

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
September 5, 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 Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr.
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1. Invocation

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. led the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Children associated with the Mighty Millie Foundation led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

[The City Attorney swore-in any witnesses or individuals offering comments on the agenda].

Mayor Derek Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

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

Mayor Easterling presented a proclamation declaring the month of September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Kennesaw along with families associated with the Mightly Millie Foundation.

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:39 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

No Comment.

6:40 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

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.

[Items X.A and X.B were presented concurrently, but the floor was open for public comment for each item individually.]

Finance Director Gina Auld gave a short presentation about the 2023-2024 Operating and Capital Improvement budgets for the City of Kennesaw, and its organizational chart. Ms. Auld presented a PowerPoint giving a brief overview of the budget. The budgets meet all of the filing and public hearing requirements as prescribed by the City of Kennesaw Charter and Code of Ordinances. Further, the budgets meet the balanced budget requirements as set forth by the city, state, and other regulatory agencies.

6:48 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

No comment.

6:49 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

The final public hearing on this item will be held at the Monday, September 18, 2023 City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

Kennesaw.

6:49 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

No Comment.

6:50 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

The final public hearing on this item will be held at the Monday, September 18, 2023 City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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.
- C. Adopt and implement the recommendation of the 2023 Evergreen Reclassification and Compensation Study.
- D. Approval of RESOLUTION amending Section 10.1 of the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual to add Juneteenth and Veterans Day as recognized City holidays.

RESOLUTION 2023- 40, 2023

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

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Viars to approve the Consent Agenda, engross. Seconded by Councilmember Sinclair.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion carried

6:50 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

No Comment.

6:51 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

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

Kennesaw Police Captain Rick Shumpert presented a resolution authorizing a contract with FUSUS and for the Mayor to execute the agreement. He gave a brief overview of FUSUS and how it is used in other cities and counties as well as its capabilities. He noted a wonderful example of how it recently helped to apprehend an active shooter in

the City of Atlanta who fled to Cobb County. Captain Shumpert then went into detail about the system's ability to assist the police with their investigations by utilizing registered cameras in the community.

Motion by Councilmember Jones to approve [RESOLUTION 2023-41, 2023](#) authorizing a contract with Fusus and the Mayor to execute the agreement, as presented.
Seconded by Councilmember Burnette.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion carried.

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

- A. 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 property located at 2698 Summers Street. Mr. Simmons gave a brief description of the mural, the background of the art, and where the art would be placed. He noted all of the public notice requirements were followed and it was approved by both the Art and Culture Commission on August 21, 2023, and the Historic Preservation Commission on August 25, 2023. Mr. Simmons added there would be no fiscal impact from this artwork and that it would not change the structure or foundation of the building. Lastly, Mr. Simmons recommended approval and recognized the artist was in attendance.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Viars to approve the public art exhibit application submitted by El Taco Azteca for the property located at 2689 Summers Street, as presented.
Seconded by Councilmember Jones.

Councilmember Ferrs inquired if this piece was permanent or if there was a time limit for the display. Mr. Simmons noted the art was permanent. Councilmember Ferris suggested that art pieces presented in the future have a time limit (around a year) to prevent the pieces from being up indefinitely and eventually fading or not being properly maintained. Councilmember Jones acknowledged the artist and thanked her for her beautiful work.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion carried.

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:57 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett gave a history lesson about old offices in the City of Kennesaw.

MADELYN OROCHENA [City Resident]: Ms. Orochena announced her running for Council Post 1. She emphasized her love for the arts and talked about her involvement in local art projects such as the Whistle Stop Mural. Lastly, she emphasized her involvement in council meetings and helping with local events. Ms. Orochena asked for support come election day.

JON BOTHERS [City Resident]: Mr. Bothers announced his campaign for Council Post 1. He spoke about the type of leadership that the city needs and the values that he thinks leaders should have, such as morality, integrity, accountability, and protecting the public against gentrification. Mr. Bothers asked for support, called for unity, and gave his website: jon4kennesaw.com.

ANTHONY GUTIERREZ [City Resident]: Mr. Gutierrez started his speech with his website: Anthony4kennesaw.com, along with his other social media tags. He informed the public about the policies that he is running for, including runoff elections, energy independence, term limits, and ending the gentrification of the city.

TRACEY VIARS [Mayor Pro Tem, City Council Post 2]: Mayor Pro Tem Viars spoke about running for reelection for Council Post 2. She noted that there are three things that she has brought to the table as a councilmember. Those three things are relevant experience, long-standing relationships that were born out of volunteerism and involvement, and, lastly, results. She asked everyone to "Vote Viars."

LYNETTE BURNETTE [City Council, Post 1]: Councilmember Burnette announced her bid for reelection to Council Post 1. She shared that it has been an honor to serve as the city thrives and grows. She spoke about ways that she would like to support the city moving forward through sustainability in business, continuing to support programs to keep Kennesaw one of the safest cities in Georgia, and supporting the police. She noted that the city is thriving financially and has wonderful events and venues to come. She loves her home and wants your vote.

7:05 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

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

Councilmember Jones noted he is enjoying roads that were recently resurfaced and the warm weather. He is happy with all of the great developments happening around town and wants everyone to be cautious as well.

Councilmember Ferris was excited about the upcoming football season and how well the Georgia Bulldogs were doing.

Councilmember Sinclair congratulated all of the candidates running for Post 1 and 2. He also thanked the Finance Department and support staff for all of their hard work.

Councilmember Burnette spoke about various activities that happened over Labor Day Weekend.

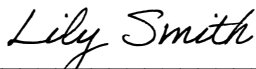
Mayor Pro Tem Viars spoke about how much she enjoyed the First Friday Concert Series and reminded everyone that there is only one more left for the year.

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 7:08 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.



Lily Smith, Deputy City Clerk

Names and Addresses will be disclosed in the Permanent Minutes of the
City of Kennesaw

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting

9/5/2023

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Arthur J. Brantlett	2990 Simmsville Ct.	Local history
2	Madelyn Orochena	2981 W Main Street	
3	Jon Bothwell	2707 Denison Court	
4	Anthony Gutierrez		
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KENNESAW HISTORY

Old City Offices

G. W. Pritchard's House on
Lewis Street.

Image from the Kennesaw
Historical Society



Before the municipal government owned its own building, a variety of sites were home to the city offices. From incorporation in 1887 until 1913, the exact locations are unknown. In 1913, the city leased an office from G. W. Pritchard that may have been inside his Lewis Street house, hotel, and blacksmith shop. The city spent \$8 per year on rent. The building was torn down in 1974.

In 1918, the offices moved to a store in what is now the middle of J. O. Stephenson Avenue. It is evident from the records why the offices were moved: the city paid W. E. McClure two dollars less than it was paying G. W. Pritchard.

In 1924, the possibility of building a purpose built city hall was investigated, but nothing came of the effort. The city would not build its own dedicated building until 1935.

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett
at the September 4, 2023,
City of Kennesaw Mayor &
Council Meeting

KENNESAW
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY