

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
July 10, 2023
7:00 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Tracey Viars Councilmember Lynette Burnette Councilmember Pat Ferris Councilmember Antonio Jones Councilmember Trey Sinclair City Clerk Lea Alvarez City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr.
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1. Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Easterling called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

4. Announcements

- A. This public meeting is being conducted via the use of real-time telephonic technology allowing the public simultaneous access to the public meeting. You may also attend in person with limited seating available at both the Council Chambers and the Ben Robertson Community Center, if needed. Mayor and Council will be conducting their meeting via real-time telephonic technology using Zoom Meeting and Facebook Live. You can access the meeting via the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>
- B. If you are not able to attend a meeting in-person and would like to provide public comment on a specific agenda item, you can email kennesawcouncil@kennesaw-ga.gov no later than 6:00 PM the night of the regular meeting. Your comments on a specific agenda item will be read aloud or grouped into categories for the record. **Facebook Live is not monitored for public comment.**

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. Draft Operating and Capital Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024

City Manager Jeff Drobney presented the Fiscal Year 2024 recommended budget to Council for their consideration. The Fiscal Year 2024 proposed budget is \$29,395,743, which is an approximate six percent increase from last year. Dr. Drobney provided some highlights regarding the budget, including a millage rate reduction from 8 mills to 7.75 mills as a result of our current fund balance, projected development, and the overall growth of our tax digest. Additionally, there is a recommended three percent Cost of Living Adjustment for all staff, and \$1,808,591 to fund the City's reserve account. Fiscal Year 2024 projected benefits and health care costs increased by approximately \$314,000 and retirement contributions increased by approximately \$59,434. Both costs are allocated throughout each department (**See Exhibit A**).

Dr. Drobney reviewed all proposed budget assumptions, including all revenue and expenditure highlights. Some of the expenditure highlights include how the Court Project fund, Court Service Improvement fund, State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds, and Impact Fees will be used to cover various projects and needs.

Department Heads presented their operating budgets, highlights, any capital outlay items, and position summaries for their departments, respectively.

After the presentations, the Council asked Department Heads the following questions:

Councilmember Jones noted the amount Public Works was spending on zero turn mowers. He asked if they were enclosed with an air conditioning unit to keep the employees cool while they mowed in the summer. Public Works Director Ricky Stewart was not familiar with that model of zero turn mowers, but would look into them.

Councilmember Ferris asked Finance Director Gina Auld if the city was in a position to pay off any bonds. Ms. Auld stated staff was working with its financial advisors to possibly refinance some bonds. Any determination will be brought before the Council in the fall.

Councilmember Ferris asked Police Chief Bill Westenberger if the city was still utilizing the range at the Governor's Gun Club. Chief Westenberger responded that the officers are using ranges with Georgia Power in Emerson. The department found it to be more useful to use an outside range.

Councilmember Ferris asked Chief Westenberger if the department issued Narcan to each officer. Chief Westenberger stated Narcan is issued to each officer to keep in their vehicles; however, Cobb Fire and EMS usually arrive within enough time to administer their own supplies. Councilmember Jones asked if the department provides AEDs to keep in the vehicles as well. Chief Westenberger stated that Cobb Fire and EMS typically have AEDs on them and that keeping AEDs in the officers' vehicles would subject them to heat and possible damage.

Councilmember Ferris told Parks and Recreation Director Bill McNair he was worried about having enough staff budgeted to work on the new amphitheater. Dr. Drobney stated staff has already started to meet about the amphitheater and talked about everything from advertising to staffing. The city has \$140,000 committed right now to the amphitheater for events, concerts, marketing, and how the city is going to activate the space. In terms of staffing, Dr. Drobney thinks we will be fine.

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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.

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 special called FY 2023-2024 budget work session at

8:13 p.m.