

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
July 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 Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes Acting City Attorney Jamie Wingler
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1. Invocation

The Chamber observed the Invocation led by Carlene Fregeolle.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chamber recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment

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

6:32 PM PUBLIC COMMENT - FLOOR OPEN

NO COMMENTS

6:33 PM PUBLIC COMMENT - FLOOR CLOSED

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

- A. **Resolution: Authorization of Interim City Manager Contract**
Approval of a Resolution authorizing an employment contract with the Assistant City Manager to serve as the duly appointed Interim City Manager.
- B. **Minutes: June 29, 2026 Work Session**
Approval of the June 29, 2026, City Council work session minutes.
- C. **Minutes: June 29, 2026 Special Budget Work Session**
Approval of the June 29, 2026, Special City Council Budget work session minutes.
- D. **Minutes: July 6, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the July 6, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross, motion seconded by Council member Anthony Gutierrez-Leon.

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

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

- A. **Crime Statistics: June 2026**
Consideration for the acceptance of the June 2026 crime statistics.

Police Chief Bill Westenberger presented the June 2026 city crime statistics. [See Exhibit A]

Motion by Council member Madelyn Orochena to approve the June 2026 crime statistics as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Tracey Viars.

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.

6:34 PM PUBLIC COMMENT - FLOOR OPEN

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett delivered his monthly presentation on Kennesaw history. In 1973, when Jimmy Carter was serving as Georgia's governor, his six-year-old daughter Amy joined the Little General Cloggers, which served as the city's ambassadors for decades. They were founded by Olivia Smathers of Kennesaw, and performed across the nation. Interestingly, they were the state's official bicentennial representatives in 1976. She was notably part of the group when they performed at the Governors' Mansion for the Carter Family and when they performed at the Grand Ole Opry in June 1974. During Carter's 1976 campaign, Amy occasionally performed with the Cloggers.

When the Carters' reached the White House, they promised that the Cloggers would be able to perform there. Four months into Carter's time in office, they made good on their promise, and the Little General Cloggers (including Amy Carter) performed at the White House. They were also able to meet with Georgia's senators on the trip. This 1977 visit may be the last time Amy performed with the Cloggers, though several members of the group did attend her 12th birthday party in 1979. [See Exhibit B.]

SAM RUSCH [City Resident]: Mr. Rusch thanked council members Madelyn Orochena and Antonio Jones for listening to his concerns. He commented that Jones was no longer interested in holding a town hall but asked him to continue to do what is right. He suggested holding two separate town halls for Woodland Acres and Pine Mountain Acres, respectively. He commented that Pine Mountain Park a/k/a Butler Creek Park is currently open despite him hearing Jones state that the park was closed at last week's Council work session. Rusch commented that he is excited that Viars is now in support of improvements at the parks. He invited other residents from other communities to come to the Council meetings to speak their truth. He expressed approval of the Mayor's interview in the Marietta Daily Journal, and went on to negatively address council member Jonathon Bothers for statements he made at last week's work session concerning Woodland Acres Park.

MATTHEW MAYO [City Resident]: Mr. Mayo began by saying that he was encouraged by the things he heard at last week's work session. He is grateful to the Mayor and Council. He thanked city personnel from the parks department and public works for their recent efforts to clean up Woodland Acres Park. He refuted statements he heard at last week's work session regarding safety at Woodland Acres Park. According to Mayo, the park is not surrounded by woods, but by the homes of his neighbors. Mayo stated that he is proud of the Kennesaw Police Department and their ability to enforce the law at Woodland Acres Park. In closing, he mentioned the presence of the trail camera located at Woodland Acres Park and how the camera could serve as a deterrent to crime.

6:41 PM PUBLIC COMMENT - FLOOR CLOSED

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes highlighted the work of Dr. Robert Banz and staff at the Southern Museum and announced that the City of Kennesaw had been recognized by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as a recipient of the 2025 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Hughes will travel to Washington, D.C. with Dr. Banz this week to be recognized on the City's behalf.

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 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 Tracey Viars.

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

6:42 p.m. Recess to Executive Session [See Exhibit C.]

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 Council member Madelyn Orochena.

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

6:52 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to add item 22A — City Manager Executive Search Services — to the meeting agenda.

Motion seconded by Council member Jonathon Bothers

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

AGENDA ITEM 22A: City Manager Executive Search Services

Consideration for approval to enter into an agreement for city manager executive search services with Slavin Management Consultants at a cost not to exceed \$24,521.00.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve an agreement for city manager executive search services with Slavin Management Consultants at a cost not to exceed \$24,521.00. Motion seconded by Council member Jonathon Bothers

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

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Simpson Deputy City Clerk

June 2026 Crime Statistics



EXHIBIT A

Group A Crimes	Jun 2026	Jun 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3 (-1)	4	27 (+5)	22
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	1 (+0)	1
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	2 (+1)	1	15 (-1)	16
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	28 (-4)	32	229 (+63)	166
EMBEZZLEMENT	0 (+0)	0	1 (-1)	2
EXTORTION	2 (+2)	0	5 (-3)	8
FORGERY	1 (-3)	4	9 (-1)	10
FRAUD OFFENSES	19 (+11)	8	107 (+19)	88
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
INTIMIDATION	14 (+2)	12	51 (-19)	70
KIDNAPPING	1 (-1)	2	5 (-1)	6
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	15 (-5)	20	67 (-20)	87
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0 (-3)	3	11 (-6)	17
PORNOGRAPHY OBSCENE MATERIAL	2 (+2)	0	10 (+9)	1
ROBBERY	0 (+0)	0	2 (-1)	3
SEX OFFENSES	3 (-2)	5	16 (+1)	15
SIMPLE ASSAULT	15 (+1)	14	86 (+7)	79
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1 (+1)	0	9 (+2)	7
VANDALISM	6 (-6)	12	28 (-5)	33
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	1 (-4)	5	24 (+0)	24
Totals	113	122	703	655

	Jun 2026	Jun 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Dispatched Calls for Service	777 (-10)	787	4,545 (+61)	4,484
Self-Initiated Activity	1,352 (+46)	1,306	9,006 (+1,184)	7,822
Traffic Citations	559 (-17)	576	4,267 (+889)	3,378
Traffic Warnings*	510 (-247)	757	3,776 (-529)	4,305
Arrests**	61 (-25)	86	468 (-13)	481

	Jun 2026	Jun 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Auto Accidents	110 (+9)	101	618 (+11)	607
Accident w/ Injury	3 (-7)	10	46 (-13)	59
Hit and Run	7 (-7)	14	68 (-8)	76
Hit and Run w/ Injury	0 (+0)	0	2 (+0)	2
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	1 (+1)	0	5 (+2)	3

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings

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Arrests do not include juvenile arrests

KENNESAW HISTORY

Amy Carter

Starting with the permanent return of the *General* in 1972, the Little General Cloggers served as the city's ambassadors for decades. They were founded by Olivia Smathers of Kennesaw, and performed all across the nation. Interestingly, they were the state's official bicentennial representatives in 1976.

In 1973, when Jimmy Carter was serving as Georgia's governor, his six-year-old daughter Amy joined the cloggers. She was notably part of the group when they performed at the Governors' Mansion for the Carter Family and when they performed at the Grand Ole Opry in June 1974. During Carter's 1976 campaign, Amy occasionally performed with the Cloggers.

When the Carters' reached the White House, they promised that the Cloggers would be able to perform there. Four months into Carter's time in office, they made good on their promise, and the Little General Cloggers (including Amy Carter) performed at the White House. They were also able to meet with Georgia's senators on the trip. This 1977 visit may be the last time Amy performed with the Cloggers, though several members of the group did attend her 12th birthday party in 1979.



Little General Cloggers in the White House
Jimmy Carter Presidential Library

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the July 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 July, 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 July, 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.

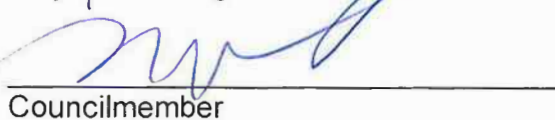
This the 20th day of July, 2026.



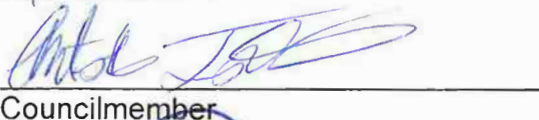
Mayor/Presiding Officer



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember



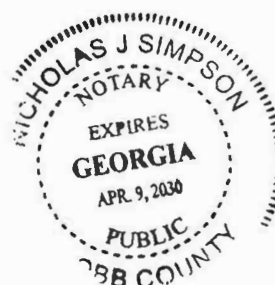
Councilmember

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the

20TH day of JULY, 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
7/20/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew Brantlett	2940 Summerfield Ct.	Local history
2	Samuel Rusch	2459 Pine Dr NW	last Council work session
3	Matthew Mayo	2570 Woodland Dr	last Council work session
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