

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
June 1, 2026
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Jonathon Bothers Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez-Leon Deputy City Clerk Nicholas Simpson City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
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1. Invocation

The Chamber observed the invocation led by Mayor Derek Easterling.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chamber recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Andrew Bramlett.

3. Call to Order

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment

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

6:31 p.m.

Floor Open for Public Comment

No Comments.

6:32 p.m.

Floor Closed to Public Comment

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. Appeal Hearing: Occupational Tax Certificate for El Ranchito Grocery Store.

This appeal hearing is scheduled for the June 1, 2026, City Council regular meeting.

On April 29, 2026, the City of Kennesaw Business License Division denied the renewal of the Occupational Tax Certificate for El Ranchito grocery store effective immediately due to alleged illicit activity occurring at the store. The owner of El Ranchito filed an appeal in response to the denial. On June 1, 2026, the Mayor and Council of the City of Kennesaw held an administrative appeal hearing regarding the denial of the Occupational Tax Certificate for El Ranchito pursuant to City of Kennesaw Code Section 22-29(b). The City's interests were represented by City Solicitor Jamie Wingler and City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr., respectively. Attorney Julie Essa represented the owner of El Ranchito.

After full consideration of the evidence presented, the Mayor and Council held open debate during which time the Council voted to uphold the Business License office's denial of the renewal of the Occupational Tax Certificate for El Ranchito Grocery Store.

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. 2027 Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Hearing for Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc. to provide an update on the ongoing Comprehensive Plan updates.

Planning Director Chanelle Campbell introduced Elena Oertel from Inspire Placemaking Collective, which was selected by Council to complete the City of Kennesaw's 2027 Comprehensive Plan Update. She delivered a Council briefing on the process to be used to develop the plan, opportunities for public participation in development of the plan, and to obtain input on the proposed planning process as required by the State of Georgia Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning and the Department of Community Affairs. Ms. Oertel's delivered a presentation to Mayor and Council as required by state law.

11. Consent Agenda

A. Cemetery Deed: Section III, 10 A and 10 B

Authorization for the Mayor to sign a deed for cemetery lots purchased by Dan and Donna Newman in the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

B. Minutes: May 11, 2026 Work Session

Approval of the May 11, 2026, City Council work session minutes.

- C. **Minutes: May 18, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the May 18, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.
- D. **Minutes: May 18, 2026 Executive Session**
Approval of the May 18, 2026, City Council executive session minutes.
- E. **Funding for 2027 Comprehensive Plan**
Request for approval of budget amendment to fund the 2027 Comprehensive Plan.
- F. **Resolution: 2028 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the 2028 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cobb County and the City of Kennesaw.
- G. **Resolution: Public Safety Facility Interview Room Equipment**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of interview equipment from Motorola Solutions for the public safety facility.
- H. **Resolution: Stormwater Repair at St. Charles Lane**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting the proposal from Chatfield Contracting, Inc. for stormwater repairs at St. Charles Lane.
- I. **Surplus: Zero Turn Mower**
Approval to surplus Exmark Lazer zero turn mower on GovDeals.
- J. **Final Plat Application: 3057 N. Main Street**
Consideration for approval of the final plat application submitted by Shannon Johnson on behalf of Crawford Creek Development, LLC for 3057 N. Main Street (Parcel #20012702300); this plat subdivides the existing 5.98 +/- acres for the development of a townhome subdivision known as The Townes at Cantrell. Case #FP2026-01
- K. **Final Plat Application: 1651 McCollum Pkwy**
Consideration for approval of the final plat application submitted by Steven Batchelder on behalf of Piedmont Residential for 1651 McCollum Pkwy (Parcel #20009900010); this plat subdivides the existing 5.13 +/- acres for the development of a townhome subdivision known as Ross Pointe. Case #FP2026-02

Motion by Council member Anthony Gutierrez-Leon to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

Vote taken: approved, 5-0. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

12. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: 1885 Grill Kennesaw

Consideration for approval of a Wine Package Sales for Off Premises Consumption license for 1887 Grill LLC D/B/A 1885 Grill Kennesaw located at 2840 S Main St Kennesaw, GA 30144. Applicant: Michael Schroeder or designee

Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented a Wine Package Sales for Off Premises Consumption license for 1885 Grill LLC D/B/A 1885 Grill Kennesaw, located at 2840 S Main St Kennesaw, GA 30144. The applicant is Michael Schroeder.

Pursuant to the City of Kennesaw's newly adopted Ordinance Sections 6-32(c) and (d), a licensee authorized for the sale of alcoholic beverages by the drink for on-premises consumption may obtain a package wine, fortified wine, and champagne sales license for the sole purpose of selling unopened bottles of wine to customers as a part of the same transaction in which a prepared meal is purchased. This license type will be in addition to 1885 Grill Kennesaw's existing Retail Pouring License for Liquor, Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales. All other requirements have been satisfied through the original retail pouring license. No supplementary requirements are necessary for this addition.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the Wine Package Sales for Off Premises Consumption license for 1887 Grill LLC D/B/A 1885 Grill Kennesaw located at 2840 S Main St Kennesaw, GA 30144 as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

Vote taken: approved, 5-0. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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.

6:51 PM

FLOOR OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andrew Bramlett [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett chronicled Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Kennesaw on October 23, 1932. The First Lady was conducting campaign stops in the state with her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Her train arrived in Kennesaw from Chattanooga 30 minutes earlier than expected, and she posed for a photo while in the city. [See Exhibit A]

Samuel Alan Rusch [City Resident]: Mr. Rusch expressed frustration with City Manager Drobney. He claimed that the City Manager was not being truthful about the

amount of city funding that has been invested in Woodland Acres over the years. He furnished a copy of the original deed for Woodland Acres Park. According to Rusch, based on the language of the deed, the City of Kennesaw no longer owns the property known as Woodland Acres Park. He asked the City Council if they planned to give the land back to the original owner.

Jory Lyons [City Resident]: Mr. Lyons recounted a conversation with the City Manager at last week's work session that he considered to be abrasive. He appreciated the City Manager's efforts to compile the information that he had requested concerning investment in the Woodland Acres community. Mr. Lyons spent his own time researching the City's investments in Woodland Acres. He spent \$160 on an open records request but was told it would take time to research and satisfy his request. Lyons walked Woodland Acres with neighbors in an effort to identify things in the community that needed to be repaired. Lyons and his neighbors found over 40 issues that needed to be addressed by the city. He asked for people to visit Woodland Acres and see the number of potholes in the streets.

Laura Lyons [City Resident]: Ms. Lyon spoke about the awakening in her community. Her neighbors have walked the community identifying where repairs (damaged sidewalks, damaged curbs, drainage issues) and services are needed. She expressed frustration with the City's response to her concerns and requests. She believes that the Woodland Acres community is being overlooked, and the city is not prioritizing its needs, despite repeated requests.

Donovan Giardina [City Resident]: Mr. Giardina requested that the City Council consider lowering the speed limit on Paulding Street, linking Jiles Road to N. Main Street, from 35 mph to 25 mph. He compared Paulding Street to Big Shanty Drive, which is also currently on a 35 mph speed limit. According to Giardina, unlike Paulding Street, Big Shanty Drive has traffic-calming measures in place. Giardina expressed concern with the curve located just before you arrive at the entrance of his neighborhood when traveling on Paulding Street from Jiles to N. Main Street. He recommended installing blind drive signs or other traffic slowing measures. He recently led a walking tour in downtown Kennesaw to discuss connectivity and pedestrian safety. He noted that there are no pedestrian lead signals for crosswalks on major thoroughfares. Giardina commented that lead signals are a cost-effective way to increase pedestrian safety.

7:00 PM FLOOR CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

20. Mayor's Report

Mayor Easterling delivered remarks following public comment. He stated that the Council is not customarily obligated to respond to public comments when Council is in

session. He commented that Messrs. Lyons and Rusch have lodged over ninety-two (92) seeclickfix.com ticket requests and thirty (30) freedom of information law (FOIL) requests since May 14, 2026, tying up valuable staff time needed for city operations. Addressing the Council, Easterling stated that the city needs time to determine why Woodland Acres Park had been "chained off" for 30 years before discussing a plan for the park's future. The Mayor has asked the City Manager and staff to revisit the issue in mid-November after an assessment and legal review has been completed, and after the FY26-27 budget has been finalized.

In closing, the Mayor stated that Messrs. Lyons and Rusch are only 2 of the 39,984 residents of the City of Kennesaw that City Council members were elected to serve. He urged his Council colleagues to keep that fact in mind when considering this issue.

- 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 9:45 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

KENNESAW HISTORY

Eleanor Roosevelt

While looking through historic Atlanta newspapers, I uncovered an interesting story from 1932. During that year's election, Eleanor Roosevelt herself visited Kennesaw, and I even was able to find a photograph of her visit.

Franklin Roosevelt was traveling across the South as part of his first presidential campaign, and Eleanor was with him on the trip. They were traveling south from Chattanooga to Atlanta on October 23, with a brief stop in Marietta for a ceremony put on by local citizens. Eleanor, however, had a speaking engagement in New York and needed to leave the train and go to the Atlanta airport. The plan was for the secretary of Atlanta mayor James Key to drive to Kennesaw, meet the train, and drive her to Atlanta's Candler Field. On the way, they would stop briefly in Marietta so she could shake hands.

Key's secretary thought the train was scheduled to reach Kennesaw at 7:00 AM, but it arrived at 6:30 AM. Journalists from the Atlanta newspapers stepped in and offered her a ride in their vehicles, and she accepted. Because of the mix-up, she ended up not stopping in Marietta. One of those reporters who greeted her train in Kennesaw snapped a photograph of her, which was published in the *Atlanta Constitution* the next morning.



Eleanor Roosevelt in Kennesaw
October 24, 1932 *Atlanta Constitution*

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the June 1, 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
6/1/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew J. Bramlett	2990 Somerset Ct.	Local history
2	Samuel Rusch	2459 Pine Dr NW	Woodland Park
3	Jory Lyons	2441 Forrest Dr NW	City Repair
4	Laura Lyons	2441 Forrest Dr. NW	Woodland Park
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