

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
November 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-Leon Deputy City Clerk Nicholas Simpson City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
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1. Invocation

Mayor Easterling led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Sergeant Adams with the Kennesaw Police Department led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

A. Proclamation: Lemon Street School Alumni

Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing Kennesaw Alumni of Lemon Street School.

Mayor Easterling presented proclamations to the Kennesaw alumni of Marietta's Lemon Street School, which opened in 1894 to serve that city's African American student population. The school closed in 1971, was renovated in 2020, and now operates non-traditional academic programs for middle and high school students. Lemon Street School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Presentation: North Cobb Rotary Donation

Recognition of North Cobb Rotary's donation toward the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Parks & Recreation.

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes recognized the North Cobb Rotary's \$1,850 donation for the purchase of an AED defibrillator, underscoring the organization's ongoing commitment to a safe Kennesaw. The device will be utilized by City staff during public events during an emergency. Dave Schwickerath, Deborah Morton and Lao Rimanelli were present for the presentation of the check.

C. Presentation: Honoring Richard Blevins for 13 years of service to the Kennesaw Development Authority.

Mayor Easterling honored Attorney Richard Blevins' completion of 13 years of service on the Kennesaw Development Authority (KDA). He has served as Chair of the KDA for the past 10 years and is the longest serving KDA member in history. The Mayor highlighted his education at Georgia Military College, Georgia College & State University and John Marshall Law School. Prior to starting the practice of law, Attorney Blevins served honorably in law enforcement. Although Attorney Blevins and his wife are moving to another locale, he enjoyed working with the citizens and watching the city's growth.

D. Kennesaw 101: Citizens Government Academy Graduation, Class of 2025.

Anna Trapp from the City Manager's office presented certificates to the recent graduates of Kennesaw 101 and Mayor Easterling gave certificates to the 10 course participants. Mayor Easterling stated that the key to the course is its participants and their thought-provoking input. He thanked them for their participation.

6. Public Comment

This section is for comment on any item on the agenda.

6:20 - Floor Open for Public Comment

No comments.

6:21 - Floor Closed for Public Comment

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: October 27, 2025 Work Session

Approval of the October 27, 2025, City Council work session minutes.

B. Minutes: November 3, 2025 City Council Meeting

Approval of the November 3, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez-Leon.

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

- A. **Resolution: Adams Park Baseball and Softball Electrical Service Upgrade**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution awarding the Adams Park baseball and softball quads electrical services project to Allstar Lighting and Electrical Services, Inc.

[Resolution 2025-73 - Adams Park Baseball and Softball Electrical Service Upgrade](#)

Motion by Councilmember Jones to approve the Resolution for Adams Park. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

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

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment

This section is for general comment.

6:22 - Floor Open for Public Comment

Andrew Bramlett highlighted a veteran's history in Kennesaw with a biography on Esther Jaunita Roberts, who became the first female senior guidance counselor in the United States Army Recruiting Command. She is buried in the City Cemetery.

6:24 - Floor Closed for Public Comment

19. City Manager's Report

The graduates of Kennesaw 101 recounted their experience with the course, and they thanked the staff and the City Manager for his presentation.

- A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

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.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Pat Ferris thanked the Kennesaw 101 graduates for their participation.

Councilmember Antonio Jones wished all Veterans a happy Veterans Day. He appreciates how the Police Department highlights the officers and their service. He also thanked the Mayor for his service.

Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez-Leon thanked the Kennesaw 101 graduates for their participation. He also thanked the North Cobb Notary for their AED donation. Gutierrez-Leon recognized his wife's birthday.

Councilmember Madelyn Orochena spoke about her participation in the Kennesaw 101 class. Orochena attended the holiday market, and she said it was well attended.

Councilmember Tracey Viars thanked the Kennesaw 101 class for their participation in the program. She encouraged them to "get involved and stay involved". She also highlighted the groundbreaking of the Reformation Brewery in downtown Kennesaw last week and the future opening of Smash Hit Burger in the former location of The Nest.

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 7:11 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

KENNESAW HISTORY

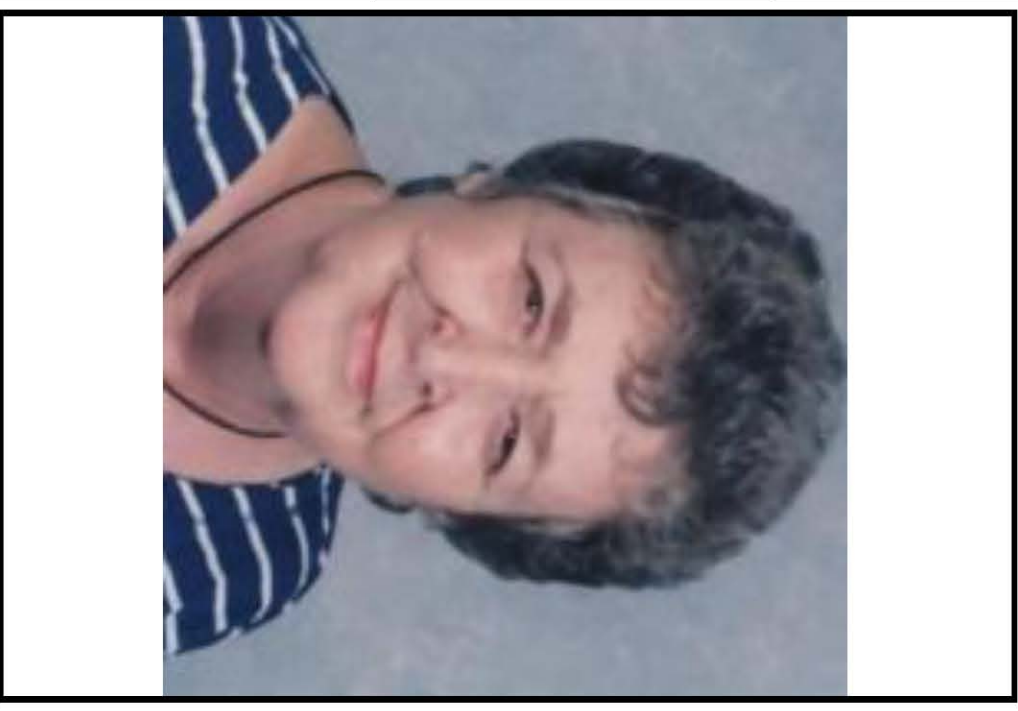
Esther Roberts

Esther Jaunita Roberts was born May 1, 1935. Her parents were Willis and Esther Roberts, who later moved to Cobb County. In 1958 Esther joined the army, and while in the military she went by Robbe. In 1964, Roberts became a guidance counselor with the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station. She served seven years in Amarillo, Texas. Roberts later served as a Guidance Counselor with the Women's Army Corps, or WAC. She was in charge of parts of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas.

When Roberts later moved to Marietta she served as an Army Guidance Counselor, helping both men and women. She then began working in Atlanta, and was the first female senior guidance counselor in the United States Army Recruiting Command.

After serving twenty-three years with the military, Roberts left the military having achieved the rank of Sergeant Major. According to her obituary, she at one time was the highest ranking female officer in the military.

Esther Roberts died on February 26, 2012, and is laid to rest in the Kennesaw City Cemetery.



Esther Roberts
Image from her obituary

Presented by Andrew J. Branlett at the November 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
11/17/2025
Public Comment Sign-in**

Name	Address	Topic
1 <i>Arden Brantlett</i>	<i>2940 Scoville Ct</i>	<i>Local History</i>
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