

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

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
August 17, 2026
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars (via teleconference) Councilmember Jonathon Bothers Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez-Leon (via teleconference) Deputy City Clerk Nicholas Simpson City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
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1. Invocation

Prior to leading the invocation, Mayor Derek Easterling announced that council members Tracey Viars (Post 2) and Anthony Gutierrez-Leon (Post 5) would be joining the meeting via teleconference. Both council members confirmed their attendance telephonically.

The Chamber observed the invocation led by Mayor Derek Easterling.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chamber recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Scouts BSA Troop 700.

City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr. administered oaths to all members of the public intending to provide public comment.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

4. Announcements

A. Recognition: Southern Museum awarded the 2025 National Medal for Museum and Library Service

Recognizing the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History as one of five museum recipients of the 2025 National Medal for Museum and Library Service conferred by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Mayor Easterling recognized the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History as one of five museum recipients of the 2025 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Museum Director Richard Banz presented the medal to the Chamber. Mayor Easterling asked all museum personnel to introduce themselves.

Tracy Shehab - Events Coordinator
Móirín Cody - Tour & Volunteer Coordinator
Michelle Newman - Visitor Services Coordinator
Katrina Ivey - Visitor Services Assistant
Jolene Johnson - Archivist
Richard Banz - Museum Director
Conor Ray - Curator
Bill Clark - Operations Manager

Education Program Coordinator Josh Trower, Early Childhood Educator Amy Torrance, Foundation Coordinator Maureen Hawkins, and Visitor Services Assistant Cheryl Bressoud were not in attendance.

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment

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

6:35 PM PUBLIC COMMENT — FLOOR OPEN

NO COMMENTS

6:36 PM PUBLIC COMMENT — FLOOR CLOSED

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. Land Use Permit: 3786 North Hampton Drive

Consideration for approval of a Land Use Permit application for the property located at 3786 North Hampton Drive (Parcel # 20009000170) as submitted by Gregory Miller. Case #LU2026-04

Assistant Planning Director Priscilla Coley presented for approval of a Land Use Permit application for the property located at 3786 North Hampton Drive (Parcel # 20009000170) as submitted by Gregory Miller. Case #LU2026-04

Said request is for the purpose of obtaining a home occupation business license to operate a home embroidery business. Property is zoned R-15, Single Family Residential, consists of 0.48 +/- acres, and lies in Land Lot 90, Tax Parcel 17, 20th District, 2nd Section, Cobb County, Georgia. This public hearing was advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 17, 2026, and a public notice has been posted on the property. During the August 5, 2026, meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously

recommended approval with conditions as outlined by staff.

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

- The land use permit will be assigned to the business owned and operated by Gregory Miller only and is not transferable to any new business established at 3786 North Hampton Drive. Any changes would require prior approval.
- No clients, customers or employees are allowed to enter and exit the premises. No evidence of a home-based business should be visibly noticeable from the public right-of-way, including no signs and no more than one (1) vehicle.
- No activity on the property shall produce noise, vibration, odors, fumes, smoke, dust or other emissions that are reasonably likely to create a nuisance or materially impact the health, safety, comfort or welfare of occupants of surrounding properties.
- The land use permit shall remain valid for twenty-four (24) months from the date of approval.
- Any extension or renewal of the permit may be administratively approved by staff subject to compliance with all applicable regulations in effect at the time of the request.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones to approve the Land Use Permit application for the property located at 3786 North Hampton Drive (Parcel # 20009000170) as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

6:39 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR OPEN

NO COMMENTS

6:40 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR CLOSED

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

B. Ordinance: Annexation request for 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive

Consideration for approval of an ordinance authorizing an annexation request submitted by Traton, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive (Parcel # 20012600270 & 20012600260). Case# AX2026-01

Planning and Zoning Director Chanelle Campbell presented for approval of an ordinance authorizing an annexation request submitted by Traton Homes, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive (Parcel # 20012600270 & 20012600260). (Case# AX2026-01)

Said request is to annex 3227 Old 41 Highway (20012600270) and 3137 Robin Dr (200123600260) from County Neighborhood Shopping (NS) and County, R-20, Single-

Family Residential, respectively, to City RA-6, Residential District for the development of a single family detached community. The parcel consists of 12.216 +/- acres and lies in Land Lot 126, Tax Parcels 27 & 26. The public hearing was advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 17, 2026, and public notice has been posted onsite. During the August 5, 2026, meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

Planning and Zoning recommends approval with the following conditions:

1. The rezoning of the Subject Property to City RA-6, (Single Family) Residential zoning district shall be in accordance with the technical and conceptual site plans submitted concurrently with the application and shall comply with the required front, side, and rear setbacks as outlined in the UDC for RA-6 zoning district.
2. The Subject Property shall be developed as a residential subdivision consisting of a maximum of thirty-five (35) single family detached homes, each with a two-car garage and additional driveway space with a minimum depth of 25 feet, measured from the sidewalk.
3. The development shall maintain its workforce housing intent by offering homes at an anticipated price point consistent with the application (approximately \$400,000, subject to market conditions).
4. Architectural style and building composition shall be in reasonable conformity with the renderings/elevations submitted with the application. Exterior materials shall consist of high quality finishes, including brick, stone, stacked stone, cementitious lap siding, architectural shingles, board and batten.
5. The development shall include pocket parks and designated open-space areas, professionally designed and integrated into the subdivision layout.
6. Compliance with the recommendations from the City Engineer and/or the City's Public Works Director regarding detention, water quality and stormwater management.
7. Compliance with the recommendations from Cobb Department of Transportation regarding traffic infrastructures and access management.
8. Applicant agrees to the protection of all required stream buffers affecting the property and shall utilize such areas as a passive amenity for the proposed development; any potential impact to the stream(s) due to revisions to the site plans will require a variance.
9. Landscaping for the entrance area, signage areas, amenity and all other common areas immediately surrounding the proposed buildings shall be professionally designed, implemented and maintained, which shall include the installation of an irrigation system in areas where appropriate.
10. The proposed community shall utilize the City or Cobb County utility services as is typical for such residential development.
11. Compliance with recommendations from the Cobb County Water System with respect to the availability and accessibility of water and sewer for the site.
12. The applicant shall create a mandatory Homeowners Association ("HOA") and prepare and file a Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions

("CCRs") to be made applicable to the Property, which shall include, among other components, a restriction on the total number of units that may be rented at any one time to no more than 10% of the total number of units.

13. The homeowners' association shall be solely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all common areas, mail kiosk, amenities, and amenity areas; including the entrance areas, boundary landscape buffers, stormwater management systems, driveways and parking lot.
14. Traffic shall be limited to only Old 41 Highway and no access shall be granted through Robin Drive for the development.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones to approve the ordinance authorizing an annexation request submitted by Traton Homes, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive (Parcel # 20012600270 & 20012600260) as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

6:46 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR OPEN

Kevin Moore [Representing Traton Homes, LLC and the property owners]

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked Kevin Moore what the established minimum square footage for homes constructed in the development in question. Moore responded that the minimum square footage would be 1,800 square feet. Jones wanted more information on the proposed development's target market — young professionals. Moore stated that the homes would be priced in the \$400 thousand dollar range.

Moore reiterated that the development would comprise 35 single-family detached homes. He recognized community concerns over what type of dwelling would be constructed on the site, i.e., rental apartments or rental townhomes. Moore and Traton worked closely with city staff in the planning of the project. The Planning Commission added the stipulation that the proposed development will not have direct access to Robin Drive. Traton removed Robin Drive as an access point prior to officially submitting their site plan and will focus on Old Highway 41 as the sole access point.

Since the proposed development will have under 70 homes, Traton is not required to commission a traffic study, but they provided a traffic and trip generation report for review, which demonstrates how low traffic impact and trip generation is for vehicles entering Old 41 Highway during morning and afternoon peak traffic times. Traton is required to install a left-hand turn lane on Old Highway 41 for entering the development and also a deceleration lane. On Old Highway 41 and Cathy Lane there is currently a S.P.L.O.S.T. funded project for traffic improvement.

Traton did a market study for the area and found that the median sales price for single-family detached homes is \$458k. When taking into account only new constructed single-family detached homes, the median sales price increases markedly to \$861k. Representatives from Traton Homes, LLC were present to answer any and all

questions from Council.

6:58 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR CLOSED

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked Kevin Moore if Traton Homes had created any incentive packages for first responders and public safety personnel. Moore responded that Traton does have incentives available for first responders and public safety personnel in terms of options, pricing, and "bringing points down".

Council member Jonathon Bothers praised Traton's construction projects, but took issue with front yard setback footage, which is 20 feet from the sidewalk. Bothers commented that his truck is 19 feet in length, leaving him with no space to park a car behind him, and making it difficult for visitors to utilize his driveway for parking. Bothers also commented that most homeowners park in their driveways and use their garages for storage. Bothers is opposed to reducing the front yard setback footage from 40 feet to 20 feet. He requested that Traton set the front yard setback footage at 25 feet.

Moore responded that the 20-foot setback allowed for more backyard space, which is very important to homeowners. He advised Bothers that once complete, the development will establish Homeowners' Association (HOA) covenants that will bar homeowners from using their garages only for the storage of items and not automobiles.

Mayor Easterling asked Moore if Traton Homes would be willing to increase the front yard setback footage to 25 feet from 20 feet. Moore affirmed Traton's intent to increase the front yard setback footage to 25 feet from 20 feet at Council member Bothers' request.

Council member Madelyn Orochena commented that she understood that the project's roadways would be public, but she wanted to further understand what type of infrastructure the City will own after the annexation is completed. Planning Director Campbell responded that the roadways would be "private roads located in the city" and not public roads. Campbell further commented that roadway infrastructure would be maintained by the project's HOA and the Cobb County Department of Transportation.

Orochena asked if the annexation would make the parcels more congruent. Campbell responded affirmatively. Orochena asked Campbell if the project's estimated property tax revenue would be sufficient to cover costs associated with annexation. Campbell stated that since the number of dwelling units is so low (35 homes), the overall annexation cost to the city will be minimal.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked Campbell if Cobb County would handle the project's stormwater system. Director of Public Works Ricky Stewart advised Campbell and Jones that the development's proposed roadway(s) cannot be designated as city streets because they are not connected to the city stormwater network. The portion of Old Highway 41 where the project will be constructed is under Cobb County's jurisdiction. After annexation, the roadway(s) will be inside the city limits, but the road(s) will be private with water and sewer service being provided by Cobb County.

Since the roadway(s) is/are private, the stormwater system will be private and operated/maintained solely by the HOA.

Council member Orochena asked Stewart to clarify whether the stormwater system would be operated and maintained by the City of Kennesaw. Stewart replied "no".

Council member Bothers asked Stewart to confirm that the proposed development's roads are in fact private with Stewart providing confirmation. Bothers commented that since the roadway is private, people can park anywhere on the street. Campbell responded that parking regulations in the development would be enforced by the HOA. Bothers asked if the proposed development would be served by the Kennesaw Police Department. Campbell responded "yes".

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

C. Ordinance: Rezoning request for 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive

Consideration for approval of an ordinance authorizing a rezoning request submitted by Traton, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive (Parcel # 20012600270 & 20012600260). Case# RZ2026-05

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones to approve the ordinance authorizing a rezoning request submitted by Traton, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive (Parcel # 20012600270 & 20012600260). Motion seconded by Council member Jonathon Bothers.

7:15 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR OPEN

Kevin Moore [Representing Traton Homes, LLC and the property owners]: Mr. Moore commented that he wanted to incorporate the public comments and presentation for the annexation request into the rezoning request on behalf of Traton Homes, LLC.

7:16 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR CLOSED

Council member Orochena raised concerns that were discussed during the August 5, 2026, Planning Commission meeting, where school overcrowding was a primary concern. Orochena highlighted capacity percentages at local public schools: Awtrey Middle School - 58% (highly underutilized) and Kennesaw Elementary - 85% (underutilized). She further commented that North Cobb High School is currently designated as under capacity.

Orochena asked Kevin Moore if the Cobb County Department of Transportation (DOT) would assess the curve of the proposed development's entry point on Old Highway 41.

Moore responded that a sight distance study would be conducted by Cobb County DOT to ensure that the entry point meets county site distance standards looking both

ways. Per Moore, 300 feet of sight distance will be required in order to approve the entry point and make sure there is a clear view of the curve in question.

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

D. Zoning Variance: 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive

Consideration for approval of a variance application submitted by Traton, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive (Parcel # 20012600270 & 20012600260). Case# ZV2026-03

Planning Director Chanelle Campbell presented for approval of a variance application submitted by Traton, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive (Parcel # 20012600270 & 20012600260). Case# ZV2026-03

Said request is to vary from the minimum front setback requirement for RA-6, Residential District as outlined in Section 2.01.03.10 that requires a forty (40) foot front yard setback. The parcel consists of 12.216 +/- acres and lies in Land Lot 126, Tax Parcels 27 & 26. The public hearing was advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 17, 2026, and public notice has been posted onsite. During the August 5, 2026, meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the Variance application.

Although City regulations require a forty (40) foot front yard setback, the Variance application is for a twenty (20) foot front yard setback. Council member Jonathon Bothers requested that Traton adopt a twenty-five (25) foot front yard setback. At the council member's request, Traton has agreed to amend the Variance application by increasing the front yard setback from twenty (20) feet to twenty-five (25) feet.

Planning and Zoning recommends approval of the Variance.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones to approve the Variance application submitted by Traton, LLC for the properties located at 3227 Old 41 Highway & 3137 Robin Drive as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

7:20 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR OPEN

Kevin Moore [Representing Traton Homes, LLC and the property owners]: Mr. Moore commented that he wanted to incorporate the public comments concerning the variance request into the rezoning request on behalf of Traton Homes, LLC.

7:21 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR CLOSED

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

11. Consent Agenda

- A. **Minutes: July 27, 2026 First Millage Rate Hearing**
Approval of the July 27, 2026, City Council millage rate hearing minutes.
- B. **Minutes: July 27, 2026 Work Session**
Approval of the July 27, 2026, City Council work session minutes.
- C. **Minutes: August 3, 2026 Second Millage Rate Hearing**
Approval of the August 3, 2026, City Council millage rate hearing minutes.
- D. **Minutes: August 3, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the August 3, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.
- E. **Minutes: August 3, 2026 Executive Session**
Approval of the August 3, 2026, City Council executive session minutes.
- F. **Surplus: Besser Industrial Tools "The Green Machine"**
Approval to surplus "The Green Machine," a nitrogen machine used for filling vehicle tires. The device is no longer operational. Staff will attempt to auction the machine on GovDeals.
- G. **Resolution: Additional Construction Administration Services for Public Safety Facility**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution accepting a proposal from Patterson & Dewar Engineers, Inc. for additional construction administration services for the new Public Safety Facility.
- H. **Road Closure: 2026 Holly Days**
Consideration to approve road closures on December 5, 2026, and December 13, 2026, for the Holiday Parade, Concert, and Drone Show.
- I. **Final Plat Application: 2926 Lewis Street & 0 North Main Street**
Approval of the final plat application submitted by Vazco Properties, LLC for 2926 Lewis Street & 0 North Main Street (Parcel # 20013900250 & 20013900240); this plat will consolidate two (2) lots into one tract consisting of 1.346 +/- acres. Case# PC2026-02
- J. **Cemetery Deed: Section III-34-E**
Authorization for the Mayor to sign a deed for a cemetery lot purchased by Yunary Sotolongo Martinez in the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

Motion by Council member Madelyn Orochena to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones.

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

12. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: Haley & Thea LLC

Consideration for approval of a Retail Package License for Beer, Wine and Sunday Sales for Haley & Thea LLC D/B/A Chevron Food Mart located at 2057 N Cobb Pkwy Kennesaw, GA 30152. Applicant: Ashish Patel

Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented for approval of a Retail Package License for Beer, Wine and Sunday Sales for Haley & Thea LLC D/B/A Chevron Food Mart located at 2057 N Cobb Pkwy Kennesaw, GA 30152. The applicant, Ashish Patel, has previously held this same style of licensing in this location from 2021 to 2023. 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 is within 600 feet of a daycare center. Section 6-43 indicates that Mayor and Council may waive the distance requirement if the granting of such a license shall not have any adverse effect on the daycare center.

Mayor Easterling asked the applicant if the business located at 2057 N. Cobb Parkway sold alcohol in the past. The applicant responded that the establishment is changing ownership but has operated as a liquor store since 2000. Easterling also asked the applicant if the day care center was always located near the location. The applicant responded that the day care center opened in 2006.

Mayor Easterling asked City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr. if his line of questioning was sufficient to establish that the business in question was operating as a liquor store prior to Mr. Patel's current application. City Attorney Hensley highlighted the Kennesaw Code of Ordinances concerning alcohol licensing. Per the Code, Mayor and Council must make a finding that the applicant has met the criteria required in the Code prior to approving a distance waiver for the alcohol license. Under Section 6-43, Mr. Patel must prove and Council must find that there will be no adverse effect on the day care center and surrounding property values before a distance waiver can be approved.

7:27 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR OPEN

NO COMMENTS

7:28 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR CLOSED

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones to approve the Retail Package License for Beer, Wine and Sunday Sales for Haley & Thea LLC D/B/A Chevron Food Mart located at 2057 N Cobb Pkwy Kennesaw, GA 30152 as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Orochena.

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

B. Alcohol License: Ignite Lounge

Consideration for approval of a Retail Pouring License for Liquor, Beer, Wine and Sunday Sales for PAZ Group LLC D/B/A Ignite Lounge located at 2655 Cobb Pkwy NW Suite 109 Kennesaw, GA 30152. Applicant: Kayode Jawo

Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented for approval a Retail Pouring License for Liquor, Beer, Wine and Sunday Sales for PAZ Group LLC D/B/A Ignite Lounge located at 2655 Cobb Pkwy NW Suite 109 Kennesaw, GA 30152. The applicant, Kayode Jawo, 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 is within 300 feet of a private residence. Section 6-42 indicates 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. Per the Code, Mayor and Council must make a finding that the applicant has met the criteria required in the Code prior to approving a distance waiver for the alcohol license. Under Section 6-43, Mr. Jawo must prove and Council must find that there will be no adverse effect on the private residence located within 300 feet of his establishment and surrounding property values before a distance waiver can be approved.

Mayor Easterling asked Kayode Jawo if there was an existing business located at 2655 Cobb Pkwy NW Kennesaw, GA 30152 that sold alcohol prior to his application submission. Mr. Jawo responded that at 2655 Cobb Parkway, NW Kennesaw, GA 30152, there is another business that possesses an alcohol license issued by the City of Kennesaw.

7:29 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR OPEN

NO COMMENTS

7:30 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS — FLOOR CLOSED

Motion by Council member Madelyn Orochena to approve the Retail Pouring License for Liquor, Beer, Wine and Sunday Sales for PAZ Group LLC D/B/A Ignite Lounge located at 2655 Cobb Pkwy NW Suite 109 Kennesaw, GA 30152 as presented. Motion seconded by Council member Jonathon Bothers.

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

C. Alcohol License: Smash Hit Catering, LLC

Consideration for approval of a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Liquor, 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

Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented for approval a Retail Pouring License for Liquor, 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. The applicant is Cynthia Daniel, who 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. Section 6-42 refers to the distance requirement for private residences, and Section 6-43 refers to the distance requirement for public buildings. Section 6-6(f) states that the distance requirements set forth in Sections 6-42 and 6-43 shall not apply to establishments licensed to sell or serve alcohol within an entertainment district.

Mayor Easterling commented that Smash Hit Catering is located within an entertainment district. After conferring with City Attorney Hensley, Mayor Easterling opened the floor for public comment.

Cynthia Daniel [Owner/Operator, Smash Hit Catering]: Mrs. Daniel presented to Council a letter of support from city residents residing near the establishment.

Council member Bothers thanked Mrs. Daniel for her efforts to enforce mandatory identification checks at her establishment.

7:32 PM PUBLIC COMMENT - FLOOR OPEN

NO COMMENTS

7:33 PM PUBLIC COMMENT - FLOOR CLOSED

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones to approve the Retail Pouring License for Liquor, 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 as presented.
Motion seconded by Council member Madelyn Orochena.

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

*Council member Gutierrez-Leon voted affirmatively via teleconference.

*Council member Viars voted affirmatively via teleconference.

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Stats: July 2026

Consideration for the acceptance of the July 2026 crime statistics.

Kennesaw Police Chief Bill Westenberger presented the July 2026 city crime statistics.

[See Exhibit A]

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.

7:36 PM PUBLIC COMMENTS - FLOOR OPEN

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett delivered his twice-monthly report on Kennesaw History. This week's topic focused on the *Rowland Plat*, which hangs on a wall in the Mayor's office. The map is an early map of Kennesaw. The map clearly shows the railroad on the right, but the street grid laid out is much more expansive compared to modern Kennesaw. The label has worn off, making it difficult to date. Recently, however, I was able to tie the survey data to its origins. Some deed records from Kennesaw as late as the 1920's refer to the "Hill survey of Rowland property." One piece of property, that is the former site of the Painted Butterfly shop downtown, was sold by John J. Thrasher to J. B. O'Neill in 1871. The deed very clearly states that it was "lot No. Ninety, according to Hill's survey of Rowland's property at Big Shanty." Looking at this same area on the map in the mayor's office reveals that it is also labeled with a "90."

Based on this, Bramlett believes that the map is a surviving copy of Hill's survey. Who Hill was remains a mystery, but Rowland was John S. Rowland, the superintendent of the Western & Atlantic Railroad in the 1860s. In 1863, he purchased much of what is now Downtown Kennesaw from Lemuel Kendrick, and it was divided into lots as early as 1871. While this places the original survey in the 1860's to 1871, Bramlett is unclear if the surviving map is the original or a latter copy.

SAMUEL RUSCH [City Resident]: Mr. Rusch encouraged Kennesaw residents to advocate for their communities and each other. He asked to receive the chain blocking the entranceway to Woodland Acres Park in the event it is removed.

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

City Manager Jeff Drobney announced that the Kennesaw Concert Series featuring Fleetwood Mac tribute band Rumors ATL would be held in downtown Kennesaw on August 22, 2026. A public engagement event focused on collecting input for use in the creation of the Kennesaw Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th, from 3:00 pm until 7:00 p.m., and will be held in conjunction with the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority Farmers Market. Drobney encouraged all in attendance to participate.

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.

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, August 31, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

Respectfully, submitted

Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk