



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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Absent: Marlin Lamar, Valerie Anderson & Scott Kimbrough

Present: Mayor, Council, & Directors

- A. Invocation - Pastor John Bailey - Gospel Nation Christian Fellowship Church
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Add Items to Agenda

Mayor Clemons stated the council & finance director, Denise Lowe, need to go into executive session for potential litigation. Myrick made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Leverette, 4-0. No motions were made & no votes were taken. Myrick made a motion to go resume council meeting. Seconded by Leverette, 4-0.

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
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting

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

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Ann Turner - how long will the leaf & limb charge be in effect? Mayor Clemons stated the Public Works & Finance are giving study to this & model other agencies.

Claudette Parker - if a senior citizen does not have city water, will they be charged water & sewer on the tax bill? Who do we call when there is a loud boom, Austell PD or Cobb?

Tim Adams - Does the council see exit surveys?

Joyce Simmons - shared PD Community Engagement Events & gave recognition to the PD.

Derek Caffé - He feels we have not focused on new development into the city & we need tax revenue to support this.

Ryan Daniel - there are 2 street lights on Peco Lane and there needs to be a light at the entrance also.

Erica Davis - What is included in the leaf & limb pick up? Why can a fee not be charged for pick up only instead of monthly.

Steve Oles - concerned about the leaf & limb charge, feels it shouldn't be charged unless items are put out.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
Ollie Clemons

Mayor Clemons stated the gas costs & rates are up. January 2025 was the coldest month in the last 10 years.

7. FINANCE REPORT
Valerie Anderson, Chairperson
Denise Lowe, Director

A. Monthly Financial Report

B. Presentation of 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report-Information Only

The purpose is to discuss impacts regarding changes to property tax assessments and exemptions. An determine which options would be best for the City of Austell, to “opt-in” or “opt-out”.

Legislature entered 2024 session concerned about rising property value assessments and it’s impact on its residents. It was signed in to law April 18, 2024. The three major components are: 1) Statewide Floating Exemption 2) New Local Option Sales Tax 3) Property Tax Procedural Changes.

The two options the city has would be the following:

Option 1 – “Opting-In”

Option 2 – “Opting-Out”

Vote on either Opting In or Opting Out to determine the next steps.

Motion to Opt-In and approve made by Myrick, Seconded by Adams
Voting Yea: Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder

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

A. No Report

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

A. STATS

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT
Meredith Adams, Chairperson
Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Monthly Run Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Marlin Lamar, Chairperson
Bo Garrison, Director

A. No Report

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT
Devon Myrick, Chairperson
Darrell Weaver, Director

A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Melanie Elder, Chairperson
Darrell, Weaver, Director

A. January 2025 Code Enforcement Report

B. Public Hearing: 2024-08R request by Watts & Browning Engineers, Inc (Daryl Cook) to rezone approximately 0.03786 acres located along Ravencliff Drive from FST (Fee Simple Townhomes) to PUD (Planned Unit Development).

Mayor Clemons opened the public hearing and swore in Clint Ellenberg with Smith Douglas Homes. Mr. Ellenberg stated there was an overlapped zoning years back and this is cleaning that up per the Community Affairs Department. No one spoke in opposition.

Motion to close the Public Hearing made by Elder, Seconded by Myrick
Voting Yea: Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder

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

C. Public Hearing: 2024-07R request by Highland Rivers CSB to rezone approximately 2.9 acres located at 6133 Love Street from Government Land to O&I (Office & Institutional).

Mayor Clemons opened the Public Hearing & swore in the people who asked to speak. Melanie Dallas, CEO of Highland River Behavioral Health Systems. Ms. Dallas spoke on the purpose of the Mothers Making a Change Program.

Motion to close the Public Hearing made by Elder, Seconded by Myrick
Voting Yea: Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder

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

D. Privilege License Renewals

Maxham BP, Inc.
30168

141 Maxham Rd, Austell GA

(Shahzad Kanani)

El Galaxy Sports Bar & Grill
Austell GA 30106

5055 Austell Rd, Ste. 175,

(Enrique Sanchez Limas)

Johnny's Liquor Store, Inc.
30168

5770 Harris St, Austell GA

(Aziz Farista)

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

E. Zoning Amendment for Convenience Stores and/or Gas Stations

Mayor Clemons opened the public hearing. No one came to speak for or against.

Motion to close the Public Hearing made by Elder, Seconded by Myrick
Voting Yea: Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder

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

F. 5846 Love Street City Property Sale

This memo serves as authorization for the Community Affairs Department to proceed with the advertisement and sale of the property located at 5846 Love St. (formerly Gents and Lads Barbershop) in compliance with all state procedures and regulations.

We believe that engaging private investment will contribute significantly to the ongoing revitalization efforts in Historic Downtown Austell and ensures that the City of Austell continues to work towards the vision of the adopted Austell (LCI) Livable Centers Initiative Plan.

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

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

A. Stats

15. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

16. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. No Report

CMA Meeting

Cobb Chamber on 2/11/2025 at 6:30 PM

17. ADJOURN

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

Mayor

Willie Clemons

Attest

E. Elizabeth Young

Date

3.11.2025