

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MARCH 6, 2023**

Present:

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

Also, present: Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Scott Hamilton, Police Chief, Darrell Weaver, Community Affairs Director, Elizabeth Young, City Clerk and Scott Kimbrough, Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clemons called the meeting to order. Pastor Lewis gave the invocation & Mayor Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone had items to add to the agenda. No items were added.

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 - \$4,612.50
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting February 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 several concerns regarding the lights at Legion Field, the Advanced Auto rewards program, and the city redistricting ward map. Mr. Tim Adams had concerns regarding who determines the population for each ward and the DNR paperwork. Mr. Derek Caffe stated he is with Create Austell and they help get news out to the citizens of Austell. Also they are looking into a neighborhood beautification program for Austell and possibly immolating Powder Springs program. Mr. Brandon Morehouse is the HOA

president for the Cypress Club neighborhood and had concerns regarding the greenspace withing the neighborhood.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mr. Kimbrough stated as of the year to date, we are a few cold days behind where we were last year but still in good shape.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Lowe, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

Mrs. Anderson asked if the city received franchise fee checks from Greystone Power and Georgia Power. Mayor Clemons stated yes, we did receive checks. Mrs. Lowe gave the amounts of the checks. Mrs. Anderson stated she would like the council to be made aware of when the city receives the franchise fees.

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. 2023 Election Qualifying Dates Resolution

The qualifying dates for the 2023 Election will be August 21-23, 2023. Qualifying hours will be from 8:30-4:30 and will be held at the Threadmill Complex Conference Room, Suite 121.

Ms. Elder made a recommendation to approve the 2023 Election Qualifying Dates Resolution. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

Mrs. Anderson asked when evaluations were due. Mayor Clemons stated by March 31 each year. Mrs. Anderson stated that per the city charter, the committee chair is to be involved in the director's evaluations.

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEVON MYRICK, CHAIRPERSON

Scott Hamilton, Police Chief

A. Police Report

B. Justification for additional Sworn Manpower – (PowerPoint-Information Only)

The Police Department provided a PowerPoint Presentation. They are in need of 7 new police officers for the department. Chief Hamilton stated the response times have decreased, call volumes have increased, and dangers have increased.

C. Approval to Sell Vehicles

Chief Hamilton is requesting to surplus the following vehicle and motorcycles. The vehicle will be sold on GovDeals and the motorcycles will be sold on GovDeals or to another party.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN	MILEAGE
2008	Harley Davidson	M1	1HD1FHM148Y637165	2974
2008	Harley Davidson	M2	1HD1FHM138Y636024	3378
2010	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FABP7BV1AX116161	119412

Mr. Myrick made a recommendation to approve the sell of above mentioned vehicles. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (6-0)

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Fire Truck Update

The new ladder truck should be in-service by March 31, 2023, and each shift is still training on the new truck.

B. Fire Report

Mrs. Anderson stated she had been in touch with Homeland Security regarding the SAFER Grant. She sent the information to Chief Merritt today.

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Bo Garrison, Director

A. Landers Street, Pratt Street & Eastside Drive (Information Only)

The Public Works Department posted an invitation to bid due on March 1, 2023, for the purpose of milling and paving for Landers Street, Pratt Street and Eastside Drive. Mr. Garrison stated that he has been trying to get references for the lowest bidder but has not had any luck yet.

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. Privilege License Approval

Attached is a listing of Alcohol Privilege License Renewal request received. The applicant has conducted and passed the required background checks by the Austell Police Department. Staff recommends approval of the request listed.

2954 Citgo Austell, LLC (Nilesh Khetia) 2954 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Suite A, Austell GA 30168

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

Mrs. Anderson requested that any movie production must come through the council first.

Mrs. Anderson requested that we look at moving Code Enforcement back to the Police Department. Mr. Weaver stated it has done well in the Community Affairs Department. Being in the Community Affairs Department it has a different aspect than the Police Department. Mayor Clemons stated that we can give study to this and put it on the agenda in the future if need be.

Mrs. Anderson stated there would be a City Town Hall meeting on March 30, 2023, at the Beacon of Light Church at 7:00 pm.

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

- A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. Redistricting Ordinance and New Ward Map

In accordance with our city charter, section 5.15 states after every decennial census we need to adopt an ordinance and create a map that shows the redistricting of our city

council wards. The new ward map was prepared by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office. See attached ordinance and map. Mr. Kimbrough opened this up for a public hearing and the first reading of the ordinance. Mrs. Adams asked if the maps could be revised. Mr. Kimbrough stated if it doesn't get approved in April, it will have to go back to the state.

Mr. Myrick made a recommendation to close the public hearing for the first reading of the Redistricting Ordinance. Seconded by Mrs. Elder. Motion passed. (6-0)

Mayor Clemons stated that we are hosting the Georgia Power Energy Efficient Program event on March 19, 2023, at the Threadmill Complex in the Court Room.

Mr. Myrick made a recommendation to approve the Georgia Power Energy Efficient Program. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (6-0)

Mrs. Anderson stated she would like an itemized list of the State of the City invoices.

16. ADJOURN

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

D. Die Clemons Jr.
Mayor
MAY 1, 2023
Date

Elizabeth Young
Attest