

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF AUSTELL  
CITY HALL BUILDING  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022**

Present:

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

Absent: Darrell Weaver

Also, present: Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Natalie Poulk, Police Chief (I), Christine Dobbs, Community Affairs Assistant 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. Mayor Clemons presented a retirement plaque & pin to Mike Hays & congratulated him for his 40 years of service with the city. July is Parks month & Mayor Clemons presented the Parks Department with a proclamation & thanked them for an outstanding job.

**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 - \$2,855.00
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting June 6, 2022

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)*

**4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. CITIZENS REPORT**

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE**

**OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR**

Mr. Kimbrough stated it has been a good year so far.

A. Austell Gas System Board Appointments

This item has been tabled until next month.

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to table the Austell Gas System Board appointments until August. Seconded by Ms. Elder. Motion passed. (6-0)*

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**

**Denise Lowe, Finance Director**

A. Financial Report

**8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON**

**Elizabeth Young, Director**

A. No Report

**9. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**DEVON MYRICK, CHAIRPERSON**

**Natalie Poulk, Police Chief (I)**

A. Police Report

B. Flock Camera Purchase

The City of Austell Police Department wishes to purchase the Flock Camera System and 15 cameras. The goal of the Flock cameras is to reduce crime in targeted areas & to capture objective evidence to increase investigative leads.

Case study has suggested that a 60% reduction in crime has occurred in Cobb County with the implementation of Flock.

Cameras are to be used inter-agency & can be used to integrate agencies together.

Austell is the only city in Cobb County that is not on the Flock System.

The total cost to purchase is \$45,250 and a yearly fee of \$40,000.

This will take the place of the Georgia Power License Plate Reader cameras, thus saving the city a substantial amount of money each year.

Funds will come from account # 100-3210-52.1230.

*Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Flock Camera Purchase. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)*

## **10. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON**

**Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief**

A. Fire Report

## **11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON**

**Bo Garrison, Director**

A. New “No Tractor Trailer” Signs (Information Only)

As part of the safety concern of Austell community and those who visit, Public Works Department has decided to upgrade signage to address the tractor trailer traffic in the downtown area. Signs have been placed strategically in the downtown area of the City of Austell to help with the following:

- To eliminate wide turns: truckers don’t always make them in a proper manner.
- To create a designated route for tractor trailers trucks to turn on Thornton Road to Dr. Luke Glenn Garrett, Jr., Memorial Highway instead of Austell-Powder Springs Road.
- To minimize tractor trailers getting stuck on the Railroad Tracks.
- To help minimize tractor trailer traffic congestion.
- To avoid destruction of Railroad Safety arms.
- To lessen the number of hours spent for Police and Fire Department during tractor trailer accident/incidents.
- To minimize the amount of wear and tear on city streets.

B. Adopt-A-Street (Information Only)

The City of Austell’s Adopt-A-Street program gives concerned individuals the opportunity to help their local community environment by collecting litter and beautifying streets in their neighborhood. This program creates partnership between families, businesses, organizations, volunteers’ groups, and The City of Austell. Adopters are required to maintain the adopted street for one year and streets may be renewed upon request. The Public Works Department will provide instruction and support to help foster safe and effective cleanups and the adopters/volunteers do the work of gathering the litter along their adopted streets.

Why Adopt?

- It's an easy way for groups to help the community.
- It makes a visible impact on your local environment.
- It helps build community and group pride.
- The program is at no cost.

## **12. PARKS DEPARTMENT**

**MEREDITH ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON**

**Darrell Weaver, Director**

- A. Veterans Memorial Park Improvements (Information Only)  
Parks Staff has continued construction on our NEW Veterans Memorial Park. The arrival of the military tank was escorted by Austell PD from the VFW in Carrollton and delivered safely on June 1, 2022. Parks staff has continued with the demo of the parking lot and bringing in fill dirt to level the grade of the overall park. We are still on track to meet our goal of completion by the fall of 2022.
- B. Storm Debris Removal (Information Only)  
Parks Staff assisted city staff with the removal of trees and debris resulting from an overnight storm on June 17, 2022.
- C. Assistance with Powder Springs Banner Installation (Information Only)  
On June 26, 2022, Parks Staff answered the call for assistance from the City of Powder Springs to install their banner advertising their 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

## **13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**

**Darrell Weaver, Director**

- A. Code Enforcement Report
- B. Rezoning @ 2950 Jefferson Street  
Due to the opposition regarding the rezoning request, the applicant, Greg McWhorter, withdrew his request for rezoning.
- C. Rezoning @ 2965 Jefferson Street  
Due to the opposition regarding the rezoning request, the applicant, Greg McWhorter, withdrew his request for rezoning.
- D. Annex & Rezone 3721 Goodwin Road  
Mr. Kimbrough opened this for a public hearing.  
The city is acting on behalf of Cobb County to rezone and annex 4.0 acres of County owned property from R-30 (single family residential) to R-30 (single family residential) with no changes in use proposed. This property is an island that was created when adjacent property on Goodwin Road was recently annexed into the city. A full staff report and supporting documents are attached. Mrs. Dobbs stated this property would have been an island. Cobb County approved for the city to annex this property into the city limits of Austell. The property does have a restrictive easement on it to remain as open space so at no point the property would not be developed. Mr. Kimbrough asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

*Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)*

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the rezoning of 3721 Goodwin Road. Seconded by Mrs. Adams. Motion passed. (6-0)*

Mr. Kimbrough opened this for a public hearing for the request of the annexation. Mr. Myrick asked if we will be responsible for maintaining this property. Mrs. Dobbs stated that Cobb County would be responsible for the maintenance.

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the public hearing. Seconded by Ms. Elder. Motion passed. (6-0)*

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the annexation of 3721 Goodwin Road. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)*

E. Multi-Use Trail

The city has entered into an agreement with Cobb County and the City of Powder Springs to link downtown Austell with the Silver Comet Trail along Austell Powder Springs Road. Heath & Lineback is the planning firm who is conducting the study for how the trail will be designed. This is an opportunity to introduce their firm along with providing an update and schedule of upcoming dates and deliverables to the Mayor and Council. Patrick Peters with Heath & Lineback gave an overview of the project & will keep the city updated as the project moves forward. The total cost of the project is \$300,000.00 & Cobb County will be taking the whole cost with a grant through the Atlanta Regional Commission. At this time there is no cost to the city.

F. Planning & Zoning Board Appointments

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to reappoint Scott Gresham and Sara Parker for a two-year term expiring July 31, 2024. It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to appoint Jonathan Foster to the Planning and Zoning Board to replace Diane Evans of Ward 3 for a two-year term expiring July 31, 2024.

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to appoint Aquantus Brown to the Planning and Zoning Board for Ward 2 to fill the vacancy of Robert McField whose term expires July 31, 2023.

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Planning & Zoning Board Appointments. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)*

G. Board of Variance & Zoning Appeals Appointments

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to reappoint Quila N. Lee for a two-year term expiring July 31, 2024.

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Board of Variance & Zoning Appeals Appointments. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)*

**14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH**

A. No Report

**15. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**16. ADJOURN**

*Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (6-0)*

Delia Clemons, Jr.  
Mayor

Elizabeth Young  
Attest

8.17.2022  
Date