



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 05, 2025 at 7:00 PM

THREADMILL COMPLEX

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation - Pastor John Bailey - Gospel Nation Christian Fellowship Church

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Session for Litigation. No motions were made & no votes were taken.

Motion to close made by Myrick, Seconded by Anderson

Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

C. Add Items to Agenda

Item 7B - Certification for Estimated Roll Back Rate

Item 7C - Cobb County SDS

Motion made by Myrick, Seconded by Adams.

Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

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 Leverette

Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Noah Givens - concerned that the Police Department did not keep personal property in the jail so the inmates have access to it when they are released. Mayor Clemons stated that Mr. Givens should speak with the Police Department regarding this issue.

Ann Turner - What is the status of City Hall? Where can we take cardboard? Is the container still on Jefferson Street? Where and when will the questions be on the city website? Mayor Clemons stated that the questions have been posted on the city website.

Quincey Duggar - President of the HOA in his neighborhood - stated that some sidewalks had not been installed, a stop sign is leaning over, and Stovall Road still floods. Mayor Clemons stated that Mr. Duggar should speak with our Public Department regarding these issues.

Sarah Parker - Is there any chance of getting 911 back? Mayor Clemons stated it had been discussed in the years past to transition 911 to Cobb County but had not happened yet. He stated that he had tasked the former Chief Hamilton & Deputy Chief Harrell to get 911 moved to Cobb.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

Ollie Clemons

Attorney Kimbrough stated we are still ahead of 2024 as of right now.

7. FINANCE REPORT

Valerie Anderson, Chairperson

Rachel Yarbrough, Interim Director

A. Financial Report

B. Certification of Estimated Roll Back Rate

As a result of the new law created by HB 581, which was revised by HB 92, local governments must certify an estimated roll-back rate and provide that rate to the county board of assessors and tax commissioner. The City of Austell estimates the roll-back rate to be 3.25 mills.

It is the recommendation of the Finance Department to approve the certification of the estimated roll-back rate of 3.25 mills and submit it to the Cobb County Board of Assessors and Cobb County Tax Commissioner.

Motion to approve made by Anderson, Seconded by Leverette

Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

C. Cobb County SDS

Attorney Kimbrough stated we are having to revisit the Cobb County Service Delivery Strategy due to the City of Mableton having to come to an agreement with Cobb County. We need a motion to give Mayor Clemons the authority to sign any documents regarding the Cobb County SDS.

Motion to approve made by Anderson, Seconded by Myrick

Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Devon Myrick, Chairperson

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. No Report

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sandra Leverette, Chairperson

Shameta Jones-Harrell, Interim Police Chief

A. STATS

B. Introduction of New Hires

Interim Chief Harrell would like to introduce the following individuals who have been recently hired by the Austell Police Department:

- 1) Sergeant Elliott Garnes
- 2) Officer Derrick Stubbs
- 3) Officer Edward Reeves
- 4) Officer Bruce Mitchell
- 5) Officer James Hayden

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meredith Adams, Chairperson

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. March Monthly Run Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Marlin Lamar, Chairperson

Bo Garrison, Director

A. 2025 Wholesale Waste Water Rate Admustment

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Department to accept and approve the 2025 Wholesale Wastewater Rate Adjustment.

In March 2025, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved an adjustment to Cobb County Water System's contractual wastewater rates. Effective May 1, 2025, our governmental contractual wastewater rates will increase from \$5.23 to \$5.41 per 1,000 gallons (a 3.44% or \$0.18 increase). The city is requesting an additional 2% or \$0.10 increase for sewer utility infrastructure improvements and repairs to address the city's aging sewer pipes.

In addition, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners also approved an annual 3.5% increase in governmental contractual wastewater rates for 2026 through 2029 to go into effect January 1st of each of those years. The purpose of the rate adjustments is to fund wastewater infrastructure replacement, upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities, and to cover the increase in operating costs such as chemical purchases and biosolid disposal.

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. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Melanie Elder, Chairperson
Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Code Enforcement April 2025 Monthly Report

B. Public Hearing: 2025-01R request by Gray McWhirter to rezone approximately 1.5 acres located at 5528 & 5546 June Dr from GC (General Commercial) to LI (Light Industrial).

Application 2025-01R: by Gray McWhirter to rezone approximately 1.5 acres located at 5528 & 5546 June Drive from GC (General Commercial) to LI (Light Industrial). Staff recommends approval of the request with the conditions in the staff report. The full staff report and supporting documents are attached.

Attorney Kimbrough opened the public hearing. No one spoke in opposition.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Elder, Seconded by Myrick
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

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

C. City Hall Structural Analysis Update

This is a summary of inspections by the Austell Building Inspector and Fire Marshall. The main concerns of the building and some uncurable are the following:

- ADA standards (handicap accessibility) throughout both buildings are completely out of code. The public entrances, restrooms, and hallways are out of compliance along with employee work areas. There are missing handrails on stairs and the absence of ramps where needed.
- The electrical service throughout both buildings is not code compliant. There are low voltage and high voltage wires running together, wiring not properly fastened, insulation on top of wiring and lights, open junction boxes with exposed wiring etc....
- There are fire code compliances such as emergency egress violations, emergency exit signs, and other life safety concerns.
- The HVAC systems and ductwork throughout both buildings were also found to be non-compliant. Clogged ductwork, undersized natural gas services to appliances, electrical services to appliances and appliance venting are all concerns.
- There are some structural concerns presented as well. The roof has many defects and areas that need constant attention to keep it from leaking due to poor design. There are areas where the buildings were modified in the past that present some real concern. There are areas where the slab leaks also after heavy rain.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES

Melanie Elder, Chairperson

Michelle Page, Director

A. April Workforce Stats

15. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

16. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. No Report

17. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Myrick, Seconded by Adams

Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

Mayor

Delli Clemente, Jr.

Attest

Elizabeth Young

Date

6.3.2025