

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022**

Present:

Mayor Ollie Clemons
Valerie Anderson
Melanie Elder
Devon Myrick
Sandra Leverette
Meredith Adams
Marlin Lamar

Also, present: Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Scott Hamilton, Police Chief, Darrell Weaver, Community Affairs Director, Elizabeth Young, City Clerk and Scott Kimbrough, Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clemons called the meeting to order. Pastor Billy Hooper gave the invocation & Mayor Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone had items to add to the agenda. No items were added.

2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills - \$3,766.92
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting September 12, 2022

Mrs. Leverette made a recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mr. Tim Adams came forward to speak. “I am a well-respected former business owner and builder here in Cobb County. I have lived in Cobb for years and currently reside in the city of Austell. I’ve built multimillion dollar homes, have experience as a former Police Detective having served with the City of Douglasville for 12 years. I was also a Douglas County Firefighter. I have a master’s degree in Public Administration and an undergraduate in Journalism received from area Georgian Universities.

I met with both Councilperson Meredith Adams and Community Affairs Director Darrell Weaver. After being vetted and interviewed they recommended me to the council to be appointed to serve on the variance committee. In all of my interaction with the city of Austell, especially in council meetings I have always brought respect and good will to the podium. The false and slanderous allegation against me by Mayor Pro Tem Anderson on the topic of bias is alarming. Other than a brief conversation at one the council meetings Anderson has never had any private conversations with me. Never asked me any questions and apparently chooses to make error filled statements concerning my character. I make a habit of considering the content of one's character starting with the inside and working out. Apparently, Anderson chooses not to use the same standard. I am now forced to stand before you and defend my good name. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson...I am sure you are aware of just how serious the action of slander against someone is. If not, you may want to ask Mr. Kimbrough about it after the meeting. I am certain he knows. Words matter. And words especially matter when they are on the record. Even more so when they affect the outcome of an appointment vote. Because they matter, I have decided to come today. I am demanding an apology from Mayor Pro Tem Anderson and Councilperson Sandra Leverette. I expect a verbal apology on the record and a written apology as well. And because I have listened to the audio of these statements, I would like to thank Councilperson Marlin Lamar for speaking up on my behalf. I am shocked that our Mayor did not censor Ms. Anderson as soon as the statements were made. The Mayor and I have had several conversations about matters of city business, and he should know my character well enough to offer a defense to Anderson's allegations. As for the comments about Austell News Facebook private group. If being a member of Austell News with no other criteria means that one is biased. Then since most of the Councilpersons on this board are or have been members of the group for years. Anderson's logic would conclude that 5 out of our 6 current council members are unfit to serve the City of Austell. I am an admin of the page. That is to say, I am responsible for removing content that goes against any Facebook community standards. I am not a hall monitor. I am not their censor free speech. I see Austell News as a vehicle to keep Austell and its citizens informed of events, incidents and affairs related to the overall good of the city.

That said, I refuse to be held accountable for Anderson's perception about a FB group page that most of this council was member of at the time she put on her performance about her feelings concerning the group. We need to be reminded that people like Civil Rights Leader Reverend William H Borders (a mentor to Dr Martin Luther King) ... Rev. Borders often went to Atlanta Mayor on what policy Borders disagreed with. It is part of the process. You can't expect every citizen is going to agree with your EVERY vote. But there is not an ounce of Bias in disagreeing with policy. I will be happy to meet with any one of you if you have any questions about this statement or any concerns about my character as an active citizen here in the City of Austell."

Ms. Monica Delancy gave an update on the Riverside Community.

Ms. Natasha Dyer is needing yard trimmings for compost for the garden at Volkstuin. Mr. Garrison told her to contact him & they may be able to help her out with this.

Mr. Joel Gibbs thanked the Public Works department for a great job fixing a water leak.

Ms. Debbie Hays stated she lives on Eastside Dr. & there are several areas that need the trees & bushes cut back. Mr. Garrison told her to contact him & he will check into it.

Ms. Pat Lavert thanked the trash company for doing a good job.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mr. Kimbrough stated it has been a good year so far, not much is going on this time of year & they are getting ready for winter.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Lowe, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. No Report

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEVON MYRICK, CHAIRPERSON

Scott Hamilton, Police Chief

A. Police Report

B. Retirement of K-9 Ariel

Chief Hamilton is requesting the retirement of K9 Ariel. After reviewing the police department's operations, organizational structure, budget, and staffing required to service the city of Austell, he has determined the K9 unit should be downsized.

Austell's city population does not require four K9 officers for efficient operations.

Chief Hamilton is requesting for K9 Ariel to be retired and remain in possession of her handler, Sergeant Brandon Clark.

Mr. Myrick made a recommendation to approve Sgt. Clark to have possession of K-9 Ariel. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (6-0)

C. Municipal Finance Lease-Purchase Program

We (PD) are requesting to participate in the Municipal Finance Lease-Purchase Program with Wade Ford. Currently, Austell PD's vehicle fleet has several vehicles that are close to or has surpassed a reasonable mileage to operate at a safe and efficient manner. There are several vehicles that are 5 years old or older which causes an officer safety concern. One of the advantages of participating in this program, police officials would be able to purchase more vehicles at a time which would enhance the quality of the fleet. Once the fleet has been replaced, future budgets could be aligned to provide for replacement vehicles.

Mr. Myrick made a recommendation to approve the lease-purchase program. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Bo Garrison, Director

A. Center Street Sidewalk

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the bidding of The M. Mitchell Group in the amount of \$62,224.00 for Center Street sidewalk. The lowest bidder was disqualified due to not having the correct documentation for the bid process.

Funds will come from SPLOST (2016) sidewalk account number 335-4200-54-1403.

Quotes received:

Bidder	Amount
PKS Paving	\$58,300.00
The M. Mitchell Group	\$62,224.00
R&B Developer	\$181,774.92

Mrs. Leverette made a recommendation to award the bid to The M. Mitchell Group. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

B. Veterans Memorial Park Paving

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the bidding of United Specialty Construction in the amount of \$54,996.00 for Veterans Memorial Park Paving. The lowest bidder was disqualified due to not having the correct documentation for the bid process.

Funds will come from SPLOST (2005) resurfacing account number 315-4200-54-1400.

Quotes received:

Bidder	Amount
PKS Paving	\$23,300.00
United Specialty Construction	\$54,996.00
The M. Mitchell Group	\$62,224.00

Mrs. Leverette made a recommendation to award the bid to United Specialty Construction. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (6-0)

C. Veterans Memorial Park Sidewalk

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the bidding of United Specialty Construction in the amount of \$39,300.00 for Veterans Memorial Park Sidewalk. The lowest was disqualified due to not having the correct documentation for the bid process.

Funds will come from SPLOST (2016) sidewalk account number 315-4200-54-1403.

Quotes received:

Bidder	Amount
PKS Paving	\$32,500.00
United Specialty Construction	\$39,300.00
The M. Mitchell Group	\$48,224.00

Sol Construction LLC	\$77,000.00
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Mrs. Leverette made a recommendation to award the bid to United Specialty Construction. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (6-0)

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

MEREDITH ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Threadmill Roof

The Parks Department is asking for the approval on our Threadmill Roof Replacement. The Parks Department held the Bid for the Threadmill Roof on July 29, 2022. The bid process brought in a total of 5 companies all named and with bid amounts on the attached spreadsheet. The Parks Department would like to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Commercial Roofing Solutions in the amount of \$1,480,500.00. The cost will be paid for from the 2016 SPLOST account number 335-6210-54.1300.

Mrs. Adams made a recommendation to approve the Threadmill Roof. Motion seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Code Enforcement Report

B. P & Z – No Report

C. 3034 Veterans Memorial Hwy. – Privilege License

The Community Affairs Department has received an application for a privilege license from Jessica Yun, who is the new owner of Joes Bottle Shop located at 3034 Veterans Memorial Drive. She has requested to sell beer, spirits & Sunday Sales.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the privilege license for Jessica Yun. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA Meeting – October 11, 2022 @ 6:30
Hosted by the City of Austell
Whitestone Reserve
5858 Westside Road
Austell, GA 30106

16. ADJOURN

*Mr. Myrick made a recommendation to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette.
Motion passed. (6-0)*

Ollie Clemons Jr.
Mayor
Nov. 14. 2022
Date

Elizabeth Yancy
Attest