USGS changed course, and settled on the modern spelling after discussing it with local postmaster T. J. Hardage. Since then, the spelling in official documents has remained the version with two ns.



A 1909 USGS map with one n in Kennesaw

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the April 7, 2025,
City of Kennesaw Mayor & Council Meeting



February 2025 Crime Statistics

Group A Crimes	Feb, 2025	Feb, 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	4 (+2)	2	10 (+6)	4
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	2 (-2)	4	7 (+0)	7
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	28 (-1)	29	59 (+5)	54
EMBEZZLEMENT	1 (+1)	0	1 (+0)	1
EXTORTION	3 (+1)	2	3 (+0)	3
FORGERY	0 (-3)	3	3 (-1)	4
FRAUD OFFENSES	13 (-1)	14	29 (+0)	29
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
INTIMIDATION	12 (+7)	5	25 (+13)	12
KIDNAPPING	1 (+0)	1	2 (+0)	2
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	17 (+7)	10	32 (+1)	31
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2 (+2)	0	6 (+4)	2
PORNOGRAPHY/ OBSCENE MATERIAL	0 (+0)	0	0 (-1)	1
ROBBERY	2 (+2)	0	2 (+2)	0
SEX OFFENSES	1 (-2)	3	4 (-2)	6
SIMPLE ASSAULT	14 (+2)	12	27 (-9)	36
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	2 (+2)	0	5 (+3)	2
VANDALISM	2 (-2)	4	9 (-1)	10
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	6 (+5)	1	10 (+5)	5
Total	110	90	234	209

	Feb, 2025	Feb, 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Auto Accidents	95 (+14)	81	182 (-4)	186
Accident W/ Injury	13 (+7)	6	30 (+16)	14
Hit and Run	15 (+8)	7	24 (+1)	23
Hit and Run W/ Injury	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
Person Hit by Auto W/ Injury	1 (+0)	1	2 (-1)	3

	Feb, 2025	Feb, 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Dispatched Calls for Service	690 (-9)	699	1385 (-25)	1,410
Self-Initiated Activity	1208 (+247)	961	2556 (+656)	1,900
Traffic Citations	601 (+89)	512	1173 (+84)	1,089
Traffic Warnings*	656 (+160)	496	1451 (+490)	961
Arrests**	85 (+0)	85	171 (+1)	170

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings

** Arrests do not include juvenile arrests

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
4/7/2025
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew J. Brantlett	2440 Schmeddel Ct.	Local History
2	Mary Klein	2995 N. Main St	ROW
3	DEAN KLEIN	" "	ROW
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