

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

Present:

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

Absent: Elizabeth Young & Darrell Weaver

Also, present: Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Scott Hamilton, Police Chief, Christine Dobbs, Assistant 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. Mrs. Adams added item 12 D – Collar Park Revised Fee Structure.

*Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to add item 12 D. Seconded by Ms. Elder.
Motion passed. (6-0)*

Mayor Clemons congratulated Zach Evans on 15 years of service and presented him with a plaque and pin.

Mayor Clemons presented a proclamation to the 911 Dispatchers and thanked them for their service.

Mayor Clemons presented a proclamation to Cobb Collaborative/Child Abuse Prevention.

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 - \$2,582.50

C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting March 6, 2023

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

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mrs. Ann Turner had concerns about recycling and why Grief will not accept her papers.
Mr. Byron Lomax had concerns about renting the Community Center.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mr. Kimbrough stated we are down a little from last year but still in good shape.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Lowe, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

B. 2021-22 Budget Revisions

ARPA expenditures originally recorded in the General Fund were moved to its own special revenue fund per new guidance. These expenditures have been approved by council, however the accounting for these expenditures needed to be recorded separate from the General Fund.

AACIC original budgeted expenditures are being adjusted to reflect changes made during the year. All AACIC expenditures have been previously approved by council, however the budgeted line items need to reflect the specific department they were spent from.

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the above budget revisions for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the 2021-22 Budget Revisions. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. Personnel Policy Revision

The purpose of the revision is to amend the Sick Leave policy, Section 4, pg. 46, to reflect the following:

All full-time employees shall begin accruing sick leave from the date of employment. These hours are available for usage once they are accrued.

Ms. Elder made a recommendation to approve the Personnel Policy Revision. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

B. Prisoner Housing Contract

Cobb County is proposing a rate increase for housing the City’s prisoners. Cobb County currently charges the city \$73.90 per day per prisoner housed and would like to increase this rate to \$80 per day. The city pays for these services with fees from tickets written by the city. These fees are remitted to Cobb County once a month.

Ms. Elder made a recommendation to approve the Prisoner Housing Contract. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

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. Utility Charges

The Public Works and Finance departments have analyzed current city policies, as well as those of neighboring jurisdictions, and recommend amending the city’s fee structure. The proposed changes are detailed below. The effective date will be July 1, 2023.

Category	Current	Proposed
Standard water deposit	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00
Garbage only deposit	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Water application fee	\$ -	\$ 25.00

Penalty on balances not paid by 15th	10%	10%
Date penalty applied	Random	19th
Charge for late past due accounts	\$ 10.00	\$ -
Charge for delinquent accounts at cut-off	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
Deposit for accounts delinquent more than once in 12 months	\$ 75.00	\$ 125-150

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

B. Landers Street, Pratt Street & Eastside Drive

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the bidding of East Coast Grading Inc. in the amount of \$96,000.00 for Landers Street, Pratt Street and Eastside Drive milling and paving.

Quotes received:

Bidder	Amount
Bam Bam Hauling Solutions LLC	\$97,818.00
Magnum Paving LLC	\$110,000.00
ShepCo Paving Inc.	\$111,765.15
East Coast Grading Inc.	\$96,000.00

Mrs. Leverette made a recommendation to approve the Milling and Paving award. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

MEREDITH ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Juneteenth Kick-Off Reception

Staff has been approached by Ms. Delores Powell, Cool Kids Committee, Inc., to host a kickoff reception for Juneteenth Weekend. The event titled "Austell Midnight Train" is proposed to be a reflection into the history of Austell from the past moving

into the present featuring photographs and storytelling. Light refreshments are proposed along with jazz music. The event is planned to occur from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on June 16, 2023. Proceeds raised are slated to return to the Cool Kids Committee as well as the Austell Youth Innovation Center. Staff is seeking approval to allow for this event to take place at the Threadmill Complex within the open atrium area of the first floor.

Mrs. Adams made a recommendation to approve the Juneteenth Kick-Off Reception. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion approved. (6-0)

B. 2023 BBQ Blues & Brews Event

Staff is seeking to allow for the second BBQ Blues & Brews event to take place on the Threadmill Complex property in early October. The date has not been set yet, but is expected to be the first or second weekend of October. Last year's event was highly successful where it took place along Jefferson Street; however, staff is seeking to move it this year to the outdoor campus of the Threadmill to allow for a more functional layout and accommodate easier parking for patrons. No portion of this event will take place within the Threadmill Complex – all activities will be in designated areas of the front parking lot.

Mrs. Adams made a recommendation to approve the 2023 BBQ Blues & Brews Event. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)

C. RFP for Threadmill Complex

Staff is seeking to move forward with a proposal for Croy Engineering to prepare and oversee the RFP process to redevelop the Threadmill Complex. The proposal received laid out tiers of various tasks to complete the project from drafting to awarding. Overall costs for the entire proposal to be overseen by Croy was quoted at \$11,822.50. It is anticipated to have funding drawn from Parks & Recreation (who oversees the public facilities) professional line item (100-6210-52-1200); however, the unexpected delivery costs for the tank at Veterans Park was drawn from that budget in the amount of \$12,500. The delivery of the tank was authorized by the previous administration but was not identified under a funding source due to not knowing when a piece of military equipment would be available. The sudden notification of the tank's availability was not planned for in the current budget and its billing under professional services depleted funding for any further expenses that should be billed there. Staff is seeking to have this line item adjusted up in the amount of \$11,822.50 to accommodate the proposal for the RFP of the Threadmill Complex.

Mrs. Adams made a recommendation to approve the RFP for the Threadmill Complex. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)

D. Collar Park Community Center Revised Fee Structure

Staff is proposing to adjust the current fee structure for the Collar Park Community Center at 2625 Joe Jerkins Blvd. Austell, GA 30106. The new document proposes new hourly fees and discounted rates for usage by City of Austell residents, non-profit organizations, and city employees. The proposed changes will result in overall savings for the end user.

The provided table shows the current fee structure versus the proposed:

Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Hourly Rate= \$145 (4) hours minimum	Standard Hourly Rate= \$400 (4) hours/ \$800 (8) hours
Cleaning Fee \$175	City of Austell Citizen/ Non-profit/ Employee Hourly Rate= \$280 (4) hours/ \$560 (8) hours.
Reservation fee \$200 (non-refundable goes toward balance.)	Reservation/Damage/Cleaning Deposit= \$175 cashier's check or money orders only. (Must be picked up within five business days after rental or it will be forfeited; cancellations will not be refunded)
No discounted rates provided	Runover Time Fee \$100 per hour

Mrs. Adams made a recommendation to approve the Collar Park Community Center Fee Schedule. Seconded by Ms. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

- A. Code Enforcement Report
- B. 2930 Humphries Hill Rd. Rezoning

Application 2023-01R: by Jose Lorenzo to rezone approximately 0.2 acres located at 2930 Humphries Hill Road (Tax ID #18009300050) from R-15 (Residential) to RD (Residential Duplex) to convert the existing residence into a duplex. The full staff report and supporting documents are attached. Mr. Kimbrough opened for a public hearing for the rezoning of 2930 Humphries Hill Rd.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to close the public hearing for 2930 Humphries Hill Rd. Seconded by Ms. Elder. Motion passed. (6-0)

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the rezoning of 2930 Humphries Hill Rd. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

C. 2765 Veterans Memorial Hwy. Special Land Use Permit

Application 2023-01SLUP: by Diana C. Espinoza for a special land use permit to allow for a special events hall located at 2765 Veterans Memorial Highway (Tax ID #18002500650, 18002500670 and 18002500680). The property is currently zoned CBD (Central Business District). The full staff report and supporting documents are attached. Mr. Kimbrough opened for a public hearing for the 2765 Veterans Memorial Hwy. Special Land Use Permit.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to close the public hearing for 2765 Veterans Memorial Hwy. Special Land Use Permit. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the rezoning of 2765 Veterans Memorial Hwy. Special Land Use Permit. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-1 Mr. Myrick opposed)

D. Consideration to draft Land Use Ordinances In-house

As land use requests in the city continue to rise, staff is seeking a more efficient and cost-effective way to produce ordinances approving Council actions. Currently the City Attorney drafts the city's ordinances once an approval is made by the Mayor and Council. This is a task that can be done in-house by staff pertaining to rezoning, annexation, and special land use permit requests received if approved. Coordination with the City Clerk to ensure consistent numbering is assigned will be necessary.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the draft of Land Use Ordinances In-house. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (6-0)

E. Privilege License Approval

La Salsa - 2856 Veterans Memorial Hwy.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the privilege license for La Salsa. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (6-0)

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. Reapportionment Ordinance

Mr. Kimbrough stated the purpose of the ordinance is to adopt the new wards selected by the state reapportionment office.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the 1st Reading of the Reapportionment Ordinance. Seconded by Ms. Elder. Motion passed. (4-2 Mr. Lamar & Mrs. Adams opposed)

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA Meeting

April 11 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Apotheose Roastery/1808 in Kennesaw
2871 Cherokee Street

B. Galleria Convention Funding & Operating Renewal Agreement

Mr. Kimbrough stated this agreement is between the Galleria and each city, it is the designation of the hotel/motel taxes.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to approve the Galleria Convention Funding & Operating Renewal Agreement. Seconded by Ms. Elder. Motion passed. (6-0)

16. ADJOURN

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

Ollie Clemens, Jr.

Mayor

5-5-2023

Date

Elizabeth Young
Attest