

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
December 1, 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 City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
---------	--

1. Invocation

Mayor Easterling led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Kennesaw Police Department Officer Kroeger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

A. Recognition of Appreciation: Sergeant Shawn Phillips

Recognition of Appreciation for Kennesaw Police Department Sergeant Shawn Phillips presented by Allison Giddens.

Allison Giddens, Co-President of Win-Tech, recognized Sergeant Shawn Phillips for his outstanding work. She explained that last year one of the company's checks was stolen from the mail, altered, and fraudulently used to take nearly \$30,000. Sergeant Phillips took the case seriously, diligently tracking the perpetrator all the way to Florida. His efforts demonstrated that determined police work truly makes a difference. On behalf of Win-Tech, Ms. Giddens thanked Sergeant Phillips for his dedication, tenacity, and commitment to protecting the people and businesses of Kennesaw.

6. Public Comment

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

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

No comments.

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

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. Ordinance: Chapter 10 Amendments

Consideration for approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 10, entitled, "Animals" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Kennesaw, Georgia.

City Manager Jeff Drobney presented an ordinance to amend Chapter 10, "Animals," of the City of Kennesaw Code of Ordinances. Dr. Drobney explained that this amendment is a necessary step for the City to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Cobb County for animal control services. The update aligns the City's ordinance with the County's, allowing Cobb County to enforce its animal control regulations within the city.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve Ordinance 2025-08 amending Chapter 10, entitled, "Animals," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Kennesaw, Georgia as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

6:34 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

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

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

11. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting

Approval of the November 17, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Resolution: November 4, 2025 - Election Results

Consideration for approval of a Resolution ratifying the certified election results of the November 4, 2025, General Municipal Election for Council Posts 3, 4, and 5, as provided by Cobb County Board of Elections and Registration.

[Resolution No. 2025-74](#)

C. Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement for Fire Dispatch Services

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cobb County for Fire Dispatch Services.

[Resolution No. 2025-75](#)

- D. **Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement for Fire Marshal Services**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cobb County for Fire Marshal services.

[Resolution No. 2025-76](#)

- E. **Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cobb County for Cooperative Purchasing.

[Resolution No. 2025-77](#)

- F. **Cemetery Deed: III-55-G & H**
Authorization for the Mayor to sign a deed for cemetery lots purchased by Akanmu and Omotola Adebayo.

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

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

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

- A. **Crime Stats: October 2025**
Consideration to accept the October 2025 crime statistics.

Kennesaw Police Chief Bill Westenberger presented the October 2025 crime statistics [See **Exhibit A**].

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

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

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment

This section is for general comment.

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

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett shared local history related to an 1837 survey published for the newly chartered Western & Atlantic Railroad, which

included the first printed accounts of the Kennesaw area [See **Exhibit B**].

JONATHON BOTHERS [City Resident and City Council Post 3 Elect]: Mr. Bothers hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. He expressed his pride in being elected to the City Council and thanked the community for their support and guidance during and after the campaign.

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

19. City Manager's Report

A. Appointment: Director of Planning and Zoning

Ratification of the appointment of Chanelle Campbell as the Director of Planning and Zoning.

Dr. Drobney reminded the Council that Planning and Zoning Administrator Darryl Simmons is retiring at the end of the week after 24 years of dedicated service. He thanked Mr. Simmons for his many contributions to the City of Kennesaw and wished him the very best in his next chapter.

He explained that the City advertised the position and interviewed several qualified applicants. Among them was one internal candidate: Chanelle Campbell, the Assistant Zoning Administrator and Planner. Dr. Drobney shared that he was candid with Ms. Campbell. She had absolutely earned an interview, but the City would select the strongest candidate for the role. Ms. Campbell agreed and emphasized that she wanted the best outcome for the department as well. After all interviews were completed, it became clear to Dr. Drobney that Ms. Campbell was the best person for the job.

Councilmember Orochena made a motion to ratify the appointment of Chanelle Campbell as Director of Planning and Zoning, seconded by Councilmember Jones.

Ms. Campbell expressed her gratitude for the opportunity and said she will give her all to help ensure the City's continued success.

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

Mr. Simmons offered a heartfelt farewell, sharing that he feels fortunate to have spent his career doing work he truly loved. He recalled that in 2001, the City Manager at the time approached him with a vision to move Kennesaw forward—and said he needed someone with thick skin and patience to help make it happen. Mr. Simmons accepted that challenge. He reflected on the many wonderful people he met along the way and thanked everyone for believing in his vision and for their support over the years.

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 Gutierrez-Leon shared that he had a wonderful Thanksgiving. He thanked Mr. Simmons for his service and congratulated Ms. Campbell on her appointment, noting that she has his full trust.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris recalled interviewing Mr. Simmons when he first served on the Council and said they made a good decision that day. He also announced that the Kennesaw State University Owls will compete in the Conference USA Championship this Friday.

Councilmember Orochena thanked Mr. Simmons for his many years of service. She noted that he served as the liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission when she joined and expressed appreciation for his contributions to citizen engagement, including town halls and surveys. She joked that she would often hear how smoothly his town halls ran and that he made sure they never went off the rails.

Councilmember Jones shared that he also had a great Thanksgiving. He mentioned that he first had the opportunity to debate with Mr. Simmons while serving on the Kennesaw Citizens Advisory Committee and later continued those discussions on the Council. He expressed gratitude for Mr. Simmons' service, emphasizing that 24 years of dedication is significant. He also congratulated Ms. Campbell on her appointment.

Councilmember Viars thanked Mr. Simmons for his many years of service and for all she learned from him. She reminded everyone that this year the Christmas Tree is located at the Amphitheater and the Menorah is at the Tunnel Plaza.

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-Leon 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 Orochena.

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

6:56 p.m. Recess to Executive Session

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

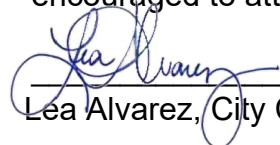
7:11 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

Councilmember Gutierrez-Leon 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 Orochena. See **Exhibit C**.

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

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

October 2025 Crime Statistics



Group A Crimes	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3 (-4)	7	42 (+3)	39
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	1 (+1)	0
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	3 (+0)	3	28 (-3)	31
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	27 (+1)	26	302 (-2)	304
EMBEZZLEMENT	0 (-1)	1	3 (+0)	3
EXTORTION	0 (-2)	2	9 (-9)	18
FORGERY	4 (+0)	4	17 (-2)	19
FRAUD OFFENSES	33 (+22)	11	161 (+33)	128
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (+0)	0	0 (-3)	3
INTIMIDATION	12 (+3)	9	104 (+47)	57
KIDNAPPING	0 (-4)	4	10 (-6)	16
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	17 (+6)	11	142 (+25)	117
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	3 (-1)	4	28 (+3)	25
PORNOGRAPHY OBSCENE MATERIAL	1 (+1)	0	3 (-5)	8
ROBBERY	1 (+0)	1	5 (+2)	3
SEX OFFENSES	1 (-4)	5	26 (-7)	33
SIMPLE ASSAULT	14 (-17)	31	138 (-53)	191
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1 (-2)	3	12 (-7)	19
VANDALISM	4 (-5)	9	58 (-9)	67
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	6 (-3)	9	45 (+6)	39
Totals	130	140	1134	1120

	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Dispatched Calls for Service	857 (+3)	854	7,728 (-3)	7,731
Self-Initiated Activity	1,492 (+214)	1,278	14,485 (+2,546)	11,939
Traffic Citations	708 (+115)	593	6,422 (+867)	5,555
Traffic Warnings*	880 (+248)	632	8,073 (+2,028)	6,045
Arrests**	79 (+20)	59	812 (+27)	785

	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Auto Accidents	130 (-8)	138	1,064 (-15)	1079
Accident w/ Injury	8 (+0)	8	94 (+7)	87
Hit and Run	12 (-9)	21	130 (+8)	122
Hit and Run w/ Injury	1 (+1)	0	4 (-2)	6
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	1 (+1)	0	6 (+3)	3

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

**

KENNESAW HISTORY

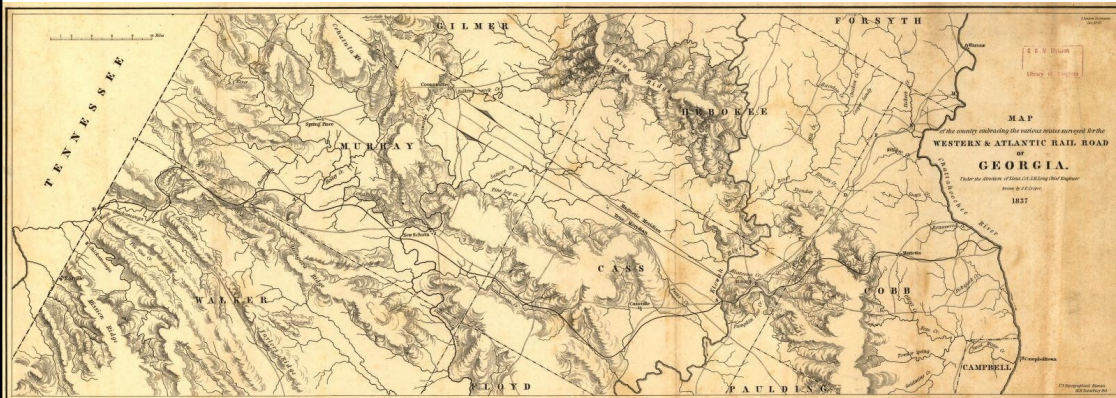
Railroad Survey

In December 1836, the State of Georgia chartered the Western and Atlantic Railroad. The new rail line would be owned by the state, rather than a private corporation, setting it apart from many of the other contemporary railroads across the nation. The line's southern terminus was set at an unspecified point south of the Chattahoochee River (now Atlanta), while the other end of the line was Chattanooga on the Tennessee River.

Just after the railroad was chartered, the state hired surveyor Colonel Stephen Harriman Long to survey the new route. Long was a part of the US Army Corps of Engineers, and was best known for his railroad work and his surveys of the West.

His final report was published in December 1837, and is one of the first printed accounts of our area. His description of North Cobb is spartan: "The road crosses the Chattahoochee and ascends to Marietta, the seat of justice for Cobb County. It then crosses the Kennesaw summit on the north side of the mountain... and descends towards the Etowah." Long anticipated this would be the easiest portion of the railroad to build.

Ultimately, the railroad was built along Long's route, and was completed from Atlanta to Cartersville by 1845, with the entire route finished in 1850.



Long's Survey of the W&A Route
Image from the Library of Congress

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the December 1, 2025,
City of Kennesaw Mayor & Council Meeting

AFFIDAVIT

1.

Mayor Derek Easterling was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Kennesaw City Council held on the 1st day of DEC, 2025.

2.

That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows: When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code Section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the officials minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting of the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

3.

The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 1st day of DEC, 2025 which was closed for the purpose(s) of land as allowed by O.C.G.A. Title 50, Chapter 14 was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

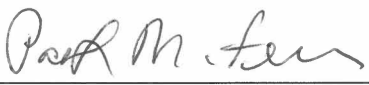
4.

This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.


This the 1st day of Dec, 2025.



Mayor/Presiding Officer



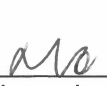
Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember

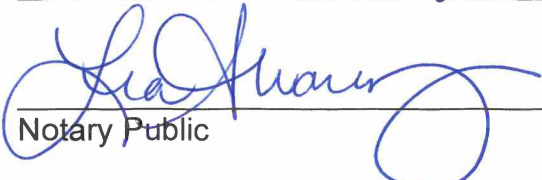


Councilmember



Councilmember

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the
1st day of December, 2025.



Notary Public

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
12/1/2025
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	<i>Andrew J. Brantlett</i>	<i>2440 S. Commercial St.</i>	<i>Local history</i>
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
19			