

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF AUSTELL  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins  
Kirsten Anderson  
Trudie Causey  
Randy Green  
Virginia Reagan  
Martin Standard  
Scott Thomas

The regular meeting of the Mayor and the City Council was held on Monday, July 11, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Carolyn Duncan, City Clerk; Sandra Farmer, Deputy City Clerk; General Administration; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Affairs Director; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; Tim Williams, Fire Chief.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order and Scott Kimbrough gave the Invocation. Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jerkins asked if any Council Member would like to add items to the Agenda. Ms. Causey stated she would like to add 13A. – Approval of CDBG 2011 Subrecipient Agreement. Mr. Standard stated he would like to add 11C. – Repair to Bush Hog and 11D. – Resolution for Approving and Accepting Certain Real Property.

*Mr. Thomas moved to add the items to the Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. Motion passed (6-0).*

Mayor Jerkins stated he would like to present Lieutenant George Bach with a Plaque for his 35 years of service. Mayor Jerkins stated George has been a hard worker and he has put up with all of us for that long. George has been a great employee and does a lot for the Fire Department. The Fire Trucks sometimes have minor repairs and George always repairs them and saves the City money by doing this. He does a good job and over the years he has done a lot of different things. George is a very special employee and thirty-five years is a long time to serve the citizens of Austell. Mayor Jerkins thanked George and told him how much he was appreciated and how proud the City was to have him.

Mr. Thomas presented Lieutenant Bach with a 35 year pendant and thanked him for his years of service and his dedication to the City of Austell.

Mayor Jerkins presented Chief Tim Williams with a 30 year Plaque. Mayor Jerkins stated Chief Williams has done a lot for the Fire Department and the citizens over the years.

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When I first went into office they didn't do very much training and a little later then I guess in 1993 or 1994 Chief Williams was appointed the Fire Chief. He started looking at ISO ratings which is our insurance and he started working on this. It took a couple of years but he got our ISO rating down from a six to a four. The insurance premium was reduced about 25% to 30% in our insurance premium. They have done a lot of training. Each one has to go through 240 hours of training. If you add that up it is six weeks, forty hours a week and that is a lot of training. All of them do a lot and Chief Williams is responsible for that. Chief Williams has done a great job, and proud to have you and we appreciate what you have done for us over the years and we couldn't do without you.

Mr. Thomas presented Chief Williams with a thirty (30) year pin and thanked him for his years of service to the City.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE**

(No Action Required by Council – See Specific Department Director before Meeting.)

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$1,377.64
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting June 6, 2011

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).*

**4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. CITIZENS REPORT**

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone would like to speak to the Mayor and Council. Justin Hyde stated he was trying to get his pouring permit for Sweetwater Inn. I did have a D.U.I. about ten years ago and less than five months away it will be off my record. I wanted to know if you would approve me to get my pouring permit to work at Sweetwater Inn part-time. Mayor Jerkins stated he had spoken with Chief Starrett and Chief Starrett stated he had not had time to run a criminal background check on Mr. Hyde. Mayor Jerkins stated if the Council wishes Chief Starrett can run his record and Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. Hyde if this was the only thing he had on his record. Mr. Hyde stated he had a couple of speeding tickets but other than that nothing else.

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the work permit pending the criminal background check on Mr. Hyde. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).*

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**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE  
JOE JERKINS**

Mr. Kimbrough stated he attended the meeting and the normal business of adopting the applicable gas rate schedule for this billing period was discussed.

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON  
Denise Soesbee, Director**

A. Financial Report

**8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON  
Carolyn Duncan, Director**

A. Health Insurance Renewal

Ms. Anderson stated the General Administration Committee met on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the renewal proposal by our broker, Chip Boyd with Heritage Corporate Benefits.

As you know, insurance rates have increased for the past several years, and this year is no exception. Because of an extremely high renewal rate from Blue Cross, we recommend changing our insurance carrier from Blue Cross to Coventry. Even after this change, our increase will be 3.7% and the City will pass on \$5.00 per week for each employee who participates in the insurance program to defray rising health care costs.

After further consideration regarding the deductible costs. The General Administration Committee recommends that employees be reimbursed for the deductible expense.

Open Enrollment meetings for all our employees will be held at the Threadmill Complex in the Courtroom on Wednesday and Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The scheduled times are as follows:

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 -	8:30 A.M.
	9:45 A.M.
	11:00 A.M.
	2:00 P.M.

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Thursday, July 14, 2011 - 8:30 A.M.  
9:45 A.M.

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Standard asked about the deductible and how that would work. Mayor Jerkins stated we will charge all employees \$5.00/per week and then we will cover their deductible which is a \$1000.00. The \$5.00/per week will take about \$22 to \$24,000 a year. Last year I think we paid out \$6,000 in claims. Mr. Standard asked Mayor Jerkins if this would include the dependents. Mayor Jerkins stated, yes, it would include the families but it will be one five dollars a week charge. Mr. Standard stated so every person will have a thousand dollar deductible. Mayor Jerkins stated the family has three thousand deductible. We will cover them all and we will try it to see how it works out.

*Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the General Administration Committee to approve the Health Insurance Renewal as outlined above. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).*

**9. POLICE DEPARTMENT  
VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON  
Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

- A. Police Report
- B. Code Enforcement Report

**10. FIRE DEPARTMENT  
SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON  
Tim Williams, Fire Chief**

- A. Fire Report
- B. 6:30 Reception – 35 Year Service Award – Lieutenant George Bach  
- 30 Year Service Award – Chief Tim Williams
- C. Seat Belt Usage Policy Revision

Chief Williams stated as a result of annual Local Government Risk Management Services (LGRMS) Safety and Liability Management Grant application with the Georgia Municipal Association, an updated City seat belt policy is required in order to meet the required grant guidelines. Specifically, the revised policy shall include construction equipment that is equipped with seat belts and rollover protection.

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**11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
MARTIN STANDARD, CHAIRPERSON  
Randy Bowens, Director**

**A. Roadway Striping**

Mr. Standard stated the Public Works Department has requested proposals from two companies for the restriping of certain roadways throughout the City of Austell. Those companies that were asked to submit proposals were Wildcat Striping and Sealing Company and Highway Services, Inc. Only proposal received was as follows:

Wildcat Striping and Sealing Company	\$15,473.00
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Striping of various roads will consist of Joe Jerkins Boulevard (over bridge), intersection of Austell-Powder Springs and Humphries Hill Road, Humphries Hill Road, and Perkerson Mill Road.

Funding for this project would come from the SPLOST Fund (325), account number 54.1400 (DOT Projects).

*Mr. Standard moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the attached proposal for restriping of certain streets in an amount of \$15,473.00. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0)*

**B. Speed Bump Request and ‘Children At Play Sign’ – Pine Grove Drive**

Mr. Standard stated the Public Works Department has received a request from three residents on Pine Grove Drive requesting a speed bump and a “Children at Play” sign after the intersection of Pine Grove Court. There are only three homes after this intersection, all of who have signed the petition.

Funding for this project would come from the SPLOST Fund (325), account number 54.1400 (DOT Projects).

*Mr. Standard moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve this after the houses are removed and the demolition is completed. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).*

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C. Repair to Bush Hog

Mr. Standard stated the main bush hog used for cutting right-of-way is currently out of service and is currently being repaired by Cobb County Tractor Company. Funds are available in the current Fiscal Year budget. It is anticipated that repairs, including two new tires, will cost approximately \$3,000.00. This is for information only.

D. Resolution Approving and Accepting Certain Real Property

Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. Standard if he would like him to explain this Resolution. Mr. Standard stated, yes, that would be fine. Mayor Jerkins stated this is actually the Swofford's property and this property is in the county and we have been working on this; one of them is residential and one of them is commercial. The county is buying the house as a flood house and they will have fifteen percent (15%) in the house like the City does in the other houses. So, they will sell to us for that when they complete it. So, the Resolution is stating that information in it. The other part state there is the commercial property with an acre of land with the house and there is about 9/10ths of acre of land with the commercial property. What we are asking the Swofford's is to donate it to us. The bank has some mortgage on it but we are trying to get them to donate it too. The resolution is basically saying that and now I really don't know what the bank will do because there is twelve or eighteen thousand dollars owing on it. We are trying to get it donated to us and hopefully we will. If it works out we will need everyone's signatures on the Resolution. If it is passed they will be in the City of Austell. The County is working with us to get this accomplished.

*Mr. Standard moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to pass the Resolution Approving and accepting Certain Real Property. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).*

**12. PARKS DEPARTMENT  
RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON  
Jim Graham, Director**

A. Rental Facility Rate Changes

Mr. Green stated the Parks Committee recommends approval of the following rate changes to take effect immediately for all City of Austell rental facilities listed below:

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**Collar Community Center**

**Current Rates (Mon. – Thur.)**

**Ent. Bldg. \$55.00 per hour**

**Lrg. Rm. \$35.00 per hour**

**Sm. Rm. \$25.00 per hour**

**Deposit \$200.00**

**Proposed Rates (Mon.-Fri.)**

**Ent. Bldg. \$70.00 per hour**

**Lrg. Room \$45.00 per hour**

**SM. Rm. \$30.00 per hour**

**Deposit \$200.00**

**Current Rates (Sat. & Sun.)**

**Ent. Bldg. \$110.00 per hour**

**Deposit \$200.00**

**Proposed Rates (Sat. & Sun.)**

**Ent. Bldg. \$145.00 per hour**

**Deposit \$200.00**

**Collar Pavilion**

**Current Rate:**

**\$50.00 per day**

**Deposit \$50.00**

**Proposed Rate:**

**\$100.00 per day**

**Deposit \$50.00**

**Legion Pavilion**

**Current Rate:**

**\$50.00 per day**

**Deposit \$50.00**

**Proposed Rate:**

**\$125.00 per day**

**Deposit \$150.00**

**City Employees - \$25.00**

**Employee will assume full responsibility for cleaning, trash removal, etc.**

Ms. Anderson asked do we not have residents at fifty percent (50%) discount?

Mr. Graham stated, yes, we will give the residents a discount. Ms. Anderson

stated it doesn't say anything about a four (4) hour minimum. Mr. Graham stated

since we have raised the rates most people will not have it more than two hours on

Sunday. We will go hour by hour Monday through Friday and on the weekend

most people would like to rent it for not less than six or seven hours. This is why

we are stating a four hour minimum. Mayor Jerkins stated we need to add this to

the minutes. Mr. Standard asked if they pay up front and if they go over the

minimum do we charge them for it. Mr. Graham stated yes we do.

*Mr. Green moved to follow the recommendation to approve the Rental Facility changes. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).*

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**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
TRUDIE CAUSEY, CHAIRPERSON  
Jim Graham, Director**

- A. Approval of CDBG 2011 Subrecipient Agreement  
(approved at Special Called Meeting June 25, 2011)
- B. Approval of CDBG 2012-2014 Cooperation Agreement  
Ms. Causey stated the Community Affairs Committee recommends approval of the Cooperation Agreement between the City and Cobb County for 2012 through 2014 which will expedite the CDBG funding for the next two years.

*Ms. Causey moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Development Committee to approve the CDBG 2012-2014 Cooperation Agreement. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. Motion passed (6-0).*

**14. ATTORNEY – DUPREE & KIMBROUGH**

- A. No Report

**15. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- A. CMA MEETING NO MEETING
- B. Appoint Gas Board Members  
Hank Floyd  
Dennis Perrin  
Grant Rainwater

*Mr. Thomas moved to approve the appointments of the Gas Board Members. Hank Floyd, Dennis Perrin and Grant Rainwater. Seconded by Ms. Causey. Motion passed (6-0).*

**16. ADJOURN**

*Mr. Standard moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).*