

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

**Livestream: [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/)  
January 5, 2026  
7:00 PM**

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Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Jonathon Bothers 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**

City Resident Carlene Fregeolle led the Invocation.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Call to Order**

**4. Announcements**

**5. Presentations**

**6. Public Comment**

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

7:21 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

7:22 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

**7. Old Business**

**8. New Business**

**A. Oaths of Office: Municipal Court Associate Judge**

Oaths of office will be administered to Charles Chesbro by Mayor Derek Easterling.

[The agenda was taken out of order, and the oaths of office were administered following the Invocation].

Mayor Derek Easterling administered the oath of office to Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem Charles Chesbro.

**B. Oaths of Office: City Council Post 3, 4 & 5**

Prior to taking the dais, oaths of office will be administered to Jonathan Bothers and Anthony Gutierrez-Leon by the Honorable H. Luke Mayes, IV and to Antonio Jones by the Honorable Kellie S. Hill, respectively.

Municipal Chief Judge H. Luke Mayes IV administered the oaths of office to Jonathon Bothers and Anthony Gutierrez-Leon. Cobb County Superior Court Judge Kellie S. Hill administered the oath of office to Antonio Jones.

**9. Committee and Board Reports**

**10. Public Hearing(s)**

**11. Consent Agenda**

**A. Meeting Schedule: 2026 City Council Work Sessions and Regular Meetings**

Approval of the 2026 City Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Schedule.

**B. 2025 Destruction Log**

Receipt of the 2025 destruction log.

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**

**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.

7:22 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

7:23 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

## 19. City Manager's Report

### A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

City Manager Jeff Drobney announced that the City's 911 Department received notification that its CALEA accreditation has been reapproved.

## 20. Mayor's Report

### A. **Appointment: Mayor Pro Tem**

Consideration for the appointment of the 2026 Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion by Councilmember Bothers to nominate Antonio Jones as the 2026 Mayor Pro Tem. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez-Leon.

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

### B. **Registration: 2026 Lobbyist Session**

Consideration for approval for the Mayor to sign a lobbyist registration letter authorizing Fred Bentley, Jr. and Randall Bentley, Sr. to lobby on behalf of the City of Kennesaw.

Motion by Councilmember Viars approving the Mayor to sign a lobbyist registration letter authorizing Fred Bentley, Jr. and Randall Bentley, Sr. to lobby on behalf of the City of Kennesaw. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones.

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

### C. **Resolution: 2026 Alternate Check Signer**

Consideration for the appointment of an alternate check signer and approval of a resolution to designate an alternate check signer for 2026.

Motion by Councilmember Gutierrez-Leon to appoint Tracey Viars as alternate check signer and approve **Resolution No. 2026-01** to designate an alternate check signer for 2026. Seconded by Councilmember Bothers.

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

### D. **Resolution: 2026 Bank Signature Cards**

Consideration for approval of a resolution authorizing signatures for the City of Kennesaw and transmission of documents to the bank for 2026 new signature cards.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to approve **Resolution No. 2026-02** authorizing signatures for the City of Kennesaw and transmission of documents to the bank for 2026 new signature cards. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

### E. **Appointments: 2026 City Appointments**

Consideration for the ratification of the following City appointments: H. Luke Mayes, IV (Chief Judge/Probable Cause Judge); Charles Chesbro (Associate

Judge); Randall Bentley, Sr. (Solicitor); Jamie Wingler (Solicitor); Bentley, Bentley, and Bentley (City Attorney); Patterson & Dewar Engineers (City Engineer); City Manager; and City Clerk.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to ratify the following City appointments: H. Luke Mayes, IV (Chief Municipal Court Judge/ Probable Cause Judge); Charles Chesbro (Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem); Randall Bentley, Sr. (Solicitor); Jamie Wingler (Solicitor); Bentley, Bentley, and Bentley (City Attorney); Patterson & Dewar Engineers (City Engineer); City Manager; and City Clerk. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones.

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

**F. Appointments: 2026 Boards and Commissions**

Consideration for the ratification of (re) appointments to any board, committee, authority or commission.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to ratify the following resignations and (re)appointments as read into the record:

**2026 COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS**

**CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION:** Jonathon Bothers

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:** Anthony Gutierrez-Leon

**KENNESAW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:** Antonio Jones

**KENNESAW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:** Tracey Viars

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Antonio Jones

**SISTER CITIES:** Anthony Gutierrez-Leon

**YOUTH COUNCIL:** Madelyn Orochena and Antonio Jones

**911 ADVISORY BOARD:** Anthony Gutierrez-Leon

**2026 BOARDS/COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

**KENNESAW/ACWORTH 911 ADVISORY BOARD**

**APPOINT** Acworth Alderwoman Kimberly Haase, Kennesaw Acworth 911 Assistant Director Megan Meyer, and Cobb County Fire Chief Dr. Michael Cunningham to the Kennesaw/Acworth 911 Advisory Board.

**CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

**REAPPOINT** Jim Poole, Judi Burrell, and Rebecca Carlson to the Cemetery Preservation Commission with terms ending December 2029.

**ETHICS BOARD**

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION** of Chelsey Kisinger from the Ethics Board.

**REAPPOINT** Karen Whipple to the Ethics with a term ending December 2027.

**APPOINT** Donovan Giardina to the Ethics Board with a term ending December 2027.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION** of Kevin Whipple from the Historic Preservation Commission.

**REAPPOINT** Rachel Butler to the Historic Preservation Commission with a term ending December 2027.

**KENNESAW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION** of Richard Blevins, Jr. and Kevin Tidwell from the Kennesaw Development Authority.

**REAPPOINT** Keith Palmer, Justin Crocker, and Matt Riedemann to the Kennesaw Development Authority with terms ending December 2029.

**KENNESAW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**REAPPOINT** Mark Allen, Nimesh Patel, Mary Jo Groeneveld, and Leslie Patton to the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority with terms ending December 2029.

**LICENSE REVIEW BOARD**

**REAPPOINT** Tavares Chambless and Donald Perez to the License Review Board with terms ending December 2027 and Robert Thornton with a term ending December 2026.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION** of Phillip Jackson from the Planning Commission.

**REAPPOINT** Rebecca Patterson and Carolyn Greenall to the Planning Commission with terms ending December 2028.

**SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION** of Neil Brunetz from the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission.

**REAPPOINT** Elizabeth Jamison to the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission with a term ending December 2027.

**URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION** of Bill Snyder from the Urban Redevelopment Agency.

Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez-Leon.

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

**21. Council Reports & Discussions**

Councilmember Orochena congratulated Jonathon Bothers, expressed her enthusiasm for working with him, and shared her excitement for the new year.

Councilmember Gutierrez-Leon remarked that it was hard to believe two years had passed since his first term and noted that returning for a full four-year term was incredibly humbling. He expressed appreciation to those who continue to place their trust in him, his fellow Councilmembers, and City staff. He acknowledged that the Council is sometimes faced with difficult decisions, but stated his confidence in the City and encouraged the public to share that trust.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones welcomed Jonathon Bothers to the Council and thanked Pat Ferris for his guidance and counsel over the years.

Councilmember Bothers thanked everyone for their support and shared that he recently met with all City departments to learn more about their day-to-day operations. He expressed appreciation for their service to the City. He noted that his family has been part of the community since 2003 and has witnessed significant change, and that he wanted to be part of the City's continued positive progress. He stated that he looks forward to getting to work and doing whatever is needed to help the City move forward.

Councilmember Viars thanked Pat Ferris for his service, congratulated the newly elected officials, and recognized City Manager Jeff Drobney for earning re-credentialing as a City Manager, noting that he is the only credentialed City Manager in Cobb County.

## **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 Bothers to enter into Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-3 for the purpose of discussing legal. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones.

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

7:38 p.m. Recess to Executive Session

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

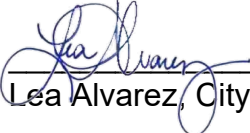
8:05 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

Councilmember Bothers 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 Gutierrez-Leon. See **Exhibit A**.

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

## **23. Adjourn**

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

  
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Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

**AFFIDAVIT**

1.

Mayor Derek Easterling was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Kennesaw City Council held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Jan, 2026.

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 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026 which was closed for the purpose(s) of legal as allowed by O.C.G.A. Title 50, Chapter 14 was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

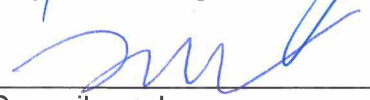
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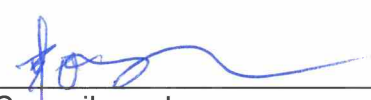
This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Jan, 2026.


  
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Mayor/Presiding Officer

  
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Councilmember

  
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Councilmember

  
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Councilmember

  
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Councilmember

  
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Councilmember

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the

5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 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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