

**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/
September 29, 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-Leon City Clerk Lea Alvarez Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
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1. Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Committee and Board Reports

9. Public Hearing(s)

10. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: September 8, 2025 Work Session

Approval of the September 8, 2025, City Council work session minutes.

B. Minutes: September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

Approval of the September 15, 2025, City Council regular meeting minutes.

C. Minutes: September 15, 2025 Executive Session

Approval of the September 15, 2025, City Council executive session minutes.

11. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: Dasatvam LLC

Consideration for approval of a Retail Package Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, Liquor, and Sunday Sales for Dasatvam LLC d/b/a Kings Liquor located at 2600 Cobb Parkway NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152. Applicant: Monalibahen Patel

Business License Manager Mariyah Nall presented a Retail Package Alcohol License application for Beer, Wine, Liquor, and Sunday Sales for Dasatvam LLC d/b/a Kings Liquor, located at 2600 Cobb Parkway NW. She reported that the applicant has completed the required alcohol workshop in accordance with Kennesaw Code of Ordinances Section 6-69. Required signage has been posted, and proper public notice was given as outlined in Section 6-36. The application and background check results are on file. Additionally, a certified surveyor's distance survey confirms the business is not located within the designated distances of property lines or structures identified in Sections 6-42 and 6-43.

Councilmember Jones inquired whether there had been a change in ownership. Ms. Nall confirmed that there had, noting that the applicant also purchased the property.

12. Public Safety

A. Crime Stats: August 2025

Consideration to accept the August 2025 crime statistics.

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

13. Information Technology

14. Public Works and Building Maintenance

A. Resolution: 2025 Pipe Rehabilitation Project Bid Award

Consideration for approval of a Resolution awarding the 2025 Pipe Rehabilitation Project contract to Utility Asset Management, Inc.

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart presented a resolution to award the Pipe Rehabilitation Project contract to Utility Asset Management, Inc. The project, which addresses various failing stormwater pipes throughout the city, was publicly advertised for bids. Six bids were received, with Utility Asset Management, Inc. submitting the lowest responsive bid at \$264,140.00.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris referenced a citizen complaint from the previous year regarding deteriorating stormwater piping and asked whether this project would address past concerns. Mr. Stewart explained that pipe repairs are prioritized based on both complaints and inspection findings. While all reported issues are evaluated, priority is given to the most severe cases; therefore, not all complaints can be addressed immediately.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

B. Resolution: Accepting Dedication of Streets in East Park Village

Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting dedication of streets in East Park Village.

Mr. Stewart presented a resolution accepting the dedication of streets in East Park Village. The developer has requested dedication of two streets: Maple Drive, encompassing 0.97 acres with varying right-of-way, and Russell Drive, encompassing 0.32 acres with a 40-foot right-of-way. During construction, the City inspected both the streets and the storm system to ensure compliance with City standards and specifications. All inspections were passed and approved. The streets have also completed the required one-year warranty period and subsequent re-inspection.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

C. Resolution: Engineering Design Services for Rutledge Road / Cathey Lane Improvements Project

Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting a proposal from Patterson & Dewar Engineers, Inc. for engineering design services for the Rutledge Road / Cathey Lane Improvements SPLOST Project.

Mr. Stewart presented a resolution to accept a proposal from Patterson & Dewar Engineers, Inc. for engineering design services related to the Rutledge Road/Cathey Lane Improvements SPLOST Project. The scope of work includes surveying, preliminary design, and final design. The total proposal amount is \$408,980.00.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

D. Resolution: Permanent Street Closures

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the permanent closure of two streets within the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

Mr. Stewart presented a resolution authorizing the permanent closure of two streets within the Kennesaw City Cemetery. He explained that the Cemetery Preservation Commission recommends closing these streets [See **Exhibit B**]. One street is currently blocked by a chain to prevent vehicular traffic, while the second street is narrow, causing vehicles to damage the shoulders and endanger plot walls. The closure will involve removing the existing asphalt and replacing it with sod.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

15. Recreation and Culture

16. Community Development

A. Final Plat Application: 3080 Moon Station Road

Consideration for approval of the final plat application submitted by Patterson & Dewar Engineers on behalf of the City of Kennesaw for 3080 Moon Station Road (Parcel number 20012900050); this plat subdivides the existing 9.52 +/- acre lot into two parcels for the construction of the new Public Safety Building. Case# PS2025-02.

Assistant Zoning Administrator and Planner Chanelle Campbell presented a final plat application submitted by Patterson & Dewar Engineers, Inc. on behalf of the City of Kennesaw for 3080 Moon Station Road. The plat proposes subdividing the existing 9.52± acre lot into two parcels to accommodate the construction of the new Public Safety Facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris questioned why the City would subdivide its own property. Public Works Director Ricky Stewart explained that the request originated from Cobb Water, which requires the lot to be split in order to install a second utility meter.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting.

17. Public Comments

6:43 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

DONOVAN GIARDINA [City Council Post 3 Candidate]: Mr. Giardina thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and expressed appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Ferris for his many years of service. He noted that he typically cannot attend City Council meetings because he runs the Kennesaw Downtown Farmers Market on Monday nights. Mr. Giardina has served as a volunteer for the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority for the past four years. He is a PhD candidate in Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia State University and a Justice Statistics Fellow with the Georgia Crime Analytics Laboratory. He also works as a pre-trial research consultant with the Northern District of Georgia's Accountability, Treatment, and Leadership Court and has experience in governmental program evaluation and budgeting. Regarding his platform, Mr. Giardina emphasized investment in pedestrian safety, collaboration with downtown landowners to identify and address development challenges, and efforts to restore a playground in Depot Park. He concluded by extending an invitation to Mr. Bothers to debate on October 23, 2025, at the outdoor amphitheater near the pedestrian underpass.

JON BOTHERS [City Council Post 3 Candidate]: Mr. Bothers thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ferris for his years of service to the City and noted his appreciation for the thoughtful questions Mr. Ferris asks during meetings. While canvassing last week, Mr. Bothers heard from residents who were saddened to learn that Mayor Pro Tem Ferris is

stepping down from Post 3. He stated that if elected to this position, one of his first actions would be to place an item on the agenda to dedicate something in honor of Mayor Pro Tem Ferris' service to the community.

6:49 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

18. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes reported that the City had a great turnout for Big Game Day on Saturday, as well as for the morning 5K. He announced that the final concert of the season, Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band, will take place this Saturday, October 4. Mr. Hughes noted that Kennesaw 101 is progressing well. Scarecrows are currently on display, and the City will begin accepting applications for Christmas Trees starting October 1.

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

A. Discussion Item: Charter Amendment for Veto Procedure

Discussion item requested by Councilmember Orochena regarding a Charter amendment to require that the Council "shall" consider the veto either immediately following the veto or at the subsequent meeting so that it is spoken in a public meeting in addition to being added to the public minutes.

Councilmember Orochena stated that, following the last veto, she reviewed the Charter language regarding the veto process and compared it with other cities. She suggested the Council consider amending the Charter to require that a veto be formally considered at a meeting to increase transparency. Currently, the Charter allows the Council to challenge a veto, but there is no requirement to act. She noted that formalizing this process at a meeting would reduce public confusion.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris responded that he does not see a problem with the current process. He noted that the Council's meeting procedures already address vetoes, and any changes could be made there without amending the Charter. He clarified that the Charter allows a veto to be addressed at the next regularly scheduled meeting, which is ambiguous. He recommended making it explicit in the meeting procedures to address a veto at a regular City Council meeting since votes are not supposed to occur at work sessions. He added that vetoes are rare and that clarifying the procedures would address any ambiguity regarding timing.

Mayor Easterling read Section 2.06 of the Charter, which states:

"The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council; shall have a vote only in the case of a tie vote by councilmembers; shall have veto power, and shall have five business days after the meeting with the council in which to file with the clerk, in writing, his or her dissent, but the council may, at the same meeting or at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the mayor and council, pass any such ordinance, order, or resolution, notwithstanding the veto, by a vote of four-fifths of the total number of councilmembers, to be taken by ayes and nays, and entered upon the minutes."

Councilmember Orochena clarified that her concern is not with the veto power itself but with the current language stating the Council "may" pass a vetoed item. She prefers requiring that the item be formally considered at the next meeting, regardless of the frequency of vetoes.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris emphasized that the meeting procedures should explicitly state that any vetoed item shall be added to the agenda of the next regular City Council meeting.

The Council agreed that this proposed amendment to the meeting procedures will be added to the next work session agenda.

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.

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 and legal. Motion seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

7:06 PM Recess to Executive Session

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

7:30 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

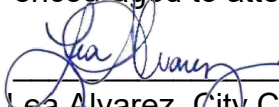
Councilmember Gutierrez read the Board back into Open Session and directed the Mayor and City Council to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. Sec.50-14-4. Motion seconded by Councilmember Jones.

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

22. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The regular meeting will be held

on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

August 2025 Crime Statistics



Group A Crimes	Aug 2025	Aug 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	6 (+2)	4	33 (+4)	29
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	1 (+1)	0
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	4 (+3)	1	23 (+1)	22
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	42 (+15)	27	242 (-11)	253
EMBEZZLEMENT	1 (+1)	0	3 (+1)	2
EXTORTION	0 (-2)	2	9 (-3)	12
FORGERY	2 (-4)	6	11 (-4)	15
FRAUD OFFENSES	17 (+4)	13	115 (+10)	105
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (-1)	1	0 (-2)	2
INTIMIDATION	11 (+10)	1	87 (+45)	42
KIDNAPPING	0 (-1)	1	9 (-1)	10
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	16 (+7)	9	110 (+17)	93
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	4 (+1)	3	23 (+4)	19
PORNOGRAPHY OBSCENE MATERIAL	0 (-1)	1	1 (-6)	7
ROBBERY	0 (+0)	0	4 (+2)	2
SEX OFFENSES	3 (+1)	2	21 (+0)	21
SIMPLE ASSAULT	12 (+1)	11	105 (-44)	149
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1 (-3)	4	11 (-3)	14
VANDALISM	11 (+7)	4	49 (-3)	52
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	4 (+2)	2	36 (+8)	28
Totals	134	92	893	877

	Aug 2025	Aug 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Dispatched Calls for Service	791 (+12)	779	6,048 (-57)	6,105
Self-Initiated Activity	1,741 (+364)	1,377	11,302 (+1,779)	9,523
Traffic Citations	806 (+233)	573	4,941 (+430)	4,511
Traffic Warnings*	901 (+210)	691	6,188 (+1,428)	4,760
Arrests**	91 (+18)	73	648 (-19)	667

	Aug 2025	Aug 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Auto Accidents	115 (+9)	106	830 (-4)	834
Accident w/ Injury	9 (+0)	9	78 (+11)	67
Hit and Run	16 (+8)	8	101 (+11)	90
Hit and Run w/ Injury	1 (+1)	0	3 (-3)	6
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	0 (+0)	0	3 (+0)	3

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



Images Landsat / Copernicus

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
9/29/2025
Public Comment Sign-in**

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