



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 03, 2025 at 7:00 PM
THREADMILL COMPLEX
MINUTES

Present: Mayor, Council, City Attorney, & Directors

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pastor Malcolm Lewis - Beacon of Light Church
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Add Items to Agenda

Deputy Chief Harrell & Quintasha Swanson came forward to present Chief Hamilton a plaque and wish him congratulations on his future endeavors.

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
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting

Motion to approve made by Anderson, Seconded by Myrick
 Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Lance Lamberton - concerned about property taxes increasing and a city manager.

Sally Riddle - Member of the Austell Police Foundation

Ann Turner - concerned about the status of City Hall, where are the answers to previous questions from meetings, sand on Legion Field, PD business line went to Cobb PD, & 2 officers on the city website, are they still employed?

Natasha Dyer - concerned about leaf & limb charge & trash.

Scott Gresham - 3 properties need to be cleaned up. Mayor Clemons told Mr. Gresham to make sure Bo Garrison with Public Works has the addresses.

Tim Adams - concerned about his gas bill being higher, city employee raises, & City Hall status. Mayor Clemons stated we are waiting on 1 more piece of information on City Hall & then it can be discussed.

Derek Caffé - concerned about the city not generating enough revenue.

Johnathan Foster - concerned about taxes.

Henry Sterling - participated in the citizen's academy through the PD & had a wonderful experience.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
Ollie Clemons

Mr. Kimbrough stated we have had a good month from the severe cold weather.

7. FINANCE REPORT
Valerie Anderson, Chairperson
Rachel Yarbrough, Interim Director

A. Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Myrick stated that we need an independent audit for double payments & to have a clean slate for Rachel Yarbrough as she is the new interim finance director.

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
Devon Myrick, Chairperson
Elizabeth Young, Director

A. Contract for Conduct - 2025 Elections

Attached is the Contract for Conduct for the 2025 Elections.

Motion to approve made by Myrick, Seconded by Leverette
 Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sandra Leverette, Chairperson
Scott Hamilton, Police Chief

A. Stats - Chief Hamilton & Deputy Chief Harrell presented a PowerPoint of the Police Departments stats.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meredith Adams, Chairperson
Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

- A. Monthly Fire Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Marlin Lamar, Chairperson
Bo Garrison, Director

- A. Vehicle - Fleet

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the purchase of a vehicle to add to the fleet department. The total is \$43,617.00.

(1) One - 2025 GMC Canyon 4WD Crew Cab Pickup

GM Hardy Chevrolet \$43,575.40 12-week waiting period

John Thornton \$43,617.00 Immediate availability

Carl Black Kennesaw \$53,505.84 12-week waiting period

GM Hardy Chevrolet has the lowest quote, but it has a 12-week waiting period and John Thornton has the vehicle for immediate delivery and the difference between both quotes is \$41.60. The funds will come from 2016 SPLOST account number 335-4200-54-2500.

Motion to approve made by Lamar, Seconded by Myrick
 Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

Devon Myrick, Chairperson
Darrell Weaver, Director

- A. Jefferson Street Park (Information Only)

Parks Staff along with Building Maintenance, and Public Works are ready to begin the first phase of the Jefferson Street redevelopment plan. With the help of award-winning Architect Ron Huffman, the new park will transform the old parking lot into a multi-use space for our residents and visitors. This space will bring an inviting element to our downtown area and allow everyone to enjoy a beautiful gathering space that can be used for small events such as seasonal markets, music and entertainment. In addition, the city-owned gravel lot on Love St. will be paved for overflow parking, while consolidating the commercial trash dumpsters into a cleaner more attractive trash compactor. The project will be funded through CDBG, SPLOST, and Grants. Our goal is to have this project completed by the fall (November 2025).

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Melanie Elder, Chairperson
Darrell, Weaver, Director

- A. Code Enforcement February 2025 Monthly Report

B. Consideration to lift the moratorium for convenience stores and/or gas stations.

In February 2023, a moratorium was enacted regarding any new convenience stores and/or gas stations while staff worked on an ordinance update addressing how future proposals would be developed. Last month those ordinance changes were adopted by the Mayor and Council. Staff is now recommending lifting the moratorium at this time.

Motion to approve made by Elder, Seconded by Myrick
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

C. Privilege License Renewal

2954 Citgo Austell, LLC - Nilesh Khetia - 2954 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Austell, GA 30168

Motion to approve made by Elder, Seconded by Lamar
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

D. Program Year 2025 CDBG Subrecipient Agreement

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department that the Mayor and Council approve the acceptance of the Program Year 2025 CDBG Cobb County Subrecipient Agreement.

The 2025 CDBG funds in the amount of \$28,548.00 will be used for continued park improvements.

Motion to approve made by Elder, Seconded by Myrick
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

14. HUMAN RESOURCES
Melanie Elder, Chairperson
Michelle Page, Director

A. Stats

15. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

16. MAYOR’S REPORT

A. Mayor Clemons stated that Rachel Yarbrough will be our Interim Finance Director & Shameta Harrell will be our Interim Police Chief.

17. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Myrick, Seconded by Leverette
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

Mayor

Ollie Clemens Jr.

Attest

Elizabeth Young

Date

4.14.2025