

**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 6, 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 entire chamber stood for and participated in the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The entire chamber stood for and participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

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

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

A. Recognition: Promotion of Kennesaw Police Department Sergeants

Kennesaw Police Department Chief Bill Westenberger and Captain Kevin Mitchell presented newly-promoted Police Sergeants Josh Day and Josh Hale to the chamber. Both officers possess a combined 24 years of policing experience (7 years for Sergeant Day and 17 years for Sergeant Hale). They have both trained new officers, and both have worked in the criminal interdiction unit.

Sergeant Day commented that he has enjoyed his seven (7) years as a police officer in Kennesaw. He also enjoys the great support he receives when he attends the council meetings.

Sergeant Hale commented that he appreciates the Kennesaw community. He is a graduate of Kennesaw Mountain High School and has resided in the area his entire life. He relocated to another location for a job opportunity, but he had to return to Kennesaw. He stated that Kennesaw is where he plans to retire.

6. Public Comment

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

6:34 p.m. Floor Open for
Public Comment

John Little {City Resident} commented on the Sardis Street Capital Project that is being considered for 2028 SPLOST funding. Mr. Little understands the need to alleviate traffic in Kennesaw given the Cherokee Street railroad crossing, but, when he lived in Alpharetta, they widened and rearranged the roadways to solve traffic congestion, and unfortunately, the problem only got worse. In his opinion, the traffic in Kennesaw is not as bad as in other cities on the north side of the metro Atlanta area, like Brookhaven and Dunwoody. He understands the need to make downtown Kennesaw more pedestrian-friendly, but the Sardis Street project will make it more of a hassle to walk from Cherokee Street to Main Street. He further commented that the Sardis Street project will make the proposed intersection of Moon Station Road, Main Street, and Sardis Street a bottleneck. He closed by reiterating that he understands that traffic is bad.

6:37 p.m. Floor Closed to Public
Comment

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

A. SPLOST: 2028 Projects List

Consideration for approval of the proposed projects for the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum.

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes presented the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) project list, which was created by a committee comprised of City Council members and staff.

Cobb County citizens will vote on all countywide SPLOST projects during the November 2026 general election. Public review for SPLOST projects was held on March 10th and March 19th.

The approved project list reflects the city's priority of needs for the next six (6) years.

Due to legal timelines, Cobb County is requesting the city's submittal for publication in the County SPLOST Guidebook. The City Manager recommends approval of the city's 2028 SPLOST list as presented. [See **Exhibit A.**]

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the proposed projects for the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

Vote taken: approved, 3-2 (Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones and Council member Jonathon Bothers voted nay). Motion passed.

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross.
Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena

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

- A. **Minutes: March 9, 2026 Work Session**
Approval of the March 9, 2026, City Council work session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: March 9, 2026 Executive Session**
Approval of the March 9, 2026, City Council executive session minutes.
- C. **Minutes: March 16, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the March 16, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.
- D. **Minutes: March 16, 2026 Executive Session**
Approval of the March 16, 2026, City Council executive session minutes.
- E. **Certification of Estimated Rollback Rate for 2026 Notice of Assessment**
Certification of the estimated rollback rate for 2026 Notice of Assessment in compliance with HB 581 and HB 92.
- F. **Surplus: Zebra RW420 Printers**
Approval to sell surplus ZebraRW420 Printers on GovDeals.
- G. **Surplus: Public Works Vehicles and Equipment**
Approval to sell or dispose of surplus City vehicles and equipment.
- H. **Resolution: Guardrail Installation at Baker Road**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution approving the proposal from Gracie Gray Contractors, Inc. for a guardrail installation along Baker Road.
- I. **Resolution: Reallocation of Impact Fees to Kennesaw Station Park Expansion**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the reallocation of surplus Impact Fees from the Adams Park baseball field lighting project to the Kennesaw Station Park Expansion project.
- J. **Resolution: Professional Planning Services for the City of Kennesaw 2027 Comprehensive Plan**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc's proposal to provide professional planning services for the City

of Kennesaw's Comprehensive Plan update.

12. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: Smash Hit Burgers

Consideration for approval of a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Smash Hit Catering, LLC D/B/A Smash Hit Burgers located at 2921 Cherokee Street NW Kennesaw, GA 30144. Applicant: Cynthia Daniel

Assistant Director of Administration Meredith Staton presented the Retail Pouring Alcohol License application for beer, wine, and Sunday sales for Smash Hit Catering, LLC, d/b/a Smash Hit Burgers, located at 2921 Cherokee Street, NW. The applicant is Cynthia Daniel.

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 and within 600 feet of a public building. 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 public building. 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 or public building.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the Retail Pouring Alcohol License application for beer, wine, and Sunday sales for Smash Hit Catering, LLC, d/b/a Smash Hit Burgers, located at 2921 Cherokee Street, NW as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Anthony Gutierrez-Leon.

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

B. Alcohol License: Las Tejitas 2 LLC

Consideration for approval of a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Las Tejitas 2 LLC located at 2090 Baker Road Suite 504, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Applicant: Howard Myers

Assistant Director of Administration Meredith Staton presented the Retail Pouring Alcohol License application for beer, wine, and Sunday sales for Las Tejitas 2, LLC located at 2090 Baker Road, Suite 504 NW. The applicant is Howard Myers.

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 checks are on file.

A distance survey was completed by a certified surveyor and indicates that the

business meets all distance requirements per Sections 6-42 and 6-43.

Motion by Council member Madelyn Orochena to approve the Retail Pouring Alcohol License application for beer, wine, and Sunday sales for Las Tejitas 2, LLC located at 2090 Baker Road, Suite 504 NW as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Jonathon Bothers.

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

C. Alcohol License: Fuego Azul Tequila LLC

Consideration for approval of a Wholesale Alcohol License for Fuego Azul Tequila LLC D/B/A Fuego Azul Tequila located at 3635 Kennesaw N Industrial Pkwy Suite A Kennesaw, GA 30144. Applicant: Ricardo Kelly

Assistant Director of Administration Meredith Staton presented the Wholesale Alcohol License application for Fuego Azul Tequila, LLC, d/b/a Fuego Azul Tequila, located at 3635 Kennesaw N. Industrial Pkwy. Suite A Kennesaw, GA 30144. The applicant is Ricardo Kelly.

The applicant has completed all required documentation for a wholesale license. The current application and background check are on file. Signs have been posted and this hearing has been properly advertised per Section 6-36.

A distance survey was not required pursuant to Sections 6-42 and 6-43, which exempts wholesalers from the distance requirements imposed in these sections.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the Wholesale Alcohol License application for Fuego Azul Tequila, LLC, d/b/a Fuego Azul Tequila, located at 3635 Kennesaw N. Industrial Pkwy Suite A Kennesaw, GA 30144 as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Anthony Gutierrez-Leon.

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

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.

6:43 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comment

Andrew Bramlett {City Resident} delivered a presentation on Kennesaw history focused

on the city council's passage of "odd laws" in the 1930's and 1940's. [See **Exhibit B.**]

Erik Bredfeldt, Leader of the Atlanta Office of Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc., introduced himself and company President George Kramer. He thanked the Council for selecting Inspire's proposal for the city's Comprehensive Plan Update, and stated that he looked forward to working with city staff.

6:45 p.m. Floor Closed to Public Comment

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

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.

Mayor Easterling thanked the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works, and the entire team for their efforts in the city's first concert of 2026. He stated that the event was phenomenal, and the effort was unbelievable.

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 6:47 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

Project (v6 DRAFT)	Tier 1	Tier 2
Sardis St extension and overpass - Elevate the overall performance of the transportation network and strategic re-development of the downtown district, and mitigate traffic congestion on Main St and its arteries. Additional efforts include securing essential rights-of-way and conducting coordinated planning with CSX Railroad to ensure effective project progression and long-term transportation predictability.	\$10,500,000	
Cobb International Blvd - Upgrade and resurface road to handle heavy truck traffic as well as more commercial and personal vehicles for the industrial park businesses.		\$10,000,000
Old 41 Highway - Establish a fourth travel lane between Barrett Parkway and Hardee Circle to optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance overall roadway safety for motorists.		\$3,500,000
Main St improvements - Improve walkability, pedestrian safety, and roadway crossings in and around Depot Park and the greater downtown Kennesaw area, while elevating the overall streetscape to create a more accessible and cohesive urban environment.	\$3,000,000	
Summers St - Improve Summers St and Kennesaw Due West Rd at Cobb Parkway to enhance overall traffic operations and transportation efficiency.	\$2,000,000	
Neighborhood improvements - Implement comprehensive neighborhood infrastructure enhancements, including street resurfacing, stormwater system upgrades, and expanded sidewalk connectivity, to strengthen overall safety and quality of life for residents.	\$2,000,000	
Depot Park Phase 12 - Establish a pedestrian-friendly zone along Cherokee Street adjacent to the museum and its surrounding area, complemented by the expansion of the Depot Park parking to improve accessibility and accommodate increased visitor demand with the increased park activation.	\$3,000,000	
Facilities improvements - Optimize space utilization to accommodate current and future staff growth, advancing HVAC, lighting and plumbing efficiencies, and strengthening access control and camera security measures to protect personnel and visitors.	\$4,771,381	
Property acquisition - Secure strategically located land that supports city-wide facility growth needs, storage capacity, and long-term operational improvements.	\$3,000,000	
Design and construct a new community center	\$14,000,000	
Design and construct a new city hall		\$16,000,000
Parks improvements - Enhance and improve Adams, Swift, Commemorative, and Depot Parks through targeted upgrades/expansion and strategic investment to ensure these public spaces continue to serve the community with high-quality amenities, accessibility and equipment; long-term functionality of the dog and skate parks; and an elevated standard of environmental and recreational value of the trails as well as the ballfields and associated buildings	\$3,500,000	
Public Safety vehicles and equipment	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Totals	\$46,771,381	\$30,500,000

KENNESAW HISTORY

Odd Laws

Since we just passed April Fool's Day, I thought it would be an interesting time to focus on some of the odd laws of Kennesaw's past. I've previously shared some unusual ordinances from the 1900 and 1910s. All of today's examples are pulled from the later minutes of the Kennesaw City Council.

In October 1939, the council debated automobiles downtown, and two ordinances were passed. One banned driving without a driver's license, which seems very reasonable, while the other dealt with speed limits. Throughout town, the speed limit was set at 25 miles per hour, while in downtown it was reduced to 20. The fine was \$25, up to 25 days in jail, or 25 days of labor on the town streets. While these speed limits may seem low today, it is a bit more reasonable in an era without many paved roads.



On March 5, 1945, the city council voted to ban roller skating on sidewalks in downtown. Sadly, the reason why was not recorded, but it was approved by a unanimous vote.

Downtown in the 1950s
Kennesaw Historical Society

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the April 6, 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
4/6/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	JOHN LITTLE	3085 WINDOVER	
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