

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
July 17, 2023
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Tracey Viars Councilmember Lynette Burnette Councilmember Pat Ferris Councilmember Antonio Jones Councilmember Trey Sinclair City Clerk Lea Alvarez City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr.
---------	---

1. Invocation

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. led the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

City resident Lewis Bramlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

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

4. Announcements

- A. This public meeting is being conducted via the use of real-time telephonic technology allowing the public simultaneous access to the public meeting. You may also attend in person with limited seating available at both the Council Chambers and the Ben Robertson Community Center, if needed. Mayor and Council will be conducting their meeting via real-time telephonic technology using Zoom Meeting and Facebook Live. You can access the meeting via the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>
- B. If you are not able to attend a meeting in-person and would like to provide public comment on a specific agenda item, you can email kennesawcouncil@kennesaw-ga.gov no later than 6:00 PM the night of the regular meeting. Your comments on a specific agenda item will be read aloud or grouped into categories for the record. **Facebook Live is not monitored for public comment.**

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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. Approval of the June 26, 2023 City Council work session minutes.
- B. Approval of the July 5, 2023 City Council regular meeting minutes.
- C. Approval of RESOLUTION for a design services proposal and agreement with Croy Engineering and CSC Design, Inc for the Smith-Gilbert Garden's restroom and trail project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-31, 2023

- D. Authorization to fund a "Practices for Successful Meetings" class through the Carl Vinson Institute of Government for the City's boards, committees, and commissions out of the Mayor and Council Contingency Fund for \$3,100.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Viars to approve the consent agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Ferris.

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

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

- A. Receipt of the June 2023 Crime Statistics.

Mayor Easterling recognized Bill Welch, a retired Chief and current Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies representative, who is completing the on-site assessment of the Kennesaw Police Department. Mayor Easterling asked Mr. Welch to share during public comment a little bit about what CALEA is and why its accreditation is so important.

Chief Bill Westenberger presented the June 2023 crime statistics.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to present the June 2023 crime statistics as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Burnette.

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

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett shared an interesting story about a photo of the Kennesaw Depot on display at a bank in Highland Mills, New York (**See Exhibit A**).

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

BILL WELCH [Retired Chief and current assessor for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)]: Mr. Welch shared that CALEA sets forth policies and standards that professional police departments should have and follow. The Kennesaw Police department is currently undergoing review of over 900 standards covering topics such as training, equipment, search warrant procedure, community involvement, etc. Mr. Welch stated this process requires a lot of work by the police department as well as by the city. He said less than four percent of police agencies are accredited. Mr. Welch explained that what accreditation does for a municipality is it protects the city and its police officers. The events you see on TV are most likely a product of poor policy or training. He shared that the Chief and the city have undertaken a project here which will allow the patrol officers to be trained the way they should be, so hopefully, incidents will not happen. Mr. Welch gave kudos to the city for going through this process as it is not easy. CALEA comes every four years to make sure agencies walk the talk.

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

B. Recommendation of the City Manager to ratify the appointment of Information Technology Director, Robert Mayes

Motion by Councilmember Jones to ratify the appointment of Robert Mayes as the Information Technology Director. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Viars.

Councilmember Jones thanked Mr. Mayes for his service and welcomed him to the City of Kennesaw.

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

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.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Viars to accept the resignation of Lisa Michaud from the License Review Board. Seconded by Councilmember Burnette.

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

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Burnette welcomed Mr. Mayes to the City of Kennesaw and believes he will be a great asset to the city.

Councilmember Ferris reminded everyone to stay hydrated and look after their neighbors in this heat.

Councilmember Sinclair had nothing to add tonight.

Councilmember Jones shared that the Mayor told him when he first had his son that his life would change and that the Mayor was absolutely right. He is sucking the energy out of him just like this heat!

Mayor Pro Tem Viars exclaimed Pigs and Peaches is in 31 days and encouraged everyone to attend the Farmers Market in the downtown.

Mayor Easterling asked if the Council was fine canceling the next special called budget work session meeting scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2023 if there were no additional questions. The Council was fine with canceling the meeting.

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 6:45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, August 7, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lea Alvarez", with a stylized, cursive script.

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk