

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
January 5, 2026
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 Derek 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

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)

11. Consent Agenda

- A. **Minutes: December 8, 2025 Work Session**
Approval of the December 8, 2025, City Council work session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: December 8, 2025 Executive Session**
Approval of the December 8, 2025, City Council executive session minutes.
- C. **Minutes: December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the December 15, 2025, City Council regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferris.

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

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment

This section is for general comment.

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

STEVEN LUITJENS [City Resident]: Mr. Luitjens is the owner of Conservation Landscaping LLC, a Kennesaw-based company dedicated to restoring habitat and biodiversity through responsible, functional landscaping practices. He has observed Kennesaw's growth and noted that while development brings opportunity, it also carries significant responsibility. His work involves collaborating with landowners and developers to manage land in ways that reduce long-term costs, improve water quality, and control erosion while maintaining a professional appearance. He stated that rapid land clearing has destroyed thousands of acres of habitat and that, in many cases, native plants are removed and discarded. Mr. Luitjens explained that land ethics teaches that land is not a commodity, but a community to which we belong. Conservation Landscaping LLC applies this philosophy by restoring ecosystems where they have been lost while still meeting human needs. He expressed interest in partnering with the City of Kennesaw and Cobb County to pursue grants to fund conservation projects or explore tax benefits for properties actively engaged in conservation efforts. Additionally, he requested that the City consider restrictions on the sale of invasive plant species within the city limits.

6:38 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

City Manager Jeff Drobney did not have anything to report for this meeting.

20. Mayor's Report

A. **Recognition: Councilmember Pat Ferris**

Recognizing Councilmember Pat Ferris for 25 years of dedicated service to the City of Kennesaw.

In honor of Pat Ferris' service, Andrew Bramlett reflected on the beginning of Mr. Ferris' time in office, sharing a story about his first election (see **Exhibit A**).

Mayor Easterling thanked Mr. Ferris for his dedication to the City of Kennesaw and presented him with an award and gift from the City in appreciation of his service.

Mr. Ferris addressed the audience, stating that it had been his honor and pleasure to serve the City of Kennesaw. He recalled that during his first term there was a significant amount of infighting. During his second term, he committed to the Council that they would remain business-focused and that nothing would be personal, noting that this goal was accomplished. He concluded by sharing that he is now considering what comes next for him.

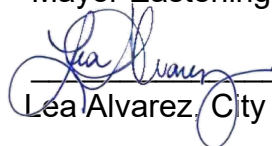
21. Council Reports & Discussions

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 6:44 p.m.



Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

KENNESAW HISTORY

Pat Ferris

As Pat Ferris reaches the end of his time on the Kennesaw City Council, I wanted to look back on the start of his time in office.

In 1984, three council posts were up for reelection, and all three incumbents decided to run. Jerry Worthan, Ivan Malone, and Gordon Coker were all running for their fourth terms. Both Worthan and Malone faced challengers: One was Ben Robertson, running against Worthan, while the other was Pat Ferris, running against Malone. Pat was at that time a sales representative for an engineering firm.

According to the *Atlanta Journal*, the resulting election had one of the highest turnouts up to that point in city history, with 792 of the 2,500 registered voters casting ballots. Pat Ferris received 452 votes, defeating Malone, while Ben Robertson won as well. Pat told the *Marietta Daily Journal* that his win was because the people of Kennesaw were ready for “new ideas.” Pat was sworn in on January 7, 1985, and served on the council until 2001, and then again from 2018 to today.



Kennesaw City Council, 1985

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the January 5, 2026,
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 Regular Meeting

1/5/2026

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	<i>Arden J. Brandt</i>	<i>2990 Acornfield Ct.</i>	<i>Local history</i>
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