



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2024 at 7:00 PM

THREADMILL COMPLEX

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation - Pastor Dorcas Rodriguez - Austell First United Methodist Church
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Add Items to Agenda - Item 9D - Replacement K9 Donation

Motion to add agenda item 9D made by Leverette, Seconded by Myrick
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 Anderson, Seconded by Myrick
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Myrick, Adams, Elder, Lamar

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Claudette Parker – How can we take money out of reserve funds without a policy? Leaf & limb pickup how will this be billed? Mrs. Lowe stated that it only applies to the citizens who live inside the city limits.

Ann Turner – Leaf and limb pickup concerns, how many water bills were sent out? Mrs. Lowe stated 3,496. Has the money proposed to be raised from the leaf and limbs, will it be put into the general fund? If exit interviews are conducted, what is being done to prevent it or being used, preferably to the PD?

Gentleman spoke about the Million Man March.

Derek Caffè—Focus on the LCI study and downtown growth. If we keep things the way they are, we are setting ourselves up for disaster. Citizens can also be developers within the city.

Pastor Malcolm Lewis – We have a significant issue with unity. We all must be better together. They want to organize a unity community prayer walk on Saturday before the election. All the community is invited to pull people together. Pastor Lewis read 2 Chronicles chapter 7 verse 14. Put GOD first.

Tim Adams – Proud of all the council and directors being here. City manager would be a fantastic addition, they could make the tough decisions. Christmas party – if it is being cancelled then the citizens need to step up and have the employees a Christmas party.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

Ollie Clemons

Attorney Kimbrough stated August 2024 had a slight increase from this time last year.

7. FINANCE REPORT

Valerie Anderson, Chairperson

Denise Lowe, Director

A. Monthly Financial Report

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Devon Myrick, Chairperson

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. Court Fines/Fees Increase

After completing a fines & fees comparison study between the surrounding cities, we have determined that our fines & fees are drastically lower than others. We recommend increasing our fines and fees to reflect this change (see attached).

Motion made by Myrick, Seconded by Adams

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

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sandra Leverette, Chairperson

Scott Hamilton, Police Chief

A. Cover Page

B. Stats

C. K-9 Onyx Retirement

After 4 years of distinguished service to the City of Austell, Chief Hamilton is requesting the retirement of K-9 Onyx.

Veterinarians at Lake City Veterinarian Hospital have discovered that K-9 Onyx is suffering from arthritis in both of his hips. Furthermore, the arthritis is spreading from K-9 Onyx's hips to his back. As the arthritis continues to spread, K-9 Onyx will experience diminished physical capabilities to perform his duties.

Chief Hamilton is requesting K9 Onyx to remain in the possession of his handler, K-9 Sergeant Alex Hays.

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

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meredith Adams, Chairperson

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Monthly Run Report

Chief Merritt reviewed the department's organizational chart, and the list of employees Mrs. Leverette requested.

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Marlin Lamar, Chairperson

Bo Garrison, Director

A. Final Presentation of City Agriculture Plan (Information Only)

Food Well Alliance, Inc., in conjunction with the Atlanta Regional Commission, will be awarding the Community Affairs and Public Works Department a \$75,000 City Agriculture Grant. The funds are instrumental in aiding the City with its community garden program and the beautification of selected areas throughout the city.

As a part of our commitment to transparency and collaboration to the Council, Mayor, and residents of Austell, on Wednesday, October 28, 2024, Food Well Alliance will present the city with a presentation of the proposed City Agriculture Plan. This plan provides a roadmap for the community and city to achieve its vision of creating a vibrant and sustainable community food system over the next 5-10 years and aids the city in developing strategies for spending of the grant funds.

We look forward to keeping the city officials and residents informed about the progress and outcomes of the City Agriculture Program.

B. Fee Structure Presentation

These increases are in response to the providers' increases, i.e. Cobb County -Marietta Water Authority and Waste Pro Services. New fees were discussed to mitigate the 2024-2025 shortfall. It is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to adopt the following fee increases. These changes will become effective January 1, 2025.

The city proposes a 6 percent increase for water. The city's rates are based on the required Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plans three-tiered rate structure. The purpose of this structure is to encourage water conservation. See the attached PowerPoint presentation.

The city proposes a 3.5 percent increase for solid waste removal. With rising urbanization, rapid industrialization, and ever-increasing consumption, the global scale for the disposal of solid waste is steadily increasing. See the attached PowerPoint presentation.

The Public Works Department proposes \$15.00 for the removal of leaves, limbs, yard waste, and household bulk trash. It is also a recommendation to move the bi-annual clean-up months from April and October to February and November. Charging these specific services would help to balance the city's budget, allow the department to allocate resources effectively, while ensuring that waste management is sustainable and efficient.

Please see the proposed fee structure changes PowerPoint presentation attached.

Motion to approve.

After discussion among the mayor and council, it was decided to table this item.

Motion to table made by Lamar, Seconded by Adams

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. September 2024 Code Report

B. 5754 Harrison Ave SLUP request by Rollings Funeral Service to continue operations as a crematory facility. The property is currently zoned Light Industrial.

Application 2024-09 SLUP: Special Land Use Permit request by Rollings Funeral Service, LLC to allow for continued use of a crematory located at 5754 Harrison Ave. The property is currently zoned LI, Light Industrial.

Attorney Kimbrough opened the public hearing and asked who was here to speak on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Joey Taylor came forward and Attorney Kimbrough swore him in. Mr. Taylor stated the application is to continue use of the crematory.

No one spoke in opposition.

Ms. Elder made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed.
6-0

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

- C. 5756B Harrison Ave SLUP request by Rollings Funeral Service to continue operations as a crematory facility. The property is currently zoned Light Industrial.

Application 2024-10 SLUP: Special Land Use Permit request by Rollings Funeral Service, LLC to allow for continued use of a crematory located at 5756B Harrison Ave. The property is currently zoned LI, Light Industrial.

Attorney Kimbrough opened the public hearing and asked who was here to speak on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Joey Taylor came forward and Attorney Kimbrough swore him in. Mr. Taylor stated the application is to continue use of the crematory.

No one spoke in opposition.

Mr. Myrick made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. 6-0

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

- D. 5027 Austell Road SLUP request by UAK Parking, LLC to operate a vehicle storage lot. The property is currently zoned Planned Shopping Center.

Application 2024-11 SLUP: Special Land Use Permit request by UAK Parking, LLC to allow for truck and vehicle storage located 5027 Austell Road. The property is currently zoned PSC, Planned Shopping Center.

Attorney Kimbrough opened the public hearing and asked who was here to speak on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Trish Mardis came forward and Attorney Kimbrough swore her in. Ms. Mardis stated they want to use this as an RV storage facility instead of a truck and vehicle storage and they will be replanting the buffer. After several questions were asked by the council, Attorney Kimbrough asked Ms. Mardis if she would like to withdraw the application. Ms. Mardis stated she would like to voluntarily withdraw the application.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES

Melanie Elder, Chairperson

Michelle Page, Director

A. No Report

15. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

16. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. No Report

17. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Myrick, Seconded by Leverette.

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

Mayor

Dellie Clamon, Jr.

Attest

E. Elizabeth Young

Date

12-9-2024