

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
January 2, 2024
7:00 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Madelyn Orochena 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

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

State Representative Lisa Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 7:37 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

7:37 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

7:38 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- A. Prior to taking the dais, oaths of office will be administered to Mayor Derek Easterling and Councilmember Tracey Viars by The Honorable H. Luke Mayes IV and to Councilmember Madelyn Orochena by State Representative Lisa Campbell.

Derek Easterling and Madelyn Orochena had their oaths of office administered by Judge H. Luke Mayes IV prior to the meeting. During the meeting, Judge H. Luke Mayes IV administered the oaths of office to Tracey Viars and State Representative Lisa Campbell shared several supportive comments regarding Ms. Viars' and Ms. Orochena's recent election success prior to administering the oaths of office to Madelyn Orochena. Ms. Campbell also read a poem in honor of Ms. Orochena, which is titled, "The Hill We Climb," written by National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman.

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

TV, PF

- A. Approval of the 2024 City Council work session and regular meeting schedule.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Ferris.

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

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

7:54 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

ANN PRATT [City Resident]: Ms. Pratt asked why Ms. Orochena did not want to be sworn in by Judge Mayes. Ms. Orochena explained she was sworn in by Judge Mayes prior to the meeting. Mayor Easterling explained that the official swearing-in was conducted by Judge Mayes, but Ms. Orochena also had a ceremonial swearing-in conducted by State Representative Lisa Campbell during the meeting. Ms. Pratt asked why Ms. Orochena did not place her hand on the bible during the swearing-in, to which Ms. Orochena stated she was told to raise her right hand and to affirm. Further, she wanted to hold her daughter's hand.

7:55 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Dr. Drobney thanked the city staff for all of their hard work over the holidays.

20. Mayor's Report

A. Appointment of the 2024 Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion by Councilmember Ferris to appoint Antonio Jones as the 2024 Mayor Pro Tem. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

B. Appointment of alternate check signer and approval of RESOLUTION to designate an alternate check signer for 2024.

Motion by Councilmember Ferris to appoint Councilmember Ferris as the alternate check signer and approve [RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01](#) designating an alternate check signer for 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

C. Approval of RESOLUTION authorizing signatures for the City of Kennesaw and transmission of document to the bank for 2024 new signature cards.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve [RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02](#) authorizing signatures for the City of Kennesaw and transmission of document to the bank for new signature cards in 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Sinclair.

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

D. Approval for Mayor Easterling to sign lobbyist registration letter authorizing Fred Bentley, Jr. and Randall Bentley, Sr. to lobby on behalf of the City of Kennesaw.

Motion by Councilmember Sinclair to approve Mayor Easterling to sign lobbyist

registration letter authorizing Fred Bentley, Jr, and Randall Bentley, Sr. to lobby on behalf of the City of Kennesaw. Seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

- E. Ratify 2024 City Appointments: H. Luke Mayes (Chief Judge/Probably Cause Judge); Charles Chesbro (Associate Judge); Richard Blevins (Associate Judge); Randall Bentley, Sr. (Solicitor); Croy Engineering (City Engineer); Bentley, Bentley, and Bentley (City Attorney); City Manager; and City Clerk.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to ratify the following 2024 City Appointments: H. Luke Mayes (Chief Judge/Probable Cause Judge); Charles Chesbro (Associate Judge); Richard Blevins (Associate Judge); Randall Bentley, Sr. (Solicitor); Croy Engineering (City Engineer); Bentley, Bentley, and Bentley (City Attorney); City Manager; and City Clerk. Seconded by Councilmember Sinclair.

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

- F. 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.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to ratify the following appointments and reappointment as read into the record:

2024 COUNCIL LIASIONS TO BOARDS

ART & CULTURE: Trey Sinclair

SISTER CITIES: Madelyn Orochena

CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Pat Ferris

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Trey Sinclair

KENNESAW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Pat Ferris

KENNESAW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Tracey Viars

PLANNING COMMISSION: Antonio Jones

YOUTH COUNCIL: Antonio Jones and Madelyn Orochena

911 ADVISORY BOARD: Tracey Viars

2024 MAYOR'S APPOINTED COMMITTEES

BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

Appoint Bill McNair (Parks and Recreation), Joshua Guerrero (IT), and Dave Simpson (SGG) to the Benefits Committee.

2024 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS

ART & CULTURE COMMISSION:

Reappoint Chelsea Bodenhamer with a term ending December 2025.

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS:

Reappoint Don Massaro and Jim Quigley to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals with terms ending December 2026. Appoint Jason Willis, Sammy Kelentic, John Oldaker, Megan Simmons, and Keith McCowen to the same with terms ending December 2026.

ETHICS BOARD:

Reappoint Chelsey Kinsinger and Karen Whipple to the Ethics Board with terms ending December 2025. Appoint Dan Salter to the same with a term ending December 2024.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Reappoint Rachel Butler and Kevin Whipple to the Historic Preservation Commission with terms ending December 2025. Appoint Andrew Bramlett to the same with a term ending December 2024.

KENNESAW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Reappoint Chris Davis and Kevin Tidwell to the Kennesaw Development Authority with terms ending December 2027. Appoint Antoinette Griffin to the same with a term ending December 2027.

KENNESAW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Reappoint Ian Coats, Lexie Newhouse, and David Lyons to the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority with terms ending December 2027.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Reappoint Trey Bodenhamer and Todd Vande Zande to the Planning Commission with terms ending December 2026. Appoint Robert Trim to the same with a term ending December 2026.

KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION:

Reappoint Neil Brunetz and James Auld to the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission with a term ending December 2025.

LICENSE REVIEW BOARD:

Reappoint Robert Thornton to the License Review Board with a term ending December 2024. Appoint Donald Perez to the same with a term ending December 2025.

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY:

Reappoint Dale Hughes to the Urban Redevelopment Agency with a term ending September 2026. Appoint Bill Snyder and Carley Cole to the same with terms ending September 2025 and September 2024, respectively.

Seconded by Councilmember Sinclair.

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

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Councilmember Viars congratulated Antonio Jones on serving as Mayor Pro Tem this year and is looking forward to spending the next four years serving the best city in the county.

Councilmember Sinclair congratulated Antonio Jones as well as Tracey Viars and Madelyn Orochena. He is looking forward to working with everyone this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones recognized Andrew Bramlett for his service to the City of Kennesaw.

Councilmember Ferris congratulated everyone and is looking forward to serving this year.

Councilmember Orochena thanked her friends and family who were in attendance to support her. She is excited about working with everyone.

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 8:07 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

Lea Alvarez, 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

1/2/2024

Public Comment Sign-in

Name	Address	Topic
1 Michael Miller	285 Pkwy 575, Woodstock, GA	22-2023-04
2 Brittany Hill	3582 Kellen St. Dr.	
3 Bob Butler	143 E. Harte St. Fork	
4 Michael VELAZI	3560 Kennesaw St. Kennesaw, GA	
5 Andrew Bralitt	2889 S. Decatur St.	
6 Ann Bralitt	Ann Bralitt	
7 Ann Bralitt	11 15	
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