

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019**

Present:

Mayor Ollie Clemons
Valerie Anderson
Sandra Leverette
Marlin Lamar
Randy Green
Scott Thomas

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Denise Soesbee, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Development Director; Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; and Elizabeth Young, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clemons called the meeting to order and Pastor John Bailey gave the Invocation and Mayor Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons stated the Hallelujah Festival that Pastor Bailey & his church sponsor had to be cancelled due to the weather & safety conditions. Pastor Bailey asked to speak regarding this. He stated he is deeply bothered by not being able to have the event. As a part of the community, he wants to protect children and give them a safe place so families can come and be together on that night. He is hoping to bring it back next year. He thanked the Mayor, Council and all that are involved. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone needed to add items to the agenda. Mr. Green stated he needs to add 9B-application for Privilege License for the Circle K on Austell Road.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to add item 9B to the agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$2,102.50
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting October 7, 2019

Mr. Green moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mrs. Ann Turner stood regarding the street lights at Legion Park that she spoke about at pre-agenda last week. Mayor Clemons stated he reached out to Georgia Power and got a response that all the lights were repaired except for 1, because of some underground stuff issues on. Mrs. Turner stated light poles #8 and #1 are still not working.

Ms. Catherine McBrayer stated she lives at 5325 Hiram Lithia Springs Rd. Hendricks Elementary is off Meadows Rd. & is considered a city school of Austell. Ms. McBrayer stated there was an accident on October 25 & a young man lost his life because of excessive speed & DUI. She stated there needs to be a red light at that intersection before we lose children. Mayor Clemons stated he can request the Department of Transportation to look at it. Mr. Graham stated that the intersection is Cobb County's and he will call Cobb County Transportation.

Ms. Monica Delancy is a resident of Riverside Community and gave updates within her community.

Mr. Randall Adams asked if there is an update on the Taylor Mathis Property. Mayor Clemons stated there is no update at this time. Mr. Adams asked how long before the contract is up. Mayor Clemons stated he thinks it's the middle, to the end of this month.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mayor Clemons stated we are doing pretty good. Gas system is running well.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Soesbee, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

B. 2018-19 Budget Revisions

Purpose is to adjust budget amounts to reflect actual financial activity for fiscal year 2018-19. In accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-81-2, any increase in appropriation at the legal level of control of the local government whether accomplished through a change in anticipated revenues in any fund or through a transfer of appropriations among departments shall require the approval of the governing authority. Attached is a schedule of budget revisions needed in order to comply with O.C.G.A. 36-81-2. It is the recommendation of the finance committee to approve the attached budget revisions for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the 2018-19 budget revisions. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. No Report

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON

Bob Starrett, Police Chief

A. Police Report

B. Circle K at Austell Rd.

Shams Nanji has applied for a Privilege License. He will be opening a location at 5161 Austell Rd. The name of the business will be 204 Austell LLC dba Circle K #204. The background check and fingerprints have been submitted. There is nothing that would prevent Mr. Shams from obtaining a license.

Mr. Green made a motion to approve the privilege license for Circle K. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Bo Garrison, Director

A. No Report

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

A. Code Enforcement Report

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Ethics Program Resolution

Mayor Clemons stated the city adopted an Ethics Program Resolution & Ordinance in October 2015. It's a program that is overseen by the Georgia Municipal Association that has certain cities within that association that are a part of that. There are requirements & they are very stringent. I headed up this in 2015 to get us to be a part of that & we created a resolution, they ratified it at GMA through their attorneys, & it needs to be recertified every 4 years in order for us to continue to be a part of the City of Ethics Program. It is time for recertification & there have not been any revisions to the ordinance so it will remain the same.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Ethics Program Resolution recertification. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)

B. Fire Chief Position

Due to the upcoming retirement of Fire Chief Pat Maxwell, his position will be vacant as of December 31, 2019. We posted the job internally & Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Merritt was the only applicant to apply. After interviewing Brandon, he is highly qualified & trained for this position. He has been with the City for 23 years & has been the Assistant Fire Chief since June 2015. I firmly believe Chief Merritt will do a great job as the new Fire Chief & will follow in the footsteps of Chief Maxwell by leading his team in keeping the City a safe place to live & work. This position will begin as of January 1, 2020. It is my recommendation to appoint Brandon Merritt as Fire Chief.

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to appoint Brandon Merritt as Fire Chief as of January 1, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)

C. A.A.C.I.C. Request for Funds

Mayor Clemons stated every year the A.A.C.I.C. meets & discusses the disbursement of funds that we do. In the annual committee meeting, they made a motion to approve these funds within which this doesn't happen anywhere else but here in the City of Austell where we actually give to the churches, schools & needy families. The Committee this year added to that a little bit by putting a small scholarship fund to assist some high school graduates with some books & supplies.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the A.A.C.I.C. request for funds. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)

Ollie B. Clemons Jr.
Mayor

Stephell Green
Attest

JAN. 14. 2020
Date