

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
July 31, 2023
6:00 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Tracey Viars Councilmember Lynette Burnette Councilmember Pat Ferris Councilmember Antonio Jones Councilmember Trey Sinclair Deputy City Clerk Lily Smith City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Fred Bentley Jr.
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1. Invocation

City Attorney Fred Bentley, Jr. led the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

City resident Andrew Bramlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

- A. First Public Hearing on the proposed RESOLUTION to adopt the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate.

Property Tax Administrator Latisha Gunn presented the first public hearing on the proposed resolution to adopt the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate. The City of Kennesaw is proposing a millage rate of 7.750 mills for M&O, which is 0.25 mills lower than last year. She noted that the first public hearing was properly advertised according to O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 22, 2023. The second display will be published in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 29, 2023. Property Tax Administrator Latisha Gunn then reiterated to the public that the second and third public hearings will take place on August 7, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

6:06 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:07 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Viars said that she was happy to see the reduction in the millage rate. Mayor Easterling congratulated City Manager Jeff Drobney and the staff on the hard work that it took to get the city to this point financially. Mayor Easterling and Councilmember Ferris celebrated this result after years of Councilmember Ferris asking for a reduction in the millage rate.

- B. First Public Hearing on the proposed RESOLUTION to adopt the Bond Millage Rate.

Mayor Easterling clarified that these are two separate public hearings.

Property Tax Administrator Latisha Gunn presented the first public hearing on the proposed resolution to adopt the Bond Millage Rate. The City of Kennesaw is proposing a millage rate of 1.5 for the bond, which is the same as last year. She noted that the bond millage rate is levied to fund the debt service on the \$15 million Recreation and Traffic Safety Bonds that were approved by the voters on September 21, 2004. The dates of the public hearings were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 22, 2023, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 48-5-32. She advised that the second display would be published in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 29, 2023. Ms. Gunn reminded the public that the second and third public hearings will take place on August 7, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

6:07 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:08 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

Councilmember Ferris inquired about possibly paying off these bonds early. Finance Director Gina Auld stepped up and noted that she would need to consult with the City's financial advisors from Raymond James. She said that she would have an answer regarding paying the bonds off early later this fall. Councilmember Ferris clarified if the consultation would happen after the millage rate hearings and Financial Director Gina Auld confirmed it would. Councilmember Ferris concluded the conversation by expressing his interest in hearing what the financial advisors would have to say in the coming months.

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

20. Mayor's Report

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 6:11 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, August 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

Lily Smith

Lily Smith, Deputy City Clerk