

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins
Kirsten Anderson
Valerie Anderson
Ollie Clemons
Randy Green
Sandra Leverette
Scott Thomas

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Sandra Farmer, City Clerk; Elizabeth Young, Assistant Director, General Administration; Denise Soesbee, Finance Director; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Development Director; Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief and Bob Starrett, Police Chief.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order and Pastor Tim Ridgeway gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any items to add to the Agenda. Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated she would like to add 11B. – Sweetwater Creek Basin Flood Risk Management Study and Watershed Management Plan.

Mr. Randy Green moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve and add the item to the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

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 \$ 4,626.59
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting November 7, 2016

Ms. Valerie Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Sandra Leverette. 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. Ms. Monica Delancy stated she was a resident of unincorporated Austell. Known as Six Flags Drive area.

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Ms. Delancy stated recently we have had a name change in the area. It is now Riverside Parkway. I am here to give some updates as it pertains to some revitalization efforts in unincorporated Austell. I will also give updates of the schools and also community events. As well, as congratulations to one of your friends that is in Austell. I will start with the revitalization of the area. The only street name with Six Flags is right in front of the park and that is Six Flags Parkway. Part of Six Flags Road goes into Douglas County. There is a side street that did not even touch Six Flags Parkway and now that is called Premier Lane. There is a street located by Six Flags Amusement Park and it is called Harbor Way to show appreciation for one of their new rides. One of the apartment buildings has been torn down which was Magnolia Crossing. That location is up for rezoning. Planning and Zoning Commission will meet to discuss to change to mixed income usage. That address is 4909 Riverside Parkway. There is another property that sits off Factory Shoals and they will partner together on this project. Possibly fifty (50) acres to be rezoned for mixed income use in that area. I would like to discuss schools in the area. Riverside Elementary grades second through fifth grade has a mentoring program and are asking for volunteers from Mableton, Austell, and Powder Springs who would like to serve as mentors. They want about a hundred people. Bryant Elementary school will have their school council meeting on Wednesday at three (3:00) P.M. It is an open meeting for community stakeholders and parents. Lindley Middle School which serves seventh and eighth grades has partnered with Word of Faith Church. Word of Faith will open a school store at Lindley Middle School and this is such a great partnership because not only will they buy the supplies for the store but they are working with the students to design the school store. It is scheduled to open in January of 2017 and we are very excited about this. Clarkdale Elementary School which is located on Clay Road. Title Three Department will host family reading time on Wednesday morning December 7, 2016 where parents and children can come to Clarkdale Elementary School and take part in the reading activities. I am a Parapro at Clarkdale so I am a little prejudice. The high schools have been improving and the graduation rate has improved to 72.9%. The principal at the Pebblebrook high school is so proud because the varsity team went to the first round of playoffs this year. That has not happened in nine years. The marching band took grand champion twice in Alabama. Once in Selma, AL and once in Anniston, AL. Here in Atlanta they placed second place in the national high stepping competition. So congratulations to Pebblebrook Highschool. The community Six Flags Drive will celebrate neighborhood week next week December 11 through December 17, 2016. We will be partnering with Safe Ink & Safe Place Atl. Monday we will host a neighborhood summit and a job fair on December 12, 2016 which will take place at South Cobb Recreation Center from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. At the neighborhood summit there will be discussions about rental rites as well as residents to be engaged in the revitalization process.

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There will also be a workshop for the parents to learn about preparing their children for high school on December 14, 2016 at the South Cobb Recreation Center at 6:00 P.M. On Saturday, December 17, 2016 will be a Community treasure hunt. So that will celebrate Six Flags Drive neighborhood week and also let the residents know that Six Flags Drive is also Riverside community as well. There is a special congratulations to one of your friends of Austell. Ms. Reed is a Powder Springs resident and last night she was on Food Network. She received second place on the show. She was able to showcase her cooking talents. This is all I have for tonight. Thank you.

Ms. Ann Turner stated she would like to commend Mr. Randy Bowens department for the job he is doing or his workers are doing. They are cleaning up the areas where the catch basins are and around them as well. The water will go into the catch basin instead of the roads. Ms. Turner asked Mr. Bowens if he took care of the catch basins in Cureton Woods. Mr. Bowens stated yes, we do but not totally. It is still the contractor's responsibility to do that. We are focusing on the water drainage ditches which are not seen because of over growth and we are cleaning those out. Ms. Turner stated she noticed before it started raining the catch basins in Cureton Woods were full and had not been cleaned out. Two days later we walked down there and it was cleaned. I am really pleased in hopes I will not get flooded again.

Mr. Levi Wilson stated his name and stated he would like to give thanks to the committee and the Council and the City of Austell for helping us with the Causey Cemetery. It is very much appreciated and we thank you.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mr. Kimbrough stated he and Mr. Clemons attended the meeting as well as Ms. Anderson. We took care of the normal business and adopted the rate schedule for the next applicable billing period. This was the last meeting of the year and the next will be the end of January 2017. The gas prices are still pretty flat but with the cold weather coming in they will probably go up a little bit but not too much with the amount of storage we have all across the country. Also received a report on the year-end fiscal audit and the gas system is in very very good shape financially.

**7. FINANCE REPORT
OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON
Denise Soesbee, Director**

A. Financial Report

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**8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON
Sandy Farmer, Director**

A. 2017 Calendar & Directory

Ms. Leverette stated please contact Sandy Farmer for any corrections on the 2017 Calendar.

Ms. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of the General Administration to approve the 2017 Calendar. Seconded by Ms. Kirsten Anderson. Motion passed (6-0).

B. 2017 Health Insurance Renewal

Ms. Leverette stated Mayor Jerkins, Sandra Leverette, Sandy Farmer and Elizabeth Young met with our Broker, Chip Boyd and Amanda Cook with Heritage Corporate Benefits. They have proposed two plans for the City through United Health Care as well as prescription coverage.

The plans have changed slightly as we will offer an HMO-ZZ-8 Navigate Plan and the AM-7X POS Plan.

We have been advised the new rate will be effective January 1, 2017, and will remain in place until December 31, 2017. Please see the Premium Calculations below. The Premium for the Employees will increase slightly.

We feel this is an excellent quote from United Health Care considering our Claims Experience in the past year has been considerably higher. The increased rate will be 9.3% with United Health Care. If we proceeded to go to market it certainly would be much higher.

Ms. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of the General Administration Committee to approve the 2017 Health Insurance Renewal. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

**9. POLICE DEPARTMENT
OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON
Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

A. Police Report

B. Code Enforcement Report

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10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

**RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON
Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief**

A. Fire Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Randy Bowens, Director**

A. Adoption of the Cobb County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Ms. Anderson stated the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency require each county in the State of Georgia to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of this in-depth plan is to identify natural and human-caused disasters, to compile a detailed inventory of critical facilities, to assess potential losses, and to develop mitigation goals and objectives. The goals and objectives provide a baseline for justification of, and to meet eligibility requirements for future pre-disaster mitigation grant funding.

This plan is a result of a collaborative effort between Cobb County and its six cities. A committee, that included representatives from Cobb County and its six cities, provided leadership, support, guidance, and approvals during the preparation of the plan.

Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee requests approval of the Cobb County Hazard Mitigation Plan by resolution which has been conditionally approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, pending final adoption by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. Motion passed (6-0).

B. Sweetwater Creek Basin Flood Risk Management Study and Watershed Management Plan

Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated the purpose is to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cobb County to participate in completing and funding the Sweetwater Creek Flood Risk Management Study and Watershed Management Plan to develop flood mitigation alternatives.

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The epic flood of 2009 had a catastrophic effect on Sweetwater Creek drainage basin. Particularly impacted was the City of Austell, which is the confluence of five major streams (Sweetwater Creek, Powder Springs Creek, Noses Creek, Olley Creek, and Buttermilk Creek). In response to this event and its subsequent analysis, the United States Army Corps of Engineers proposed a project to address the issue. Cobb County was recently notified by their federal sponsor, the Mobile District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, that the Sweetwater Creek Basin Flood Risk Management Study Project has received federal funding up to \$1.5 million dollars over a three year period. The stated focus of this study effort is a flood risk assessment and mitigation, identifying both non-structural and structural opportunities. Opportunities for aquatic ecosystem restoration (floodplain acquisition) and compatible recreation may also be components of this study effort.

City Staff, including Mayor Joe Jerkins, Randy Bowens, Duane Demeritt, and Treasure Rogers met with Cobb County Stormwater Management staff and representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers on October 25, 2016. It should be emphasized that the City of Austell has a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship with Cobb County and many state and federal agencies.

The City of Austell proposes to contribute to Cobb County five percent (5%), or the sum of \$120,000.00, whichever amount is lower. Funding for this study will come from the Stormwater Management budget, 515-4320-52-1200 (Professional).

Ms. Kirsten Anderson moved to follow the recommendation to approve the Sweetwater Creek Basin Flood Risk Management Study and Watershed Management Plan. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

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

A. No Report

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**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director**

A. No Report

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA MEETING

TIME:

LOCATION:

December 13, 2016

6:30 P.M.

Hosted By City of Smyrna

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kirsten Anderson. Motion passed (6-0).