

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
April 20, 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

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 6:32 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment

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

6:31 PM - FLOOR OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

6:32 PM - FLOOR CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. Land Use Permit: 2970 Bancroft Glen

Consideration for approval of a Land Use Permit application for the property

located at 2970 Bancroft Glen as submitted by Leigh Anne Blades. Case #LU2026-01.

Assistant Zoning Administrator Priscilla Coley presented Case #LU2026-01, a Land Use Permit application submitted by city resident Leigh Anne Blades for her residence located at 2970 Bancroft Glen, NW. Blades is requesting the permit for the purpose of obtaining a home occupational business license to create jewelry, accessories, handbags, and home decor. The property is zoned Planned Unit Development - Residential and consists of 0.22 +/- acres, lies in Land Lot 88, Tax Parcel 244, 20th District, 2nd Section, Cobb County, Georgia. This public hearing was advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on March 13, 2026, and a public notice sign has been posted on-site. At their April 1, 2026, meeting, the Planning Commission voted to approve the Land Use Application with the conditions as outlined by staff.

Planning and Zoning recommends approval of the Land Use Application with the following conditions:

1. The land use permit is limited to, exclusive for and only valid for the current applicant and the life of this particular business and use, and it is not transferable. Any changes would require additional review and approval.
2. There shall be no clients, customers or employees at this location. Nor shall there be any evidence of a home-based business visible from the public right-of-way, including no signs and no more than one commercial vehicle dedicated to this business.
3. The land use permit is valid for 24 months starting from the date of approval.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to accept the Land Use Permit application as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena

6:36 PM Floor Open for Public Comment

No Comments

6:37 PM Floor Closed for Public Comment

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

B. Land Use Permit: 3154 Hartness Way

Consideration for approval of a Land Use Permit application for the property located at 3154 Hartness Way as submitted by Wanda Hostick. Case # LU2026-02.

Assistant Zoning Administrator Priscilla Coley presented Case # LU2026-02, a Land Use Permit application submitted by city resident Wanda Hostick for her residence located at 3154 Hartness Way, NW. Hostick is requesting a permit for the purpose of

obtaining a home occupational business license to create jewelry, accessories, handbags, and home decor. Property is zoned Planned Unit Development - Residential and consists of 0.17 +/- acres, lies in Land Lot 88, Tax Parcel 353, 20th District, 2nd Section, Cobb County, Georgia. This public hearing was advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on March 13, 2026, and a public notice sign has been posted on-site. At their April 1, 2026, meeting, the Planning Commission voted to approve the Land Use Application with the conditions as outlined by staff.

Planning and Zoning recommends approval of the Land Use application with the following conditions:

1. The land use permit is limited to, exclusive for and only valid for the current applicant and the life of this particular business and use, and it is not transferable. Any changes would require additional review and approval.
2. There shall be no clients, customers or employees at this location. Nor shall there be any evidence of a home-based business visible from the public right-of-way, including no signs and no more than one commercial vehicle dedicated to this business.
3. The land use permit is valid for 24 months starting from the date of approval.

Motion by Council member Anthony Gutierrez-Leon to accept the Land Use Permit application as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Tracey Viars.

6:37 PM Floor Open for Public Comment

No Comment

6:38 PM Floor Closed for Public Comment

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

11. Consent Agenda

Council member Tracey Viars made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Council member Jonathon Bothers seconded the motion.

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

- A. **Minutes: March 30, 2026 Work Session**
Approval of the March 30, 2026, City Council work session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: March 30, 2026 Executive Session**
Approval of the March 30, 2026, City Council executive session minutes.
- C. **Minutes: April 6, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the April 6, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.

D. Resolution: AV equipment for the Public Safety Facility

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of AV equipment for the Public Safety Facility through Switch Global.

E. Resolution: Furniture Purchase for Public Safety Facility

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of furniture for the Public Safety Facility.

12. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: Kennesaw Mart 2025 Inc.

Consideration for approval of a Retail Package Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Kennesaw Mart 2025 Inc, D/B/A Kennesaw Mart 2025 Inc. located at 3055 N Main St NW Suite 108, Kennesaw, GA 30144.

Applicant: Zoheb Bhayani

Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented a Retail Package Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Kennesaw Mart 2025 Inc, D/B/A Kennesaw Mart 2025 Inc. located at 3055 N Main St NW Suite 108, Kennesaw, GA 30144. The applicant Zoheb is Bhayani.

The applicant has completed the required alcohol workshop per Section 6-69. Signs have been posted, and this hearing has been properly advertised per Section 6-36. The current application and background check are on file.

A distance survey was completed by a certified surveyor and indicates that the business is within 300 feet of a private residence, within 600 feet of a school or college, and within 600 feet of a religious assembly. Sec. 6-42 refers to all locations within 300 feet of a private residence. Sec 6-43 refers to all locations within 600 feet of a school or religious assembly. Both sections 6-42 and 6-43 indicate that Mayor and Council may waive the distance requirement if the granting of such a license shall not have any adverse effect on the private residence, school, or religious assembly.

Council member Madelyn Orochena made a motion to approve a Retail Package Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Kennesaw Mart 2025 Inc, D/B/A Kennesaw Mart 2025 Inc. located at 3055 N Main St NW Suite 108, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Council member Jonathon Bothers seconded the motion.

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

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Stats: March 2026

Consideration for the acceptance of the March 2026 crime statistics.

Kennesaw Police Chief Bill Westenberger presented the March 2026 city crime statistics [See **Exhibit A**]

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to accept the March 2026 crime statistics as submitted. Seconded by Council member Anthony Gutierrez-Leon.
Vote taken: motion unanimously approved, 5-0. Motion passed.

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.

6:41 PM Floor Open for Public Comment

Andrew Bramlett [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett delivered a presentation on the City of Kennesaw's first documented police chief, Maxie Maxwell, who assumed the office in 1950. Prior to Maxwell's installation, law and order in the city was maintained by marshals. After serving in the US Navy, Maxwell became a professional boxer and once trained with legendary boxer Jack Dempsey. As Police Chief, Maxwell started the City Boys Club for local teenagers interested in boxing. The club hosted a boxing match between Mayor Jesse Hildebrand and City Clerk Olin Ellis in 1950, and the event is documented in the Marietta Daily Journal. [See **Exhibit B.**]

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. Luitjens expressed his support for a natural play area in Depot Park downtown. He opined that Depot Park could designate a nature space to provide an area for children to play without the need to adhere to the traditional playground model, which utilizes plastic structures and rubber surfacing. He believes that logs, boulders, and native plants foster a more interactive and educational experience with natural surroundings. Luitjens further commented that the natural play scape in Depot Park could be a model for the creation of natural play areas in other city parks.

Timothy Heying [City Resident]: Mr. Heying also expressed support for a natural play area in Depot Park. He commented that parents would be able to observe their children playing while attending the many events held in the park. He commented on "feral children" running around Depot Park during events without a designated place to play. He further commented that parents are in the park attending events and watching their kids from a distance, and an active play scape will give the kids "more to work with".

Donovan Giardina [City Resident]: Mr. Giardina expressed support for a natural play scape in Depot Park. He concurred with Mr. Heying's observation that children visit city events like Depot Park with their parents, and lack an area where they can interact. As a resident of North Main Street, he observed that Adams Park did not experience an increase in foot traffic despite its proximity to the Big Shanty Festival occurring

downtown. He opined that there could be some economic benefits to adding a play space to the downtown area.

6:48 PM Floor Closed for Public Comment

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

City Manager Jeff Drobney thanked staff for their work during the Big Shanty Festival, which was attended by thousands of festival goers. He recalled when Depot Park was a muddy field and additional hay would have to be laid on the ground when it rained.

He congratulated the Kennesaw Business Associations (KBA) and highlighted the organization's 50-year partnership with the city. Having served as KBA president in 2009, Drobney is grateful for KBA's transformative legacy. He lauded the Police Department and Public Works, which assisted vendors during the windstorm that occurred on Sunday. He also highlighted the cleaning and clearing efforts of Parks and Recreation.

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.

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 Bothers to enter into Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-3 for the purpose of discussing land. Motion seconded by Council member Orochena.

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

6:49 p.m. Recess to Executive Session

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

6:54 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

Council member 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 Council member Orochena. [See **Exhibit C.**]

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

23. Adjourn

Prior to adjourning, Mayor Easterling yielded the floor to City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr., who recognized Council member Madelyn Orochena and her dance partner Shelby Chaney as the winning duo of the Georgia Ballet's gala dance competition held on Saturday, April 18. Through her efforts, Council member Orochena raised money for Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

March 2026 Crime Statistics



Group A Crimes	Mar 2026	Mar 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5 (+3)	2	16 (+6)	10
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	2 (+1)	1	8 (-1)	9
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	32 (+4)	28	109 (+23)	86
EMBEZZLEMENT	0 (+0)	0	0 (-1)	1
EXTORTION	0 (+0)	0	0 (-3)	3
FORGERY	1 (+1)	0	2 (-1)	3
FRAUD OFFENSES	14 (-6)	20	52 (+1)	51
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
INTIMIDATION	7 (-8)	15	23 (-17)	40
KIDNAPPING	1 (+1)	0	3 (+1)	2
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	12 (-2)	14	30 (-14)	44
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	4 (+2)	2	6 (-2)	8
PORNOGRAPHY OBSCENE MATERIAL	3 (+3)	0	3 (+3)	0
ROBBERY	0 (+0)	0	1 (-1)	2
SEX OFFENSES	2 (+0)	2	8 (+2)	6
SIMPLE ASSAULT	20 (+5)	15	43 (+3)	40
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1 (+1)	0	6 (+1)	5
VANDALISM	5 (+1)	4	11 (-2)	13
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	2 (-1)	3	12 (-1)	13
Totals	111	106	333	336

	Mar 2026	Mar 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Dispatched Calls for Service	850 (+62)	788	2,144 (-29)	2,173
Self-Initiated Activity	1,669 (+391)	1,278	4,830 (+996)	3,834
Traffic Citations	765 (+241)	524	2,309 (+643)	1,666
Traffic Warnings*	704 (+48)	656	2,162 (+52)	2,110
Arrests**	89 (+8)	81	246 (-6)	252

	Mar 2026	Mar 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Auto Accidents	110 (-4)	114	286 (-10)	296
Accident w/ Injury	11 (+5)	6	23 (-13)	36
Hit and Run	10 (-3)	13	39 (+2)	37
Hit and Run w/ Injury	0 (+0)	0	1 (-1)	2
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	1 (+1)	0	2 (+1)	1

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings

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Arrests do not include juvenile arrests

KENNESAW HISTORY

Kennesaw Boys' Club

In 1950, the City of Kennesaw hired Maxie Maxwell as the police chief, making him the first documented chief in Kennesaw history. Prior to that point, the city seems to have only had marshals. Maxwell served four years in the US Navy in the 1920s and 1930s, and after leaving the military he became a boxer. His nicknames included "The Mauler," "Bad Boy" Maxwell, and "Sailor" Maxwell. Notably, he once trained with legendary boxer Jack Dempsey.

On arriving in Kennesaw, Maxwell brought some of his boxing career with him. In June of 1950, he started the Kennesaw Boys' Club, invited local teenagers, and began to work to fundraise for equipment. However, Maxwell needed a way to attract people to the meeting, and he came up with a novel idea. According to the *Marietta Daily Journal*, he arranged an "exhibition six-round boxing bout between Mayor Jesse Hilderbrand and City Clerk Olin Ellis." While a list of local businesses that contributed to the event survives, it is not known whether the mayor or city clerk won. The club was still active two months later, but it seems to have fizzled out in late 1950.



Maxie Maxwell, 1938

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the April 20, 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 20th day of April, 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 20th day of April, 2026, which was closed for the purpose(s) of land 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.

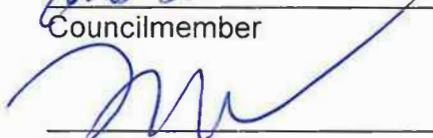
This the 27th day of April, 2026.



Mayor/Presiding Officer



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember



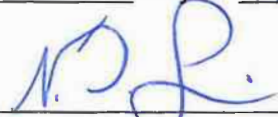
Councilmember



Councilmember

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the

27TH day of APRIL, 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
4/20/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Angela Jordan	2818 Dominion Lane	Deer Park
2	Steven L. Smith	3840 Jiles Rd	Deer Park
3	Timothy Hering	2059 White Oak Creek	Deer Park
4	Arthur J. Brant	2990 Kennesaw Ct.	Local history
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