

**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/
July 27, 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.

1. Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Easterling called the work session 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. Third and Final Public Hearing: Maintenance and Operation (M&O)
Millage Rate**

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to adopt the proposed Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate.

As a follow-up to the first millage rate hearing, Mayor Easterling asked Finance Director Jennifer Gordy if she would like to provide additional comment on the third and final public hearing on the City's maintenance and operations (M&O) millage rate, which will be held at the Council's regular meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026. Gordy responded that she had no further comments.

B. Third and Final Public Hearing: Bond Millage Rate

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to adopt the proposed Bond Millage Rate.

As a follow-up to the first millage rate hearing, Mayor Easterling asked Finance Director Jennifer Gordy if she would like to provide additional comment on the third and final public hearing on the City's bond millage rate, which will be held at the Council's regular meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026. Gordy responded that she had no further comments.

10. Consent Agenda

11. General and Administrative

12. Public Safety

A. Resolution: 911 Console Project Cost Increase

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing additional funds for the 911 Dispatch Console Replacement Project.

Kennesaw 911 Director Nikki McGraw presented for approval of a Resolution authorizing additional funds for the 911 Dispatch Console Replacement Project. Staff is requesting approval to increase the previously approved console project funding from \$116,372.49 to \$131,112.82.

During the initial budget planning process, the renovation project was estimated at approximately \$125,000. A vendor quote was subsequently received in the amount of \$116,372.49, which was approved by Mayor & Council. As the project moved forward, additional coordination and internal review were completed prior to finalizing the purchase. During that timeframe, the vendor provided updated pricing, resulting in a revised project cost of \$131,112.82.

Staff have continued working to move the project forward. However, the revised vendor quote exceeds the amount previously approved by Mayor & Council. Although \$125,000 was included in the FY26 budget for this project, the revised vendor quote of \$131,112.82 exceeds the original project budget by \$6,112.82.

Approval is requested to increase the previously approved project funding from \$116,372.49 to \$131,112.82 in order to proceed with the project. The additional \$6,112.82 in funding will come from the 911 reserve funds.

Director McGraw recommends approval.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the 08-03-2026 regular City Council meeting.

13. Information Technology

14. Public Works and Building Maintenance

A. Resolution: 2026 Pipe Rehabilitation Project

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to award the Bid and Contract for the 2026 Pipe Rehabilitation Project to Video Industrial Services.

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart presented for approval a Resolution to award the Bid and Contract for the 2026 Pipe Rehabilitation Project to Video Industrial Services.

Requests for Bids were advertised to repair failing storm water pipes throughout the City. Thirteen (13) bids were received. The lowest bid was found to be an incomplete submission; therefore, the lowest bid considered was from Video Industrial Services. The bid amount was \$319,570.00.

The Public Works Director recommends approval of bids, award of the contract to Video Industrial Services for \$319,570 and recommends the Mayor to sign the attached Contract and Resolution.

Council member Tracey Viars commented that the draft contractual agreement between the City and Video Industrial Services was dated for July, 2024. Director Stewart assured Viars that the contract would be corrected.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the 08-03-2026 regular City Council meeting.

B. Resolution: Selling of City Property

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the selling of right-of-way property to Cobb County Department of Transportation.

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart presented for approval a Resolution authorizing the selling of right-of-way property to Cobb County Department of Transportation.

The Cobb County Department of Transportation has approached the City seeking to purchase 0.327 acres of City-owned property for right-of-way purposes. The property has a non-numbered Old Hwy 41 address and parcel number 20020702180. The offer made to purchase is for the amount of \$7,200.00. The property is needed for the construction of the Noonday Creek Pedestrian Bridge project. The prospective sale has been reviewed by legal.

Director Stewart recommends approving the sale of the property and requests the Mayor and Council approve the Resolution.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the 08-03-2026 regular City Council meeting.

15. Recreation and Culture

16. Community Development

17. Public Comments

6:34 PM

FLOOR OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

SAM RUSCH [City Resident]: Mr. Rusch sincerely hopes that the community can move forward together. He believes that Kennesaw residents are discouraged and disconnected from government, and he feels that there is mistrust between city residents and their representatives in city government. He would like more information on the original deed to Woodland Acres Park. Despite repeated open records requests, he still needs clarity with respect to the amount of capital and/or expense funding his community has received from the City. He claimed that the information was guarded by some form of attorney-client privilege. Lastly, he asked why Woodland Acres and Pine Mountain parks were not included in the City of Kennesaw's Parks and Recreation playbook.

MATTHEW MAYO [City Resident]: Mr. Mayo thanked Parks and Recreation staff for their efforts to beautify Woodland Acres Park. He reiterated prior requests that the chain blocking the entranceway to Woodland Acres park be removed. He looks forward to seeing the park equipped with a pavilion, barbeque grill, benches, picnic tables and trash cans. He also reiterated previous calls he has made for the Woodland Acres community town hall and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Jones for his support of the town hall. He also thanked Council members Tracey Viars, Madelyn Orochena, and Anthony Gutierrez-Leon for their support.

6:38 PM

FLOOR CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

18. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

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

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.

22. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

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
7/27/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Samuel Rusch	2459 Pine Dr NW	woodland > park/wood-land Pine Mountain / across neighbor- hood.
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