

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022**

Present:

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

Absent: Marlin Lamar, Elizabeth Young, Darrell Weaver

Also, present: Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Natalie Poulk, Police Chief (I), Christine Dobbs, Assistant Director Community Affairs Director, and Scott Kimbrough, Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clemons called the meeting to order. Pastor Bailey gave the invocation & Mayor Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone had items to add to the agenda. Mr. Kimbrough added item 14A – Maxham Road Resolution.

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to add item 14A to the agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mayor Clemons added item 15B – Georgia LifeLink Proclamation.

Ms. Elder moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to add item 15B to the agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (5-0)

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 - \$3,625.00
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting March 7, 2022

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mr. Derek Caffé asked to speak to the council regarding city growth & zoning. Mr. Caffé stated that smaller lots, smaller square footage homes, & more density will be more affordable in our city, but the current zoning does not allow this. He stated the reason this can't happen is because of the zoning rules we have in place. Mr. Caffé stated as we move forward looking at the zoning laws, I ask the council to look at the demographics for 50 years from now so the city does not get behind.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mr. Kimbrough stated we had a pretty good winter, not as good as last year but still pretty good. Oil & natural gas prices have increased since the issues in the Ukraine started.

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

Natalie Poulk, Police Chief (I)

A. Police Report

B. Retirement for Jerry Lee

On April 18th, 2021, Douglasville Police called and requested K-9 assistance from Officer Reeves, and K-9 Jerry Lee. Douglasville had a male run from a vehicle safety check point. Officer Reeves wasted no time in deploying his partner, Jerry Lee to track. Jerry tracked the suspect behind a tree and Reeves gave verbal commands to come out. At this point, the suspect then opened fire on Jerry Lee, striking him. Reeves then ran to his partner, picked him up and had Douglasville Police escort him to the nearest Animal Hospital, Westside on Thornton Rd. The suspect retreated to the woods, and sadly ended his own life. Jerry Lee was transported to Blue Pearl Animal Hospital for

more in-depth treatment. After a while of trying to save his leg, they determined that his quality of life with his leg would not be good, and they agreed to amputate his left front leg. Jerry Lee bounced back fast! He did not let the amputation hold him down. He was up and moving in no time. Doctors stated that they would not allow him back on full duty. Officer Reeves was upset, but understood it was not safe and cannot expect Jerry to be back to 100%. Jerry Lee has been home recovering and making appearances at several locations. He is famous all over the world on social media. We saw a huge amount of love and support after this incident to Jerry Lee, Officer Reeves, and Austell P.D. Officer Reeves truly believes that Jerry Lee saved his life that day. He would have given his life this day to do what he had been trained to do. It is with great sadness that he must retire, but we know that he will have a wonderful life with Officer Reeves. Jerry Lee, we appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to the City of Austell Police Department, now go enjoy your retirement, you have earned it! There will be a retirement celebration coming soon for Officer Jerry Lee.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Bo Garrison, Director

A. Purchase of a New Sweeper Truck

It is the recommendation of Public Works Department to accept and approve the bidding of Tractor & Equipment Company, as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$177,763.00 for a new sweeper truck to be added to the Public Works fleet.

Quotes received:

- Tractor Equipment Company: \$177,763.00
- Wastebuilt Environmental Solutions: \$182,356.00

The funds will come from SPLOST, 335-4200-54-2500

Mrs. Anderson asked Mr. Garrison what will be done with the old truck. Mr. Garrison stated he is going to surplus the old truck & use that money to put towards the new sweeper truck.

Mrs. Leverette followed the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the purchase of a new Sweeper Truck. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

B. Mobile Home Floodplain Ordinance Amendment

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the Mobile Home Floodplain Ordinance Amendment. Every five years the Floodplain Management of Austell is audited by FEMA to assure city's regulatory standards are up to date in accordance with FEMA criteria. The city of Austell has a mobile home parcel located off Veteran Memorial Highway; tax records shows that it was built before August 30, 1974, was advise for the city to meet Community Rating System Cycle to make a revision to:

Flood Damage Reduction and Standards and Specifications
Section 16-139.Structures within the future-conditions floodplain
(e)Manufactured homes

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Mobile Home Floodplain Ordinance Amendment. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (5-0)

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

MEREDITH ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

- A. Threadmill Complex Suite Renovations (Building Maintenance – Information Only)
The Building Maintenance Staff has been busy continuing work on remodeling the old restaurant space on the main floor of the complex to house the administrative offices for Parks & Recreation as well as support staff for the Community Affairs Office (Code Enforcement and Building Inspections). The remaining portion of this space has been converted into a conference room for Community Affairs/Parks & Recreation as well as any other departments needing the space. We anticipate that the work will be completed and ready for move-in by the first week of April.
- B. Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Membership (Information Only)
On March 16, 2022, the Austell Parks & Recreation Department was officially accepted into the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA). Being a member of GRPA opens the city to continuing education opportunities, networking and grant opportunities that were not previously made available. After a rigorous process and interviewing, we are proud to say we are officially members of District 5 of the GRPA.

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

- A. Code Enforcement Report

- B. Rezoning & Annexation request for property on the east side of Maxham Rd., South of Veterans Memorial Hwy.

Staff had received an annexation and rezoning request from Smith Douglas Homes to rezone and annex 37.2 acres from R-20 & RM-8 to PUD for the purpose of a townhomes and single family home mixed development. A full staff report and supporting documents are attached. Mr. Huff is representing Smith Douglas Homes. Mr. Kimbrough called for a public hearing for the rezoning & swore Mr. Huff in. Mr. Huff stated that Smith Douglas Homes builds affordable homes. He stated that we will be adding additional townhomes & will be able to offer more of an amenity package. Mrs. Adams asked about parking, where will friends & family be able to park? Mr. Huff stated there will be an HOA and will abide by the city regulations in terms of on street parking & there will be additional parking as well. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone signed up to speak in opposition, Mrs. Dobbs stated no.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the rezoning public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the rezoning request. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mr. Kimbrough called for a public hearing for the annexation of the 37.2 acres. Mr. Huff will be speaking on behalf of Smith Douglas Homes. Mrs. Adams asked if there were any concerns from the public safety directors on this coming into the city. Chief Poulk stated she did not have concerns since there is an entrance off Veterans Memorial Hwy. & Maxham Road. Chief Merritt stated they do not have concerns either, he stated he made sure there was adequate parking also with the number of homes that would be in there. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone signed up in opposition, Mrs. Dobbs stated no.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the annexation public hearing. Seconded by Ms. Elder. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the annexation request. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

- C. P & Z – Rezoning & Annexation Request for 5640 Westside Rd. & 3700 Goodwin Rd. Staff had received an annexation & rezoning request from Wilkins De Lacruz to rezone & annex 28.35 acres from R-30 county to R-30 city. There are no changes proposed to the property at this time. A full staff report & supporting documents are attached. Mr. Kimbrough called for a public hearing for the rezoning & swore in Mr. De Lacruz. Mr. Myrick asked if he was looking to build homes on this property. Mr. De Lacruz stated not at this time. Mrs. Anderson asked Mrs. Dobbs, the properties around this area, are they in the city limits or in the county. Mrs. Dobbs stated they are both in the city limits & in the county.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the rezoning public hearing. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the rezoning request. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mr. Kimbrough called for a public hearing for the annexation for 5640 Westside Rd. & 3700 Goodwin Rd. Mr. De Lacruz stated his is just annexing from the county to the city. Mrs. Adams asked why does he want to be annexed into the city. Mr. De Lacruz stated the vast majority of the land is in the city of Austell. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone signed up to speak in opposition, Mrs. Dobbs stated no.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the annexation public hearing. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the annexation of 28.35 acres. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

D. Rezoning & Annexation for 5354 & 5360 Austell Rd.

Mrs. Anderson stated this item will be tabled and there will be no public hearing.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to table this request. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. Resolution – Maxham Rd. Property

Mr. Kimbrough stated this is dealing with a deed Mayor Jerkins signed in 2017, deeding 3.31 acres of property back to the original owners. The property is located off Maxham Rd. Mrs. Dobbs stated this is a parcel of the annexation that was heard by Smith & Douglas Homes to get the title cleaned up. This property will always remain as open space for their development plan.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to give Mayor Clemons the authority to sign the corrected deed & resolution. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA – April 12, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
City of Powder Springs
The Rooted Company
4455 Marietta Street
Powder Springs, GA 30127

B. Georgia LifeLink Proclamation (see attached)

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

Dellie Clemons Jr.
Mayor

Elizabeth Young
Attest

6-7-2022
Date