

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins
Kirsten Anderson
Trudie Causey
Virginia Reagan
Scott Thomas
Suzanne Thomason

Absent: Martin Standard

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Monday, September 10, 2012 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; Denise Soesbee, Finance Director; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Affairs Director; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; Tim Williams, Fire Chief.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order. Reverend David Pearce gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jerkins asked the Council if they had any items to add to the Agenda. Ms. Anderson stated she would like to add 11A. – Community Garden – Acceptance of Non-Matching Grant. Mr. Thomas stated he would like to add 12A. – Parks Equipment Purchase Financing.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Items added to the Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).

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 \$2, 945.00
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting August 6, 2012

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone would like to speak to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Ann Turner stated she would like to speak. Ms. Turner stated she was at Legion Park this morning and a spring was broken on the children's equipment.

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The device was lying on the ground next to the chain link next to the parking lot. It wasn't broken yesterday and there was a ballgame there yesterday. She stated she wanted to report this so it could be repaired. Mayor Jerkins stated he would have this checked on and he asked Mr. Graham to send someone to repair it.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mr. Kimbrough stated she attended the meeting and stated they adopted the gas rate applicable for this billing period.

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT
VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON
Denise Soesbee, Director**

- A. Financial Report
- B. Property Tax Early Payment Discount from 2% to 0%

Ms. Reagan stated the City currently allows property tax owners a 2% discount if paid prior to December 20th. This rate has been in place for over 25 years. It is cited in the City's charter "The City Council may, by ordinance, provide for a discount for prompt payment of taxes." (Section 6.13)

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve reducing the discount from 2% to 0% based on the fact that mortgage companies are the largest beneficiaries of this discount and not our residents. Seconded by Ms. Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).

**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

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B. Code Enforcement Report

**10. FIRE DEPARTMENT
SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON
Tim Williams, Fire Chief**

A. Fire Report

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

A. Community Gardens – Acceptance of Non-Matching Grant

Ms. Anderson stated the purpose of this is to accept a non-matching grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used for an outdoor classroom and vegetation for the community garden on Owens Drive. Ms. Anderson stated she would like to turn this over to Mr. Bowens so he can explain it.

Mr. Bowens stated this grant was actually donated or given to the city by the Soil and Water Conservation District. Those people are the people that oversee all the wetlands here in the City and throughout the United States. They thought it was a good project to pursue when we presented it to them. This area and for those of you who are not aware during the time that Mr. Terrell lived there at this location he had about five acres which he planted a garden every year. As a result of that he would harvest his vegetables and fruits and he would often times go throughout the City and give to the residents. I think it was a good gesture and he would quite often come down to the shop and give us vegetables for the guys to take home. We took the District out there last Thursday, I believe and they had their District meeting here because they wanted to see the location before they presented us with the agreement to receive the \$5,000.00. They thought it was a good location and they were on board with it and wanted us to proceed with it. They left us with the contracts and I passed those contracts to the Mayor to review and like Ms. Anderson stated it is a non-matching grant so we don't have to put up any money. We did agree to turn the receipts in for invoices and they would pay from the invoices so it is not like we pay up front and then get reimbursed. We will get invoices for the work or labor or material that we put into the garden and we turn those in to them and they pay from that. I think it is a good idea and a good suggestion.

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A lot of the people throughout the community are on board with it. Mayor Jerkins stated he had read the contract and he asked Mr. Kimbrough if he had read it yet. Mayor Jerkins stated he noticed in the contract that we need to put a sign up. Mr. Bowens stated we are planning on having a ground breaking ceremony and a dedication. Mayor Jerkins stated at some point the sign needs to be in place. Mr. Bowens agreed. Mayor Jerkins stated another thing I thought about it should be insured just like the rest of our property. Mr. Bowens stated we will not have any structures on the property. Mayor Jerkins stated I know but we still need to have it covered under our liability insurance. Mr. Bowens agreed.

Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to accept the grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used for an outdoor classroom and vegetation for the community garden on Owens Drive. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

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

A. Parks Equipment Purchase Financing

Mr. Thomas stated the Cobb County 2012-2016 1% Special Purpose Local Sales Tax (SPLOST) allocated 25% of receipts estimated at \$1,168,047 for the City of Austell Parks Department.

The approved project list for utilizing these funds allocated \$200,000.00 for new Parks Department equipment. The Parks Department has used \$157,354.66 of these funds for equipment. The remaining amount, which can be used for the purchase of equipment, is \$42,645.34.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Parks Committee to approve the purchase of a used bucket truck at this time for an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00. The bucket truck will be financed through GMA. The finance payments will be met using only those funds received from the SPLOST program. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

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**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SUZANNE THOMASON, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director**

A. No Report

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA MEETING SEPTEMBER 18, 2012
 TIME: 6:30 P.M.
 LOCATION: HOSTED BY AUSTELL @ COBB CHAMBER

B. Douglas County & Its Cities Agreement on (LOST) Distribution for 2013-2022
Mayor Jerkins stated this has already been discussed at a Special Called Meeting two weeks ago and the documents have been signed and submitted.

C. A.A.C.I.C. Appointments

Mayor Jerkins stated we have some members we need to reappoint plus Ms. Myrl Cato has moved away from Austell so we need to appoint someone for that position. I am recommending Ollie Clemons for that position. Please see the following Posts: These positions will be for two years and it has been awhile since we have updated these Posts. We need to make two different votes because Mr. Clemons needs to be voted in now instead of December 31, 2012. Also, to put everything in place the others need to be voted as well to update their terms.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to appoint Mr. Ollie Clemons to replace Ms. Myrl Cato for Post 2. Seconded by Ms. Causey. Motion passed (5-0).

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Dennis Perrin – Post 1	December 31, 2015
Ollie Clemons – Post 2	December 31, 2015
Judy Still – Post 3	December 31, 2014
Dr. Gary Bullard – Cobb Post	December 31, 2014
Reverend Marvin “Doc” Frady – Clarkdale Post	December 31, 2015

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Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the reappointments of the A.A.C.I.C. Board Members and their Term Expiration dates. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

Mr. Thomas stated he thought Chief Williams was having a tribute on September 11, 2012. Chief Williams stated yes, sir, in honor of 911 we will do a tribute to the flag and a moment of silence. It will start at 10:00 A.M. at Fire Station II.

Chief Starrett stated he would like to report on Thursday of last week Sfredo stopped a car which was the dreadlock gang who had robbed various banks around Dunwoody and the Atlanta area in the last two weeks and they are very dangerous bad people. They were about to rob the PNC Bank and they had checked out the PNC the day before and had come back to rob it. They had all their guns and masks loaded in the car. We worked all night and have been working with the FBI and we are really proud of Sfredo and his effective work.

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded Ms. Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).