

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF AUSTELL  
CITY HALL BUILDING  
JULY 3, 2023**

Present:

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

Absent: Chief Scott Hamilton, Denise Lowe

Also, present: Rachel Yarbrough, Assistant Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Shameta Jones-Harrell, Deputy Police Chief, Darrell Weaver, Community Affairs Director, Elizabeth Young, City Clerk and Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Clemons called the meeting to order. Pastor Hooper gave the invocation & Mayor Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone had items to add to the agenda. Mrs. Anderson added item 7B, 2023-24 Budget Revisions.

*Mrs. Leverette made a recommendation to add item 7B, 2023-24 Budget Revisions. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. 6-0*

**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 - \$4,640.00
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting June 5, 2023

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

**4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. CITIZENS REPORT**

Mr. Tre Hutchens with the Cobb County School system gave an update on board members in Post 3.

Mr. Sam Culbreath is with the Austell Community Task Force and informed everyone that they are taking donations for back-to-school items.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE**

**OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR**

Mr. Kimbrough stated we are down a little from last year but still in good shape. The gas rates have also decreased recently.

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**

**Denise Lowe, Finance Director**

A. Financial Report

B. 2023-24 Budget Revisions

The purpose is to adjust budget amounts to reflect up to a 3% increase (\$232,000) to salary and wage accounts for merit increases to eligible employees.

The City's 2022-23 fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. General Fund revenues were more than expenditures, resulting in a positive carry-over balance. This is partially due to the General Fund transferring less than expected fund balance to the pump station removal projects. The finance committee would like to propose re-directing a portion of this fund balance created to increase salaries and wages.

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the 2023-24 Budget Revisions. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. 6-0)*

**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

**10. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON**

**Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief**

A. Fire Report

**11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON**

**Bo Garrison, Director**

A. No Report

**12. PARKS DEPARTMENT**

**MEREDITH ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON**

**Darrell Weaver, Director**

A. No Report

**13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**

**Darrell Weaver, Director**

A. Code Enforcement Report

B. 1994 VMH Rezoning

*Application 2023-03R:* by Carlos Gudiel, Sr. to rezone approximately 1.90 acres located at 1994 Veterans Memorial Highway (Tax ID #19130300040) from GC (General Commercial) to GC (General Commercial) with a Mixed-Use Overlay to allow for a townhome and office/retail development. The full staff report and supporting documents are attached. Mr. Kimbrough opened the public hearing for 1994 VMH rezoning.

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to close the public hearing for the 1994 VMH Rezoning. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)*

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the rezoning of 1994 VMH. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)*

C. 2130 Perkerson Mill Road Special Land Use Permit

*Application 2023-03SLUP:* Special Land Use Permit request by Sheltering Grace Ministry to allow for a “tiny” cottage home village (8) units to be constructed and operate as maternity housing for women with no other children in their immediate custody. The property consists of approximately 3.54 acres located at 2130 Perkerson Mill Road (Tax ID #19121300610). The full staff report and supporting documents are attached. Mr. Kimbrough opened the public hearing for 2130 Perkerson Mill Road

Special Land Use Permit. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone would like to speak. The following people stood, and Mr. Kimbrough swore them in: Dr. Bell (applicant), Michelle Bankhead, Janet Savage, Latonia Carson, Marilee Rainey, Richard Jones, Lonnie Jackson, Derek Caffé, Velicia Sherod. All the above, including Mayor & Council expressed their positive input and concerns regarding the project.

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to close the public hearing for the 2130 Perkerson Mill Road. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)*

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to deny 2130 Perkerson Mill Road Special Land Use Permit. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (6-0)*

D. Planning & Zoning Board Appointments

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to reappoint Sarah Shurden, Joy Anderson and Aquantus Brown for a two-year term expiring July 31, 2025.

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the Planning & Zoning Board Reappointments. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)*

E. Variance & Appeals Reappointments

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to reappoint Natasha Dyer and James Jones for a two-year term expiring July 31, 2025.

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the Variance & Appeals Reappointments. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)*

## **14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH**

A. Executive Session

Mr. Kimbrough stated this item needs to be tabled until the July 31 Pre-Agenda.

*Ms. Elder made a recommendation to table the executive session until July 31 Pre-Agenda meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (6-0)*

## **15. MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. No Report

**16. ADJOURN**

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

OLLIE CLEMENS, Jr.  
Mayor  
AUGUST 15, 2023  
Date

Elizabeth Young  
Attest