

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
August 28, 2023
6:30 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 Randall Bentley, Sr.
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1. Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

- A. A PROCLAMATION declaring the month of September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Kennesaw.

Mayor Easterling will present a proclamation declaring the month of September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Kennesaw at the regular meeting on

Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. Presentation of Classification and Compensation Study

[Councilmember Jones Arrived at 6:31 PM]

Human Resources Director Brian Acker introduced Evergreen Solutions LLC. Representative Peter Backhaus to the Mayor and Council. He gave a high-level overview of the City of Kennesaw's Classification and Compensation Study via PowerPoint. His overview included how data was collected, the analysis and comparisons used, and what Evergreen recommended for the city moving forward. When the presentation concluded, Councilmember Jones inquired which employees were most affected. Mr. Backhaus answered that there was an equal distribution from entry-level positions to department heads. He then inquired if the recommendation was similar to a federal government pay structure and Mr. Backhaus agreed that it was the modernized version. Councilmember Ferris asked how Evergreen recommends these changes be implemented into the budget. Mr. Backhaus advised that if the city could implement these changes all at once, it should prevent it from falling behind in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Viars and Councilmember Sinclair thanked Mr. Backhaus for his presentation. Mayor Easterling thanked city employees for their participation and asked that this item go to the consent agenda to show support for city staff. City Manager Jeff Drobney noted that he would add the item to the agenda.

B. Approval of RESOLUTION amending Section 10.1 of the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual to add Juneteenth and Veterans Day as recognized City holidays.

City Manager Drobney presented this item. This item will amend section 10.1 of the Personnel Policy in the city of Kennesaw Employee Handbook to observe Juneteenth and Veterans Day as recognized city holidays. These changes will take effect at the start of calendar year 2024. Mayor Easterling asked for this item to go to the consent agenda.

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of RESOLUTION to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget for the City of Kennesaw and adopt the organizational chart.

Finance Director Gina Auld presented items 10.A and 10.B concurrently. Ms. Auld will provide an in-depth presentation on both proposed budgets at the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

- B. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of RESOLUTION to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Capital Improvement (SPLOST) Budget for the City of Kennesaw.

[Items 10. A and 10. B were presented concurrently].

11. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the August 14, 2023 City Council work session minutes.
- B. Approval of the August 21, 2023 City Council regular meeting minutes.

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

- A. Approval of a RESOLUTION authorizing a contract with Fusus and the Mayor to execute the agreement.

Police Chief Bill Westenberger presented a resolution authorizing a contract with Fusus and the Mayor to execute the agreement. Chief Westenberger explained that the Kennesaw Police Department received a Violent Crime Grant from the State of Georgia in the amount of \$326,000. This grant will fund the Fusus program, which is a new technology that played a significant role in law enforcement intercepting an active shooter in Atlanta not too long ago. The program will be funded for four years and will allow the police to have capabilities it did not have previously. Mayor Easterling insisted that this item stay where it is on the agenda. Councilmember Jones asked what the cost would be to the city after the grant ran out. Chief Westenberger informed him that the cost after the grant is over was not yet known.

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

- A. Approval of road closure for 2023 Candy Crawl Event.

Downtown and Main Street Manager Miranda Taylor presented a road closure for the 2023 Candy Crawl event. The Candy Crawl is an annual event held by the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority and the Downtown Merchants Association on October 27, 2023 from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The events will include trick-or-treating with a family fun festival filled with games and activities. This event will require a road closure due to the dangers of heavy traffic along Main Street and the number of smaller children that will be present. Ms. Taylor is proposing that the city close down J.O. Stephenson Avenue between Little Cloggers Lane and Dallas Street. She noted that holding the event along Main Street last year was popular, but not as safe as it could have been for smaller children. After receiving confirmation from the Council, Mayor Easterling suggested moving the item to the Consent Agenda.

- B. Consideration for approval of a public art exhibit application submitted by El Taco Azteca for the property located at 2689 Summers Street. Case #PA2023-05.

Zoning Administrator Darryl Simmons presented a public art exhibit application submitted by El Taco Azteca for the property located at 2689 Summers Street. Mr. Simmons noted this application is for a mural to be placed on existing fencing to the right of the El Taco Azteca Restaurant. This item went through the public art exhibit notification process in July, but due to some issues with quorum, the process was delayed. The Historic Preservation Commission held a special meeting called on August 25, 2023 to review the application. Additionally, the Kennesaw Art and Culture Commission will be meeting on August 31, 2023 to review the application as well. Mr. Simmons assured the Council they would have the minutes for these meetings before the next City Council meeting, and that this project would have no effect on the structure of the established buildings.

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

City Manager Jeff Drobney made everyone aware of the truck accident that occurred on the train tracks on August 23, 2023. He informed the Council they would have to make some important decisions about the aftermath of this accident. The oil that was spilled during the accident has been cleaned up as much as possible but, some leaked into the brick portion of the road. City Manager Drobney then explained the danger that the spilled oil presented if it seeped in between the bricks. That section of the road will have to be replaced promptly and City Manager Drobney asked for the Council's opinion on what they should replace it with. He presented the Council with two options. One option would be to replace the brick with more brick and reinforce it. This option will be very timely and costly. The other option would be to replace the current brick with asphalt and stamp a brick-like pattern onto the asphalt. The asphalt would then get a coating on top to replicate the color of the brick. City Manager Drobney is still in the middle of speaking with insurance companies and getting estimates. He made sure the Council was aware that the community would be made aware of the next steps with public notices and that they would only fix one lane at a time to lessen the impact on traffic. He urged the council to make a decision as soon as possible to ensure the leftover oil did not seep into the stormwater. Public Works Director Ricky Stewart affirmed City Manager Drobney's findings and began to answer the Council's Questions. Mayor Pro Tem Viars asked if they were going to replace the bricks in the affected area or the whole street. City Manager Drobney answered that they were going to remove everything within that intersection. Mayor Pro Tem Viars advocated for more widespread replacement of brick on mainstreet but, City Manager Drobney insisted that this intersection was the main priority at the moment. Councilmember Ferris shared an anecdote about Acworth using the stamped asphalt method and how it was not what he envisioned for downtown. He also added that he would like the city to keep the bricks as well as long as it is laid in a way that will allow for the most longevity.

Councilmember Sinclair asked for pricing which was not available at the time. City Manager Drobney reiterated that he was still working on quotes since the event happened only a few days prior. He prompted the Council again for a decision on which option they would like to take so that City Manager Drobney could guide the contractors when they were giving quotes. Councilmember Jones added that he liked the look of the real brick. Councilmember Sinclair inquired about a timeline to have this decision made. City Manager Drobney asked for a decision as soon as possible to mitigate negative effects. Public Works Director Stewart pressed that the most important task at hand would be to get the saturated areas cleaned up before any more damage is done. City Manager Drobney, Councilmember Sinclair, and Mayor Easterling continued discussing the timeline. Public Works Director Stewart made it known that if the council chooses to go with real brick, it will take significantly longer (several weeks) to repair than the asphalt option. He noted that the intersection on Mainstreet could be closed for several weeks. Mayor Easterling called for a decision to be made. Councilmember Ferris expressed his desire for bricks a second time. Mayor Pro Tem Viars expressed her support of the brick as well and inquired if the rest of the road could be fixed as well. Mayor Easterling noted that traffic would need to be redirected somewhere and that he wanted to leave space for that. Councilmember Burnette then expressed her support towards whichever option offers the most longevity and is the most environmentally friendly in case this happens again. Public Works Director Stewart offered to bring some color options for the asphalt to help with the decision. He also added that the third option would be to just paint the asphalt whatever color they chose, but the coating only lasts about two years before needing additional application. He also noted that this two-year application is less maintenance than resetting the brick several times a year. Councilmember Ferris added that he would rather see just plain asphalt than paint it or stamp it. He noted that it would not suit the downtown's historical atmosphere. City Manager Drobney assured the Council that he would keep them informed throughout this process. Mayor Easterling voiced his concerns about the bricks causing prolonged traffic but also how they would contribute to the historical atmosphere of the downtown area. He also noted that the council may consider removing that intersection altogether at a later time and for them to consider setting up the groundwork to do that in brick now. The Council continued discussing what to do about that intersection in the future. The Mayor called for a consensus to see what material the Council would like to see and all agreed that brick would be the best option.

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 7:17 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, September 5th at 6:30 PM. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lily Smith".

Lily Smith, Deputy City Clerk