

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
JUNE 5, 2023**

Present:

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

Absent: Chief Scott Hamilton

Also, present: Denise Lowe, 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. Reverend Conner 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 14B, King Caribbean Public Hearing.

Mrs. Anderson made a recommendation to add item 14B, King Caribbean Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. 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 - \$2,942.50
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting May1, 2023

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

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Ms. Sarah Parker thanked the Public Works department for fixing her yard.

Ms. Monica Delancy is from the city of Mableton and is concerned about the Cobb housing crisis.

Mr. Tim Adams had questions about future city events and the collaboration of the events.

Derek Caffè stated there will be a community event at Dillon's restaurant this Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 12-3pm. Mr. Caffè also stated some city employees were working over the city limits inside the city of Mableton and wanted to make sure our employees know the new boundaries.

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 gone down recently.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Lowe, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

B. Public Hearing 2023-24 Fiscal Year End Budget

The City of Austell Finance Committee would like to hold the 2nd and final public hearing for the first reading of the 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Kimbrough opened the public hearing for the final reading of the 2023-24 Fiscal Year.

Mrs. Anderson made a motion to close the 2023-24 Fiscal Year Public Hearing. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. 6-0

The following items have been reflected in the 2023-24 Budget:

- Increases in salaries due to 10/2022 wage adjustment.
- Increases in retirement costs
- 6 additional public safety positions
- Additional police in-car camera systems
- Increases in fuel costs

Most of the impacts of these changes will be funded by increases in franchise and gas system revenue as well as water and sewer rate increases.

It is the recommendation to conduct the public hearing for the final reading of the 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget and vote to approve 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget.

Mrs. Anderson made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Fiscal Year End Budget. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. 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
- B. Austell Compliance Letter GFSTC 2023
To: Chief Brandon Merritt
Austell Fire Department
05/08/2023

Thank you for your cooperation during your recent site review. You and your Department are to be Commended for the attention to detail, organization and maintenance of the department's Training records and documentation. Your Station(s) and Engine(s) are compliant. Your training records for 2019, 2021, and 2022 have been reviewed and documented.

Proof of Workers Compensation Insurance received.

Proof of Cancer Insurance received.

Annual Pump Service Test received.

Keep up the good work.

This is from the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON
Bo Garrison, Director

- A. Pine Grove CIP Water Improvement

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the bidding of KM Davis Contracting Co., Inc. as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$374,700.00 for the Pine Grove Drive CIP Water Improvement.

Bidders:

KM Davis Contracting Co., Inc.	\$374,700.00
RDJE, Inc	\$529,346.20
HD Excavations & Utilities, LLC	\$554,450.00

The funds will be disbursed from SPLOST, 345-4400-54-1400.

Mrs. Leverette made a motion to approve the Pine Grove CIP Water Improvement. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. 6-0

B. Sweetwater Street CIP Water Improvement

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the bidding of KM Davis Contracting Co., Inc. in the amount of \$480,700.00 for the Sweetwater Street CIP Water Improvement. The Corbett Group, LLC was the lowest bidder but as instructed by the City, the lowest bidder was not found to be the qualified due to not qualifying as responsible because of a current project under construction and not meeting the required construction completion deadline.

Bidders:

The Corbett Group, LLC	\$480,588.00
KM Davis Contracting Co. Inc.	\$480,700.00
RDJE, Inc.	\$667,376.20

The funds will be disbursed from SPLOST, 345-4400-54-1400.

Mrs. Leverette made a motion to approve the Sweetwater Street CIP Improvement. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. 6-0

C. Purchase of New 2023 Non-CDL Leaf Vacuum Truck

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the purchase of a new 2023 Non-CDL Leaf Vacuum Truck with Hydraulic Suction Nozzle to be added to the Public Works Fleet.

Quote received:

Company's Name	Amount
Environmental Products Group	\$194,206.00

Tractor and Equipment Company (TEC) were asked to submit a quote, unfortunately Public Works did not receive a second quote. A copy of the email sent to TEC has been attached for record.

The funds will come from SPLOST, 345 -4200-54-2500.

Mrs. Leverette made a motion to approve the purchase of a new 2023 Non-CDL Leaf Vacuum Truck. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. 6-0

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

MEREDITH ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Juneteenth Kickoff

As the planning has evolved for the Juneteenth Austell Midnight Train reception event being hosted at the Threadmill Complex on Friday, June 16, 2023, it was proposed to serve wine along with the hors d'oeuvres. This is an adult only event during the evening. All necessary pouring permits and licenses will be provided by the vendor hired by the applicant.

Staff is seeking approval to allow wine to be served during the event.

Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the Juneteenth Kickoff. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. 6-0

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Code Enforcement Report

Mrs. Anderson asked Mr. Weaver about several properties in the city limits. Dr. Clark's building, car wash at 2691 Jefferson Street, and several other properties need the abatement process started. The council agreed this process needs to be started.

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. Gas Board Reappointments

Below are the new reappointments recommended for the Austell Gas System:

Brittany Rasmussen - appointment will expire 7/31/2025

Grant Rainwater - appointment will expire 7/31/2025

Ray Thomas - appointment will expire 7/31/2025

It is the recommendation that the Council approve the reappointments of the Austell Gas Board members.

Ms. Elder requested to table the reappointment of Ray Thomas since he is not an Austell Gas customer and find someone that is an Austell Gas customer.

Ms. Elder made a motion to approve the reappointment of Brittany Rasmussen & Grant Rainwater. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. 6-0

Ms. Elder made a motion to table the reappointment of Ray Thomas and find someone that is an Austell Gas customer. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. 6-0

B. King Caribbean Public Hearing

Mr. Kimbrough stated the owners of King Caribbean were here for the public hearing regarding their business license. Mr. Kimbrough opened the public hearing for King Caribbean and asked everyone that would be speaking to stand, and he swore them in. Mr. Kimbrough asked Mr. Weaver the status of their business license. Mr. Weaver stated the business license is for food sales only, there is no privilege license to sell or have alcohol on the premises. Sgt. Corvin, Officer Lefevers (backup with Sgt. Corvin), Lt. Kearney, and Detective Unger all stated they had been to King Caribbean at different times and issued citations for alcohol being on the premises. Mr. Devante Former, Mr. Jean Metellus & the owner of King Caribbean, Mr. Emmanuel Ojongmboh were all questioned by King Caribbean's attorney, Mr. William Tiku. Mr. Former stated he promoted a private party at King Caribbean, alcohol was not sold but was furnished for the party. Mr. Jean Metellus stated that he installed the sound system at King Caribbean and confirmed that sound barrier walls had been installed. Mr. Ojongmboh stated that his rent is \$3,275 a month.

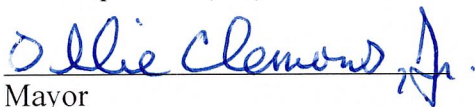
Mr. Myrick made a motion to revoke any license for King Caribbean in its entirety indefinitely. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. 6-0

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

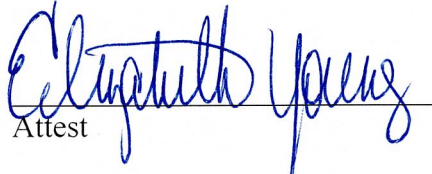
- A. CMA Meeting – June 13 at 6:30 pm
Hosted by City of Acworth
Rosenwald School
4410 Cherokee Street

16. ADJOURN

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



Mayor



Attest

AUGUST 15, 2023
Date