

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
May 18, 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 Carlene Fregeolle.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chamber recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Derek Easterling.

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

6:32 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comment

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

- A. **Minutes: April 27, 2026 Work Session**
Approval of the April 27, 2026, City Council work session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the May 4, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.
- C. **Minutes: May 4, 2026 Executive Session**
Approval of the May 4, 2026, City Council executive session minutes.
- D. **Temporary Use Permit: Super Show Fireworks**
Consideration for approval of a Temporary Use Permit for Super Show Fireworks. Applicant: Brian Lilly
- E. **Resolution: Hazard Mitigation Plan**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution approving the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- F. **Surplus: Body Cameras**
Approval to surplus Motorola Si500 body cameras on GovDeals.
- G. **Resolution: Network Infrastructure Equipment for the new Public Safety Building**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of network infrastructure equipment for the new Public Safety Facility.
- H. **Resolution: Engineering Design Services for the Parking Project at 2250 Lewis Street**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting Patterson & Dewar's proposal for engineering design services for the parking project at 2250 Lewis St.
- I. **Resolution: Cooperation Agreement for the Urban County CDBG Program**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the Cooperation Agreement for requalification of the Urban County CDBG Program between Cobb County and City of Kennesaw.
- J. **Resolution: Holly Days Drone Show**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution awarding the 2026 Holly Days Drone Show to Northern Lights Drone Shows.
- K. **Resolution: Purchase of Lawn Mowers for Parks and Recreation**

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of two lawn mowers to be used by Parks and Recreation.

L. Resolution: 2026-2027 Main Street Affiliate Memorandum of Understanding

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Kennesaw and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Georgia Main Streets Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Anonio Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Council member Jonathon Bothers seconded the motion.

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

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Stats: April 2026

Consideration for the acceptance of the April 2026 crime statistics.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to accept the April 2026 crime statistics as presented. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones.

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

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 PM

Floor Open for Public Comment

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett delivered a presentation on Kennesaw history during World War II. In 1942, the Kennesaw City Council approved a blackout ordinance for air raids. The ordinance outlined the processes and procedures to be followed in the event of an air raid on the city. Residents were required to turn off all flashlights, electric lights, fires, heaters, radios, and anything else that might be visible from the sky. **[See EXHIBIT A]**

SAMUEL RUSCH [City Resident]: Rusch began by thanking council members Madelyn

Orochena and Antonio Jones for making time to meet with him. He advised council members Tracey Viars, Jonathon Bothers, and Anthony Gutierrez-Leon that he contacted each of them twice requesting a meeting, and that he would appreciate hearing back from them. He stated that Assistant Manager Marty Hughes refuses to answer his questions anymore, and indicated that he does not take him seriously. Mayor Easterling requested that Rusch address him directly and to refrain from referencing individual city personnel. Rusch inquired as to why and the Mayor responded that public comments are directed to Mayor and Council, and that he would like Rusch to direct his comments to him. Rusch asked the Mayor when was the last time he visited Woodland (Acres) Park. He recited Section 66-2, subsection C-1, which states it *shall be unlawful for any person to do any of the following in a public park or on public property: create or maintain a nuisance as defined by state law or by the Code of Ordinances, Kennesaw, Georgia, or pose a danger or threat to the public.* He questioned the chained entryway to Woodland (Acres) Park and the safety of the sloped access point next to the driveway. He commented that the land to the left of the driveway is private property with access only available along the right side of the driveway. Rusch asked the Mayor if the sloping land to the right of the driveway entering into Woodland (Acres) Park was "ADA compliant." According to Rusch, the parks department or public works lopped off a sapling that was blocking the entranceway to the park, and it had created an injurious situation. He asked the Mayor why the City did not install a bollard or a gate in place of a chain to prevent illegal parking while maintaining a safe entryway that does not force people to commit an act of trespassing on private property or fall and hurt themselves. He created a seeclickfix.com work order for the inoperable light by the old basketball court at Woodland (Acres) Park and asked why the city would not provide a power source. He commented on the difficulty of having a "breathe easy zone" sign erected, and that the city is more concerned with prioritizing parking than preventing the spread of second-hand smoke in city parks. He asked that the remainder of his time be used to explain the City's rationale for the decisions it has made concerning Woodland (Acres) Park.

LAURA LYONS [City Resident]: Mrs. Lyons commented on the need for children to access parks and green spaces. Community parks in downtown Kennesaw allow children an opportunity to run, explore and play in a safe environment. As the owner of Fresh on Forrest, Lyons has had the opportunity to speak with neighbors about Woodland Park, and many have asked when the park will reopen. She believes the park will offer recreational alternatives for families and senior citizens. The chain at the entrance has caused confusion when public spaces should be welcoming to all in the community.

JORY LYONS [City Resident]: Mr. Lyons thanked Council member Madelyn Orochena for staying late last week to speak with him and his family. He commented that he had a disappointing encounter with a council member and the assistant city manager at Woodland (Acres) Park last week. Lyons voiced his displeasure with seeclickfix.com. When he creates a work order through the system to address broken curbs and damaged sidewalks, his request bounces from one local jurisdiction to another. Cobb County has responded to his broken curbs and damaged sidewalks work orders and

advised him that the City of Kennesaw was responsible for providing service. He commented that he took photographs that were sent to the Council by Samuel Rusch showing what Woodland (Acres) Park used to look like. According to Lyons, he submitted a seeclickfix.com work order to address the park access point to the right of the driveway entering Woodland (Acres) Park, and that the access point was deemed unsafe for the public by city personnel.

ANNETTE CONN [City Resident]: Mrs. Conn stated that she resides at 2574 Dobbs Drive, NW, and Woodland (Acres) Park is located directly behind her property. On Friday, May 15, 2026, Mrs. Conn had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Vick True, who previously resided at 2574 Dobbs Drive, NW. She stated that she wanted to dispel any rumors concerning Woodland (Acres) Park that could be found on the internet. She stated that the City of Kennesaw installed the chain and lock blocking the driveway to Woodland (Acres) Park. She also commented that, according to Vick True, the City granted him permission to add his own lock so that he could use the restricted driveway to access his boat. He was also allowed to utilize PVC pipes to prevent people from sitting or walking along the chain. Mrs. Conn wanted to state for the record that her husband, Wayne Conn, did not install a chain or has ever blocked anyone in the community from accessing Woodland (Acres) Park.

6:47 PM

Floor Closed for Public Comment

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

20. Mayor's Report

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS

Cemetery Preservation Commission

APPOINT Alexis Gaddy to the Cemetery Preservation Commission with a term ending December 2028.

Sister Cities Commission

APPOINT Chrislyn Turner to the Sister Cities Commission with a term ending December 2027.

Mission, Vision and Values Assessment Committee

APPOINT the following individuals to the Mission, Vision and Values Assessment Committee:

Jonathon Bothers – Council

Tracey Viars – Council

Megan Meyer – 911

Robbie Balenger – Building Maintenance

Scott Banks – Building Services

Nick Simpson – City Clerk
Anna Trapp – City Manager
Becca Graham - Communications
Brittany Swiney – Municipal Court
Luke Howe – Economic Development
Meredith Staton - Finance
Brian Acker – Human Resources
Berry Wilson - Information Technology/GIS
Michelle Newman – Southern Museum
Hallie Swift – Parks and Recreation
Chanelle Campbell – Planning and Zoning
Maggie Carter - Police
Amanda Stevens – Public Works
Hannah Young – Smith-Gilbert Gardens

City of Kennesaw 2027 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

APPOINT the following individuals to the 2027 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:

Vanita Keswani – Smith Gilbert Garden Education and Exhibit Manager
Miranda Taylor - Kennesaw Downtown & Main Street Manager
Donald Wells – Cobb County Intergovernmental Coordinator
Laura Beall – Transportation Planning Division Manager, Cobb DOT
James Wilson – Cobb County School System Representative
Nic Capomacchia – Kennesaw State University Representative
Mike Everhart – Kennesaw Business Association Representative
Commissioner Thomas Neaves – Historic Preservation Commission
Mary Whitlock – Residential Representative
Chris Olson – JW Collection
Allison Giddens - Win-Tech, Inc.
Rev. Alex Stroud – Kennesaw Church
Alisha Smith – Town Center CID Representative

Council member Madelyn Orochena asked Mayor Easterling to clarify what boards and commissions were receiving appointments. The Mayor clarified that he was making appointments to the Cemetery Preservation Commission, Sister Cities Commission, Mission, Vision and Values Assessment Committee, and the City of Kennesaw 2027 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Orochena commented that she only received board applications for appointments to the Cemetery Preservation Commission and the Sister Cities Commission. She had not received any information on appointments to the Mission, Vision and Values Assessment Committee or to the City of Kennesaw 2027 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to accept the Boards and Commissions appointments as read into the record. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

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

- 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.
- B. **Appointments: City of Kennesaw 2027 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**
Consideration for the ratification of appointments to the Steering Committee for the City of Kennesaw's Comprehensive Plan update.

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.

Motion by Council member Jonathon Bothers to enter into Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-3 for the purpose of discussing personnel. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena. **[See EXHIBIT B]**

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

6:50 p.m. Recess to Executive Session

7:58 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

Council member Jonathon 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 Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones.

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

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, May 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is

encouraged to attend.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'NS', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

KENNESAW HISTORY

Blackout Ordinance

World War II had profound impacts on the local community. Many Kennesaw residents served in the war, and the Bell Bomber Plant in Marietta brought new jobs to the area. During the war, however, Americans were unclear if it would stay in Europe and the Pacific or if war would ever come close to home. With this in mind, many communities took precautions, and Kennesaw was no exception.

In August 1942, the Kennesaw Mayor and Council approved a blackout ordinance for air raids. The ordinance mentioned the Citizens Defense Corps, a federal office created during World War II, and is likely the corps played some role in drafting its language.

In case of an air raid, the bells at the Baptist and Methodist church were designated as signals. Residents would turn off all electric lights, fires, heaters, radios, flashlights, or anything else that might be visible from the sky. All vehicles, except for those connected to civil defense, were prohibited during an air raid. Last but not least, air raid wardens and other positions were created, but it is sadly not known if these roles were ever filled.

Aug. 27, 1942
(continued)

Special Ordinance covering "Blackouts".

Be it enacted that upon the sounding of Air Raid Alarm Signals for a "Blackout" namely by the ringing of Church Bells at the Baptist and Methodist Churches and at the School House all persons within the incorporate limits of the City of Kennesaw shall immediately blackout all lights upon their premises. It shall be unlawful for any person to let any ray of light that is made from any kind of lamp, or fire from fire place, heater, radio, flash light, or any other form of light produced in any way be seen from without of said premises during the period of a "Blackout", and until the all clear signal has been sounded in the same manner by the ringing of the Church Bells. Be it further enacted that it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to travel in any vehicle in any way or direction within the incorporate limits of the City of Kennesaw during the period of a Blackout called by the City of Kennesaw, or County, or State at any time except such official Cars, Trucks, and Ambulances as designated by the Civilian Defense Corps, and their lights shall be properly blackened or dimmed with Standard Blackout Equipment. Upon the sounding of an Air Raid Alarm all parties in Vehicles of any kind unless otherwise connected with the Civilian Defense Corps will immediately pull over to the Curb, Stop Motor, and cut out all lights until the all clear signal has been sounded.

Be it further enacted that during the period of a Blackout whether it is called by the City of Kennesaw, the County, or the State of Georgia for practice or real raids, it shall be unlawful for any person to be out on the Streets, Sidewalks or yards except the Air Raid Wardens, Auxillary Firemen, Auxillary-Police and other parties that have been duly appointed by the Civilian Defense Corps.

Any person or persons, firm or Corporation violating this Ordinance or the spirit of it, by word, deed, or action, or allowing it to be violated at his or her home, on his or her premises, or his or her place of business shall be fined not exceeding Twenty Five Dollars or confined to Jail not exceeding Twenty Five Days.

Passed at a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Kennesaw this the 27th day of August 1942.

Approved by L. C. Chalker, Mayor.

This the 28th day of August 1942.

No entries for 1943.

Mayor and Council Minutes
August 27, 1942

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the August 27, 2026,
City of Kennesaw Mayor & Council Meeting

State of Georgia
County of Cobb

AFFIDAVIT

1.

Mayor Derek Easterling was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Kennesaw City Council held on the 18th day of May, 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 18th day of May, 2026, which was closed for the purpose(s) of personnel as allowed by O.C.G.A. Title 50, Chapter 14 was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

4.

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 18th day of May, 2026.



Mayor/Presiding Officer



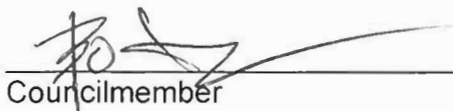
Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember

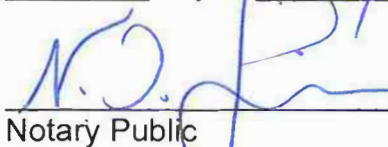


Councilmember



Councilmember

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the
18TH day of MAY, 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
5/18/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	LEWIS BRANLETT	2990 SUMMERFIELD CT 30192	local history
2	Samuel Rusch	2859 Pine Dr NW	woodland Park Society
3	Laura Lyons	2441 Forrest Dr	Woodland Park
4	Annette Conn	2574 Dobbs Dr	Woodland Park
5	Jory Lyons	2441 FORREST DR	See click fix
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