

**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 15, 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.
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1. Invocation

Mayor Easterling 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 6:30 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

A. Update: Taste of Kennesaw

Update on the 2025 Taste of Kennesaw event by Michael Everhart.

Representing the Kennesaw Business Association (KBA), Michael Everhart provided an update on the 2025 Taste of Kennesaw event. Mr. Everhart thanked the Kennesaw Police Department and the Public Works Department for their exceptional service and support during the event.

Mr. Everhart explained that approximately 18 years ago, the City approached the KBA about becoming involved with the Taste of Kennesaw. At that time, the event was already established but in need of revitalization. Based on the KBA's successful partnership with the City on the Big Shanty Festival, the KBA agreed to take on management of the Taste of Kennesaw.

He noted that an agreement was made for the event to operate as a net-zero endeavor, with all proceeds distributed to charitable organizations. Mr. Everhart highlighted

several of the charities that benefit from the Taste of Kennesaw and the proceeds provided to each.

Mr. Everhart encouraged everyone to attend the 50th anniversary of the Big Shanty Festival in April of next year.

B. Recognition: Government Finance Officers Association Award

Recognition of the City of Kennesaw's Finance Department for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Mayor Easterling recognized the Finance Department for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This marks the 25th consecutive year the Finance Department has received this award. Mayor Easterling and City Manager Jeff Drobney congratulated the Finance Department on a job well done.

6. Public Comment

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

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

No comments.

6:41 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. SPLOST: 2028 Proposed Projects List

Consideration for approval of the proposed projects for the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum.

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes presented the proposed projects for the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum, which Cobb County has scheduled for November 2026. According to the SPLOST Committee's evaluation, the proposed projects reflect the City's priorities for the next six years.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the proposed projects for the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez-Leon.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris inquired about the joint meeting with the County. Dr. Drobney explained that a series of meetings is planned, with the joint meeting scheduled for March 10, 2025, at the Ben Robertson Community Center. This meeting will allow both the County and the City to present their projects to the community, with additional City meetings to follow.

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

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. **Ordinance: Unified Development Code Text Amendment**

Consideration for approval of an Ordinance to amend the Unified Development Code, Appendix A, Section 4.04.05, "Standards for Home Occupations" of said chapter as submitted by the City of Kennesaw. Case #MISC2025-07

Chanelle Campbell, Director of Planning and Zoning, presented an ordinance to amend the Unified Development Code, Appendix A, Section 4.04.05, "Standards for Home Occupations," as submitted by the City of Kennesaw. Ms. Campbell noted that staff received five land use permit applications this year, including two renewal applications. During a review of the process, staff identified opportunities to improve efficiency and provide greater clarity for applicants and the public.

As a result, staff proposed amendments to Section 4.04.05 of the Unified Development Code. The proposed changes include clarifying the distinction between Type A and Type B home occupations in Section 4.04.05.B; explaining parking requirements for off-site employees in Section 4.04.05.C.4; updating prohibited uses in Section 4.04.05.E.4; and adding an administrative renewal process in Section 4.04.05.F. The majority of the amendments focus on the latter section and are intended to streamline the renewal process.

Additionally, at the request of Councilmember Orochena during the work session, staff revisited the current limitation allowing only one Type A (virtual office) application per dwelling unit. Following further research and discussion, staff recommended removing this restriction. A cap will remain in place for Type B applications, which follow a more stringent review process and require consideration by the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Campbell stated that the process will continue to be monitored using feedback from applicants as well as the Mayor and Council.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris to approve [Ordinance No. 2025-09](#) to amend the Unified Development Code, Appendix A, Section 4.04.05, "Standards for Home Occupations," of said chapter as submitted by the City of Kennesaw as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

6:46 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:47 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris stated that the proposed changes represent an excellent first step toward streamlining the process. He added that further opportunities for improvement still exist and expressed interest in continued efforts to simplify the

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

11. Consent Agenda

- A. **Minutes: November 24, 2025 Work Session**
Approval of the November 24, 2025, City Council work session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: December 1, 2025 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the December 1, 2025, City Council regular meeting minutes.
- C. **Minutes: December 1, 2025 Executive Session**
Approval of the December 1, 2025, City Council executive session minutes.
- D. **Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cobb County for Animal Control services.

Resolution No. 2025-78

- E. **Resolution: Professional Services for Cobb International Boulevard Pavement Reclamation Project**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution approving Patterson & Dewar Engineers's proposal for professional services for the Cobb International Boulevard Pavement Reclamation Project.

Resolution No. 2025-79

Motion by Councilmember Jones to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

12. General and Administrative

- A. **Alcohol License: Worth The Wait Inc.**
Consideration for approval of a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Worth The Wait Inc d/b/a/ Big Pie in the Sky Pizzeria located at 2090 Baker Road Unit A-103, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Applicant: Amy Hines

Assistant Director of Administration Meredith Staton presented a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Worth the Wait Inc. d/b/a Big Pie in the Sky Pizzeria located at 2090 Baker Road Unit A-103. Ms. Staton stated that the applicants have completed the required alcohol workshop per Sec. 6-69. Signs have been posted, and the application has been properly advertised per Sec. 6-36. The current application and background check results are on file. A distance survey completed by a certified surveyor indicates the business is located within 300 feet of a private residence; all other distance requirements listed in Ordinance Sec. 6-42 and 6-43 have been verified. Sec. 6-42 states the Mayor and Council may waive the distance requirement if the quiet enjoyment of the premises by the residents thereof shall not be

adversely affected and the granting of such a license shall not have any adverse effect on the private residence.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to approve a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Worth the Wait Inc. d/b/a Big Pie in the Sky Pizzeria located at 2090 Baker Road Unit A-103 as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

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

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Stats: November 2025

Consideration to accept the November 2025 crime statistics.

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

Motion by Councilmember Viars to accept the November 2025 crime statistics as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

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.

6:53 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett shared letters to Santa from Kennesaw children posted in the *Cobb County Times* on December 10, 1925 [See **Exhibit B**].

6:55 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Dr. Drobney remarked that tonight's meeting highlighted why the City is fortunate to have such dedicated employees. He expressed his appreciation and thanked staff for their hard work and continued service to the City.

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.

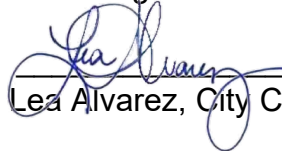
21. Council Reports & Discussions

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 6:56 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, December 29, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

November 2025 Crime Statistics



Group A Crimes	Nov 2025	Nov 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	4 (-6)	10	46 (-3)	49
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	1 (+1)	0
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	2 (+0)	2	30 (-3)	33
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	40 (+5)	35	341 (+2)	339
EMBEZZLEMENT	0 (+0)	0	3 (+0)	3
EXTORTION	1 (+0)	1	10 (-9)	19
FORGERY	0 (-3)	3	17 (-5)	22
FRAUD OFFENSES	20 (+3)	17	179 (+34)	145
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (-1)	1	0 (-4)	4
INTIMIDATION	10 (+6)	4	113 (+52)	61
KIDNAPPING	0 (-1)	1	10 (-7)	17
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	12 (-3)	15	153 (+21)	132
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1 (-2)	3	30 (+2)	28
PORNOGRAPHY OBSCENE MATERIAL	1 (+0)	1	4 (-5)	9
ROBBERY	0 (+0)	0	5 (+2)	3
SEX OFFENSES	3 (+1)	2	29 (-6)	35
SIMPLE ASSAULT	17 (-5)	22	153 (-60)	213
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	0 (-1)	1	12 (-7)	19
VANDALISM	6 (+2)	4	64 (-7)	71
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	7 (-7)	14	52 (-1)	53
Totals	124	136	1252	1255

	Nov 2025	Nov 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Dispatched Calls for Service	748 (-67)	815	8,476 (-70)	8,546
Self-Initiated Activity	1,828 (+755)	1,073	16,313 (+3,301)	13,012
Traffic Citations	1,011 (+514)	497	7,413 (+1,361)	6,052
Traffic Warnings*	958 (+350)	608	9,058 (+2,405)	6,653
Arrests**	72 (+19)	53	887 (-47)	934

	Nov 2025	Nov 2024	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Auto Accidents	107 (-16)	123	1,173 (-29)	1202
Accident w/ Injury	5 (-8)	13	99 (-1)	100
Hit and Run	12 (+4)	8	140 (+10)	130
Hit and Run w/ Injury	0 (-1)	1	4 (-3)	7
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	2 (+1)	1	8 (+4)	4

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings

** Arrests do not include juvenile arrests

KENNESAW HISTORY

Letters to Santa

For the past few years, I have shared some historic holiday letters to Santa Claus from Kennesaw children. I would like to continue that tradition today with letters from 1925—exactly a century ago. These requests to the North Pole were all published in the *Cobb County Times* on December 10, 1925.

H. G. Pittman was two-years old, and asked for a wagon, rubber ball, harp, and fruits and candy. Young Bryan Taylor asked for a toy with a pop gun, sparklers, and something pretty for his sweetheart. Elira Adair asked Santa to bring a doll, basket ball, wagon, and candy, and wanted to be sure Santa took care of her nieces and nephews. Leroy Wrigley wanted a toy train and tricycle, along with a hobby horse for his brother.

Annie Louise Brooks was five years old, and was looking forward to attending school after Christmas. She made sure Santa knew she had helped carry firewood for her mother. She asked for a rocking chair, story book, fruits, nuts, candy, and chewing gum. Last but not least, Martha Glenn Lewis (a four-year-old downtown resident) wanted a “kiddie Car,” a doll, fruits, and “just anything else that you can bring me.”

Letters
To
Santa
Claus



Banner from the December 10, 1925
Cobb County Times

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the December 15, 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
12/15/2025
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	<i>Andrew J. Brantlett</i>	<i>2990 Smedley Ct</i>	<i>Local history</i>
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