

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF AUSTELL  
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins  
Kirsten Anderson  
Ollie Clemons  
Randy Green  
Virginia Reagan  
Scott Thomas  
Suzanne Thomason

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Carolyn Duncan, City Clerk; Sandra Farmer, Deputy City Clerk; General Administration; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Development Director; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; Tim Williams, Fire Chief.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order. Pastor David Pearce of Austell Presbyterian Church gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerkins stated the new items were added at the Pre-Agenda meeting earlier.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE**

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$1,362.50
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting May 5, 2014

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Thomason. Motion passed (6-0).*

**4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. CITIZENS REPORT**

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone would like to speak to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Willie Peyton stated his name and stated he would like to address the issue of a house on Hotel Street. It is not a house really but just a frame of a house where they use the bathroom there. My neighbor and I sit on the porch and watch them use the restroom there. The smell is awful outside.

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It needs to be closed down and it is just a place for drugs and whatever. There is no water no electricity it is just a gathering place. The stench is really bad in the air. Mayor Jerkins asked what the address is. Mr. Peyton stated my sister-in-law's house is 6052 and this is the house on the corner. Mr. Peyton stated where the park is it is at Pine Street and Line Street. Chief Starrett asked if it was across from the apartments. Mr. Peyton stated, yes it is. Mr. Peyton stated you can't even sit on the porch because of the stench and them using it as an outside toilet. Mayor Jerkins asked if this is the same house we tried to condemn at one time. Ms. Anderson asked if the house was actually on Hotel Street or on the same street as the park. Mr. Peyton stated it is on Pine Street. Ms. Reagan stated it is the one where they found the shade tree when they were cutting the big tree down. Mr. Peyton stated you can actually see people using the bathroom there and it is unsanitary for health reasons. Mayor Jerkins asked do we know who owns it. Chief Williams stated yes, we do and I will pull the record on it. Mayor Jerkins stated we will try and get something done about this. Mr. Peyton thanked the Mayor and Council. Mr. Peyton stated the man who owns the house rides a motorcycle and his name is Gerald. Chief Starrett asked Mr. Peyton if he saw him to let him know. Mr. Peyton told Chief Starrett the man was there now. Chief Starrett stated they would go by tonight. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone else would like to speak to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Lance Lamberton stated his name and stated he lived at 3704 Tate Place here in Austell and have lived here with my wife since 2001. Through some newspaper reports I understand you are voting yourself a salary increase for the Mayor and the Council Members by twenty percent (20%). I am here tonight to ask you not do that in opposition that you are raising your salaries. Quite frankly, you don't do enough currently to make the amount of money you are currently making. I am talking about an hour per month and maybe some ancillary duties and you make a lot of money at the expense of the taxpayers and you are not doing a whole lot. There is a lot more you can do. There is a Charter review or City Charter that hasn't been looked at and is not even on the website so the people can look at it and have some more transparency in government. When was the last time the City Charter was even reviewed? If you want to spend some money do something good about creating more transparency in Austell and there is something you can do right there. But, to give yourself a salary increase, there are a lot of municipalities out there that the Mayor and Council serve without getting any compensation whatsoever. Because, it is an honor to serve people it is a disgrace if you go ahead and do this and I just wanted to express my point of view. I hope you vote against but I know what the outcome is going to be. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone else would like to speak to the Mayor and Council.

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Mr. William Johnson introduced himself and stated he was the Curator of the Museum. We have a real problem with the Health Center down on Love Street. They are allowing people with mental problems and besides physical and additive problems to roam the streets during the day. We had a child which I am sure you don't know about was accosted three weeks ago. CAS is working on it and the child is out of town and they have not returned to make a formal report. They have had thefts in the area and everything. They have people urinating on the lawns. Today is the first day you have had Officers down there all day long and I have been watching for three weeks and today was the first day. They came out today with a mental patient and they had someone walking him and other than that if there is not an officer out there is turned loose. I don't know what the City is capable of doing but I doubt very seriously if they have a permit to run a rehabilitation center because it was setup originally for a health center. Mayor Jerkins stated we will look into this. Ms. Anderson stated she had a comment to the Police Chief. I called Deputy Chief Natalie Poulk about six weeks ago on this and I have visited with Ms. Dean who lives down there and apparently they do congregate there. They are not allowed to smoke on that Cobb County property at the Health Center and she lives not far from there and there is loitering and her biggest problem was the noise and the garbage left there. I know it is a problem and it has come up previously. Mr. Johnson stated it is not fair for the City to pay for an Officer down there. Chief Starrett stated the Health Department pays for the City of Austell Officer. Mr. Green asked when we allowed that to come in did we not make provisions on the vote to not have them on the street. Mayor Jerkins stated he didn't realize they were walking the street. Mr. Green stated well she said they were out smoking cigarettes because they will not let them smoke on Cobb County property so they venture out to other areas. Ms. Anderson stated this has been some years ago and I mentioned this to Virginia that some years ago we passed something that stated they could have only three with every Supervisor out walking around the neighborhood. Maybe we can look this up and I may be mistaken but if we do not have in place maybe we can put in place. Ms. Duncan stated we can check in the minutes and see what was done at a meeting regarding that. Ms. Reagan stated she thought that was in Group homes. Ms. Duncan stated that might be. Mr. Kimbrough stated if it is Cobb County we have nothing to do with it. Chief Starrett stated actually it is a State facility and the State runs it. Ms. Reagan asked State or County. Chief Starrett stated it's State. Mayor Jerkins stated we will work on this and see what we can do. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone else would like to speak to the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Ann Turner stated her address as 5415 Austell-Powder Springs Road. I have a question. On what used to be the Austell Food Store on Love Street is there anything going on in that building. I see no signs of activity.

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Mayor Jerkins stated I am not sure but they are paying their rent. Mr. Graham stated they are paying eighteen hundred dollars (\$1800.00) a month so they must be making money somewhere. Mayor Jerkins stated they are paying their rent. Ms. Turner stated that is a good thing. Mr. Graham stated they keep the property up as well. Ms. Turner asked what is going to happen to the old Laundromat. Mayor Jerkins stated he looked at it today and they have torn the floor up in it and have taken all the equipment out of it so I don't know what is going on and they do have it up for sale other than that I don't know what is happening to it. Ms. Turner thanked the Mayor. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone else would like to speak to the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Trudie Causey stated her name and stated she didn't know how any of you could justify giving yourself a raise. You spend approximately 1 hour a month doing work for the City other than the Mayor. Most meetings only last from fifteen to thirty minutes and I think it is absolutely ridiculous if you give yourselves a raise.

Mayor Jerkins stated since you brought the raises up let me explain to you. Let me explain to you what kind of shape the City was in when I took office almost twenty-five years ago. The Mayor at the present time was resigning as Mayor and the City was gone. They had borrowed a hundred thousand dollars from the Gas Company because the City was broke. When the employees would go to get their check cashed at the bank sometimes they would tell them to come back tomorrow and they might have some money in the bank. We didn't have but thirty (30) employees at the time. The City looked like a dump at that time and the Mayor had gone through two (2) City managers. The City Manager had quit and when I went into office there was no money although they were trying to hire another City Manager. I worked fourteen (14) years without any salary at all because there was no money to pay anyone. It took a long time to get this City into condition. You talk about the Council and the Council has supported me in everything I have done and they do more than thirty minutes of work. There is more to this job than what ya'll think it is. Ms. Trudie Causey didn't have anything to do because she wouldn't do anything and she wouldn't even take the financial budget to look at it and neither would Martin Standard when he was Council Member. There is a lot more to it than you think. The salary I have taken in the last ten years has only been three hundred thousand dollars. If you had a City Manager working which you don't have do you know what he would make in two years what I made in ten years. You would have to furnish him an automobile plus a secretary and plus benefits. So, the money that has been saved during the time I have been Mayor would have bought the Threadmill Complex which is worth thirty-seven million dollars now. The insurance company makes us insure the Threadmill Complex for that amount of money.

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All the things I have done to put this City in good financial standing and yes, we have money to spend to pay these Council Members to get good Council Members on board to support things that I ask them to support. Of all the things and we even own the Post Office. A lot of the people don't even know that and we own a lot of property that people don't know we own. There have been a lot of things that have happened and people don't even realize it has happened. We have the overpass over the years and now we have a hundred employees. The City is in great financial condition. This year will be zero taxes for the tax payers. A lot of people don't know how this City has been managed and the Council Members deserve a good salary. You can criticize all you want but the Council Members deserve a good salary. You hire a City Manager and blow it all and you will not have any money. So, this is why we can afford to pay somebody a decent salary to do a decent job. Mr. Thomas stated to the Mayor you are also giving the employees a raise too. Mayor Jerkins stated yes, five percent 5% raise effective July 1, 2014 and they did get a raise last year as well because they went for five years without a raise. The flood happened and we went through some hard times. We got over it and went through it and if you had a City Manager here at that time he would probably be gone. John Collar went through two City Managers in seven years while he was Mayor and they end up spending a lot of money and wasting money.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE  
JOE JERKINS**

Mr. Kimbrough stated he was unable to attend the meeting but I spoke with Mr. Register and it was a normal meeting adopting the rate schedule applicable for this billing period. Ended up being a really good year.

**7. FINANCE REPORT  
VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON  
Denise Soesbee, Finance Director**

- A. Financial Report
- B. Final 2014-15 City of Austell Budget

Ms. Reagan stated tonight will be the final reading of the 2014-15 Budget. I would like to turn this over to our City Attorney Mr. Kimbrough for a Public Hearing.

Mr. Kimbrough stated he would like to open this for a Public Hearing for the Final reading of the 2014-15 City of Austell Budget.

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Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone had signed up to speak in opposition. No one signed up for opposition. We need a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Final 2014-15 City of Austell Budget.

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).*

*Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Final 2014-15 City of Austell Budget. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).*

**8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON  
Carolyn Duncan, Director**

A. No Report

**9. POLICE DEPARTMENT  
VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON  
Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

A. Police Report  
B. Code Enforcement Report

**10. FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON  
Tim Williams, Fire Chief**

A. Fire Report  
B. New Gym Facility Update / Information Only  
Chief Williams stated enclosed in your material tonight is a current list of expenditures to date. The actual Invoices from both Atlanta West Carpet and Consumer Security were less than their original cost estimates.

- Renovation Cost / Materials & Labor .....\$50,215.14
- Atlanta West Carpet.....\$ 8,776.00

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- Buy and Sell Fitness / Gym Equipment.....\$25,000.00
- Consumer Security / Security and Card Access.....\$ 5,317.00
- Women's and Men's Lockers.....\$ 1,934.97

This brings our current total to \$91,243.11. We are still working on our security system for the facility. Due to budget cost for a fiber or cable connection for the system, we are hopeful that the existing DSL connection for our Police evidence room can be used for our connection.

We have moved the official opening of the Gym facility to June 9<sup>th</sup>. All employees will be required to sign a waiver in order to use the equipment in the Gym. We have hired a temporary fitness instructor that will provide instruction to all employees prior to Gym use.

**11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**  
**Randy Bowens, Director**

A. Walker Street Road Resurfacing

Ms. Anderson stated she would like to turn this over to Mr. Bowens. Mr. Bowens stated as a result of the resurfacing projects that we had under our SPLOST list for Austell-Powder Springs Road and Love Street. We noticed in doing so that Walker Street is in dire need of resurfacing. So, the contractors that was on-site at the time that gave us quantities in regards to the researching of Austell-Powder Springs and Love Street and actually bid us the quote for Walker Street. We asked him to do this because the equipment was in the City and was already mobilized and we contacted two other contractors to give us a proposal for Walker Street. Guy Cruse who is doing Austell-Powder Springs Road and Love Street actually came in with a bid of \$11,693.03. That eliminated the mobilization charges that the other two contractors would have to do in order to come into the City. Their prices, they have not responded back to me as of yet. Mr. Cruse is also scheduled to do Peco Lane which is the street off of Humphries Hill Road.

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We are asking, because of the mobilization charges we can eliminate the other contractors and Walker Street to be included and to be resurfaced and that will complete that area. We have done some patch work on Spring Street and we are planning on having all those streets striped after they are complete.

*Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to award the project to Cruse Paving and not to exceed \$11,693.03. Funding will come from the fiscal year 2014 SPLOST. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).*

**B. Road Striping**

Ms. Anderson stated she would like to turn this over to Mr. Bowens. Mr. Bowens stated the purpose is to approve striping of Austell-Powder Springs Road (from Mulberry Street to city limits.) Joe Jerkins Boulevard (from Austell-Powder Springs Road to Mulberry Street), and Sweetwater Street (from Austell-Powder Springs Road to Mulberry Street).

Our department concluded over the years we actually went out and painted certain areas such as Humphries Hill Road but thermoplastic is one process we would like to go to. This was the process on Austell-Powder Springs Road. The SPLOST dollars at the beginning of the project which is Westside Road and Cureton Woods sub-division which will be re-striped with thermoplastic all the way down to all the intersections that intersect on Austell-Powder Springs Road to the bridge and all the way down to Joe Jerkins and make a complete project of it going all the way across the tracks to Love Street. Restriping all of that, and also what we plan on doing in junction with this all the cities are required to go with the retro reflective signage and we are in the process of purchasing and we will in turn come back and replace all the traffic signs, stop signs and things of that nature. We have the two bids from Wildcat Striping who has done work for us in the pass. We also received another quote from another company RP Paving Solutions, LLC.

*Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the proposal with RP Paving Solutions, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$30,557.35. Funding will come from the fiscal year 2014 SPLOST. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. Motion passed (6-0).*



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**12. PARKS DEPARTMENT  
SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON  
Jim Graham, Director**

A. Collar Community Center Resurfacing Project

Mr. Thomas stated the City of Austell Parks Committee recommends approval of the Collar Community Center Resurfacing project. The project will consist of installing 1.5 inch PermaFlex topping asphalt to the existing parking lot. The project will be funded using money from SPLOST.

The Parks Department received three estimates for this project attached for your review. The estimate from Sport Surfaces International was the lowest. The Parks Committee recommends approval of the attached estimate in the amount of \$50,650.00.

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Parks Committee to approve the Collar Community Center Resurfacing Project. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).*

**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON  
Jim Graham, Director**

A. Collar Community Center Security Cameras

Mr. Clemons stated the Community Affairs Committee recommends approval of the attached quote from Consumer Security Services, Inc. for a security camera system for the Collar Community Center. The purchase price will be \$4,667.00 and is budgeted for under line item 100-5330-54.2100 in the approved FY 2014.

*Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the Collar Community Center Security Cameras. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0)*

B. Site Improvements at Threadmill

Mr. Clemons stated the Community Affairs Committee recommends approval of the attached quote from Atlanta West Carpets to repair the flooring in the break room area of the Community Affairs Department. The current flooring is in such disrepair that it has caused a tripping hazard. The price will be \$1,160.00 and is budgeted for under line item 311-1565 54.1200 in the approved FY 2014.

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*Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the Site Improvements at the Threadmill. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).*

**C. CDBG Cooperation Agreement Federal Fiscal Years 2015-2017  
(VOTE TO ADD)**

Mr. Clemons stated the Community Affairs Committee recommends adoption of the Resolution pertaining to the City of Austell's participation in Cobb County's Urban County CDBG programs for Federal Fiscal Years 2015-2017. The Cooperation Agreement will allow the City of Austell to continue participating in the CDBG program and receive grant funds from that program.

The Resolution includes the following provisions:

1. To adopt the Cooperation Agreement with the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.
2. To authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Cooperation Agreement on behalf of the City.
3. Effective date shall be immediately upon adoption.

*Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the adoption of the Resolution pertaining to the City of Austell's participation in Cobb County's Urban County CDBG programs for Federal Fiscal Years 2015-2017 and to follow the Resolution's provisions. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).*

**14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH**

**A. No Report**

**15. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- A. CMA MEETING  
TIME:  
LOCATION:**

**JUNE 10, 2014  
6:30 P.M.  
ACWORTH CITY HALL  
Georgia Movie Industry**

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**B. Salary Increase for Mayor & Council – Effective January 1, 2016**

Mayor Jerkins stated the Mayor's salary will increase from \$30,000 to \$36,000. The Council Member's salary will increase from \$12,000 to \$14,400.00 annually.

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Salary Increase for Mayor and Council. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Mayor Jerkins asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Thomason stated she would like to speak since she was going to vote against the increase for the Council Members. Everyone has their opinion and me being on the Council for two and half years I cannot justify the amount of work I have done. I have tried to go to classes to learn and to ask questions. But, for what I have done I cannot justify the increase in salary. Mayor Jerkins asked Ms. Thomason if she thought she was making too much now. Ms. Thomason stated she thought a thousand a month was plenty for what we do. You make most of the decisions which is fine and you handle everything for the City and you have a Council that votes and supports you. I don't feel like we make decisions and we are not in on things that go on. When I was working with Mr. Graham in Community Affairs I really didn't know what going on until I got here and he gave some paperwork to read and we were to vote on this but all of you had discussed it which was fine and it worked. I don't feel like I have put the time into it to justify an increase. I just want you to know how I feel about this. Mayor Jerkins stated you said you couldn't come to the Committee Meetings because you have a job. Ms. Thomason stated she came to as many as she could. Mayor Jerkins stated but you can't come to all of them because you have a job. Ms. Thomason stated I think I have missed one meeting. Mayor Jerkins stated, but some of them you said you couldn't come to. Ms. Thomason stated I think it was one I couldn't attend and yes it is difficult if it is during the day. Mayor Jerkins stated there is a lot more Committee Meetings that we have. Ms. Thomason stated well if they have then I don't know about them. Mayor Jerkins stated I do have meetings with the individual Council Members. Ms. Thomason stated well, you never have had a meeting with me. I feel I am left out and I don't know what is going on and I have tried to ask questions and learn but I cannot justify the increase. Motion passed (5-1). Ms. Thomason voted against.*

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any more questions or concerns. Ms. Anderson stated, yes she did. The Mayor did mention the Post Office property and we did have a Post Office at one time down on Jefferson Street. At one time they were going to leave Austell and there are some people here that are elderly and I used to walk to that Post Office because I like to walk.

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If the Post Office had left Austell it would have made a hardship on our older population here in Austell. Thanks to Mayor Jerkins and his negotiation skills he got the Post Office to stay in Austell. The other thing he did not mention is the Cobb County Library System. We had a little Library over here I loved because I had a hair salon right there and my kids could go to the library and they could go to story hour and they could walk over. A lot of kids like there and walk there and when the Cobb County Library said they were leaving Austell personally I was devastated. It was a great place for my kids to go. If they moved to the East-West Connector again this would require you to get into a car. A lot of children don't have a parent to take them anywhere. So, again the Mayor and his negotiating skills got them to stay in Austell at the Threadmill. No, it is not right around the corner but you can ride a bike and it is not so far a child couldn't walk there. I know the Mayor will not brag on a lot of the things he does. There is a lot more that goes into this than just sitting up here. Thank you to our Mayor and to our Council that we have kept these services here and we can continue to serve the people of Austell and those who cannot get into a car and drive anywhere they would like to go.

Mayor Jerkins stated the Post Office will go back to the City. They will start paying rent to us in about twelve more years about \$4500.00 per month. I did go to Washington and I spent my own money and I carried my wife with me and I didn't use the City money to negotiate the Post Office. The City bought the lot and we do own it and they will pay rent in about twelve years. They were going to go out on Maxham Road if I hadn't got involved in it. There are a lot of things that people don't know that went on in the City of Austell and that is just part of it. But, if I don't have the support of the Council to do these things and some of you are thinking if you had a City Manager. What the Council draws is not even part of what the City Manager would make in less than a year. This City is managed a lot better than the other cities in Cobb County and you can say what you want to about it. We are in better financial shape than the rest of the cities. It is well taken care of and it is because of the Council working with me. I am very proud of what has been accomplished in the last twenty-five years. I think the Council knows how it has been managed and looked after. Even though Ms. Thomason thinks she doesn't need to get paid so she shouldn't run again if she thinks that. I think you shouldn't run in next year's election if you feel like you don't deserve the money don't run in the election. The remainder of the Council has worked hard and supported me in the things that I do and we have come a long way. If you turn this over to a City Manager you end up in a mess.

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They do not stay long. Marietta has kept a City Manager a long time which is unusual. Powder Springs has been through six or eight City Managers since I have been in office. Mr. Green stated something else the Mayor did was the buying of the Threadmill Complex. Mayor Jerkins stated we bought that for two million dollars. Mr. Green stated it appraised for six million and the biggest thing about this was we were outgrowing this building. We were going to have to spend a lot of money to create a bigger set-up than what we have here at City Hall. The two million we put into the Threadmill is beginning to be self sufficient where as we would have spent what do you think two to three million dollars to buy the land and build a bigger facility. Mr. Graham stated the Threadmill generates 1.2 million but because of the bonds we do not show a profit. Our annual budget is eight to nine hundred thousand and we offset the city offices so they are free. Mr. Green stated all the offices we have at the Threadmill the Taxpayers don't have to pay for them. Ms. Reagan stated and don't forget his negotiations with Norfolk-Southern.

Mayor Jerkins stated the five million dollars we have in the bank; it just didn't jump in the bank. We lost the lawsuit and we had three lawsuits against us. We spent sixty thousand dollars on Attorney fees. We lost the Federal lawsuit so I went to the Council and told them we had lost the lawsuit so I ask them if they would let me go to Norfolk-Southern and negotiate with them and settle this lawsuit. They then turned it over to me and I went to them and ended up getting five million dollars for the City to be put in the bank and not to be spent. Ms. Causey has brought up she would like to get the money and spend it. As long as I am the Mayor this will not happen. Ms. Reagan stated that Ms. Causey had said on City businesses. Mr. Green stated on top of that Cobb County and Powder Springs would not back you. Mayor Jerkins stated they spent four million dollars on Attorney fees trying to sue Norfolk-Southern and we ended up with five million dollars and plus 122 acres of land and that just didn't jump in the bank. We have been using the interest off of it. We have built a Fire Station and bought a Fire truck and doing all kind of things with the interest and still doing things with it. A City Manager would not have thought of anything like that to pursue. Mayor Jerkins stated we had thirteen Pump Stations and it cost us over a hundred thousand dollars a year to keep them going. Now we only have two, we got rid of eleven of them. I would not allow another one to be put in the City after I came into office as Mayor. City Managers put them in the City. I am not here to brag on what I have accomplished I am just telling you what a City Manager would do and getting things in a mess and too hard to get out of. A lady in the audience raised her hand and wanted to speak.

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Mayor Jerkins stated he would take one question or comment. The lady stated she thought the meeting should end because it was becoming too emotional.

Ms. Reagan asked Mr. Bowens what is happening to the railroad track crossing out there and are they finished. Mayor Jerkins stated no they are not through with the crossing. They still have some work to do on it.

**16. ADJOURN**

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation to adjourn the meeting.  
Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).*