

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
April 13, 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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to Order

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

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Committee and Board Reports

9. 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 a Land Use Permit application submitted by city resident Leigh Anne Blades for her residence located at 2970 Bancroft Glen, NW. Blades is seeking approval to operate a business creating and selling jewelry, accessories, handbags, and home decor. Staff recommends approval subject to the conditions as outlined in the staff analysis. The Land Use Permit application has been advertised in accordance with all the applicable state and local city requirements.

A comprehensive presentation will be provided at next week's regular meeting.

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 a Land Use Permit application submitted by city resident Wanda Hostick for her residence located at 3154 Hartness Way, NW. Hostick is seeking approval to operate a business creating and selling jewelry, accessories, handbags, and home decor. Staff recommends approval subject to the conditions as outlined in the staff analysis. The Land Use Permit application has been advertised in accordance with all the applicable state and local city requirements. A comprehensive presentation will be provided at next week's regular meeting.

10. Consent Agenda

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.

11. 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 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.

12. Public Safety

A. Crime Stats: March 2026

Consideration for the acceptance of the March 2026 crime statistics.

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

13. Information Technology

14. Public Works and Building Maintenance

A. 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.

Building and Facilities Director Robbie Balenger presented a Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of AV equipment for the Public Safety Facility through Switch Global.

The scope of work will include the installation of all new AV equipment within the Public Safety Facility. This will include the purchasing and installation of all equipment to include televisions, video conferencing equipment, and associated accessories.

Switch Global pricing is based off current State of Georgia Contract pricing. The proposal is for \$244,783 and will be paid from the 2022 SPLOST Public Safety account. Balenger recommends approval.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular City Council meeting.

B. Resolution: Furniture Purchase for Public Safety Facility

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

Building and Facilities Director Robbie Balenger presented a Resolution authorizing the purchase of furniture for the Public Safety Facility.

The proposal is for the purchase and installation of all required furniture for staff needs in the new Public Safety Facility. This purchase is being made off of current State of Georgia HON furniture contract pricing. The proposal for this project is \$266,757.62. Balenger recommends approval.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the

Consent Agenda for the regular City Council meeting.

15. Recreation and Culture

16. Community Development

17. Public Comments

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

Samuel Rusch {City Resident}: Mr. Rush stated that he and his wife have lived in the City of Kennesaw for eight years. He appreciates city amenities, like trash collection, street sweeping, and street lighting. He also operates a business out of his home. He mentioned the subpar conditions at two neighborhood parks, Woodland Park and Butler Creek Park, and he believes that these sites need more attention from the city. He commented that Parks and Recreation Director Bill McNair had acknowledged the "legacy problem" and that the Woodland Park sign had been missing for approximately 3 (three) years. Rusch further commented that it is his understanding that these parks have been ignored due to drug activity. He questioned the Parks Director's commitment to these two parks. He clarified that he never said that the current parks leadership is the reason that the parks have not received any attention. He blamed the Council for seeing the problems for years while not fixing anything.

6:40 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

18. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes thanked the Kennesaw Police Department and Parks and Recreation staff for their efforts in ensuring that Saturday's (April 11th) Fit City 5K race was a great event. Hughes commented that it was a well-attended event with over 800 people in attendance.

19. 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.

20. Council Reports & Discussions

Mayor Easterling gave City Council member Jonathon Bothers the floor to go on record and clarify his nay vote on the Special Purpose Local-Option Sales tax (SPLOST) funding project list during last week's (April 6th) meeting. He stated that he supports SPLOST funding 100 percent. He further stated that without SPLOST funding, the City of Kennesaw would not have the recreation center, Depot Park, and the amphitheater. He commented that although he did not agree with the amount of funding allocated to certain projects, he supports SPLOST funding for the city.

Mayor Easterling gave City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr. the floor to speak about the Georgia Ballet, of which he serves on the Board of Trustees. The Georgia Ballet, the only fully professional non-profit classical dance company headquartered in Cobb County, is hosting a gala celebration at the Strand Theater on the Marietta square on Saturday, April 18th. The event will include a dance competition with one of the competitors being Kennesaw City Council member Madelyn Orochena. He encouraged all to attend.

21. 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.

Mayor Derek Easterling asked City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr. if the Council would be required to go into Executive Session tonight. Attorney Hensley responded that there was no reason to go into Executive Session.

22. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 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

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 Work Session
4/13/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Samuel Rusch	2459 Pine Dr NW	Woodland Park + Butler Creek Park
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