

**MINUTES OF MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Derek Easterling
Councilmember Tracey Viars
Councilmember Chris Henderson
Councilmember David Blinkhorn
City Manager Jeff Drobney
City Clerk Lea Addington
Deputy City Clerk James Friedrich
City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr.

Zoom Meeting:
Mayor Pro Tem Pat Ferris
Councilmember James Eaton

Pursuant to Governor Kemp’s Executive Order Number 03.14.20.01 declaring a Public Health State of Emergency and in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-1, this meeting was only conducted via the use of Zoom Meeting and Facebook Live as the real-time telephonic technologies allowing the public simultaneous access to the public meeting.

The public had access to the Facebook Live via the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>

I. INVOCATION

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. led the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members from the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CALL TO ORDER

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Pursuant to Governor Kemp’s Executive Order Number 03.14.20.01 declaring a Public Health State of Emergency and in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-1 et seq., as may be amended or extended, this public meeting is only being conducted via the use of real-time telephonic technologies allowing the public simultaneous access to the public meeting.

Mayor and Council will be conducting their meeting through Zoom Meeting and Facebook Live and you can access the meeting via the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>

- B. If you would like to provide public comment on a specific agenda item, you can email kennesawcouncil@kennesaw-ga.gov no later than 6:00 PM the night of the regular meeting. Your comments on a specific agenda item will be read aloud or grouped into categories for the record.

[The City Attorney swore-in Assistant City Manager, Marty Hughes, to read public comments emailed to kennesawcouncil@kennesaw-ga.gov throughout the meeting].

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation of a Proclamation declaring September 7 – September 11, 2020 as National Payroll Week in the City of Kennesaw and to recognize our own Payroll Administrator Leean Keanum.

Mayor Easterling presented Finance Director Gina Auld with the Proclamation declaring September 7 – September 11, 2020 as National Payroll Week in the City of Kennesaw. Ms. Auld accepted the Proclamation on behalf of our own Payroll Administrator, Leean Keanum, and received a round of applause from Mayor and Council, staff, and the public. Thank you, Leean!

- B. Presentation of a Proclamation declaring September 17 - September 23, 2020 as Constitution Week. The Proclamation will be presented to members of the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mayor Easterling presented members from the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution with a Proclamation declaring September 17 - September 23, 2020 as Constitution Week. The members received a round of applause from the Mayor and Council, staff, and the public.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

6:39 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:40 PM Floor Closed to Public Comments

VII. OLD BUSINESS

No items.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No items.

IX. COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

No items.

[Roll call votes were taken for each item by post. Each councilmember announced his or her vote with a verbal “yay” or “nay”].

X. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

[Finance Director Gina Auld presented items X-A&B concurrently].

- A. **FIRST PUBLIC HEARING:** Consideration for approval of RESOLUTION to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget for the City of Kennesaw and adopt the organizational chart. In accordance with Section 4.02 and 4.03 of the City Charter and Section 2-144 of the City Code of Ordinances, this budget is hereby submitted for approval. The budget meets all of the filing requirements as well as public hearing requirements as required by the Charter and Code. The updated organization charts are attached. The first advertisement in the Marietta Daily Journal was on August 28, 2020 and the second and third advertisements will be September 4, 2020 and September 11, 2020, respectively. The budget meets the balanced budget requirements as set forth by the City, State and other regulatory agencies. Final adoption is scheduled for the September 21, 2020 at the regularly scheduled meeting. Finance Director recommends approval.

Finance Director Gina Auld presented the first public hearing to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget for the City of Kennesaw, the organizational chart, and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Improvement and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Budget for the City of Kennesaw. Ms. Auld shared a PowerPoint giving a brief overview of the budget. Personnel recommendations included one new full-time position, four new part-time positions, the unfreezing of two positions, the freezing of one position and the Tax Clerk in the Finance Department will be converted from part-time to full-time among other reclassifications. Revenues, expenditures, as well as capital expenditures were broken down and explained. The total remaining SPLOST dollars to be spent is \$28,400,000. The budget meets all of the filing requirements and public hearing requirements as required by the Charter and Code. The budget meets the balanced budget requirements as set forth by the City, State and other regulatory agencies.

6:52 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

No comment.

6:53 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

- B. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration for approval of RESOLUTION to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Improvement and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Budget for the City of Kennesaw. In accordance with Section 4.06 of the City Charter and Section 2-144 of the City Code of Ordinances, this budget is hereby submitted for approval. This budget meets all of the filing requirements as well as public hearing requirements as required by the Charter and Code. The first advertisement in the Marietta Daily Journal was on August 28, 2020 and the second and third advertisements will be September 4, 2020 and September 11, 2020, respectively. The budget meets the balanced budget requirements as set forth by the City, State, and other regulatory agencies. Final adoption is scheduled for September 21, 2020 at the regularly scheduled meeting. Finance Director recommends approval.

See comments under agenda item X-A.

6:54 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

No comment.

6:55 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the August 10, 2020 Mayor and Council work session and executive session minutes.
- B. Approval of the August 10, 2020 and August 17, 2020 Mayor and Council special call meeting.
- C. Approval of the August 17, 2020 Mayor and Council regular meeting minutes.
- D. Receipt of the MetroAtlanta January – July 2020 activity reports.

Motion by Councilmember Blinkhorn to approve the Consent Agenda engross, seconded by Councilmember Henderson.

Roll Call vote taken:

Post 1, James Eaton -- Yay
Post 2, Tracey Viars -- Yay

Post 3, Pat Ferris -- Yay
Post 4, Chris Henderson -- Yay
Post 5, David Blinkhorn -- Yay

Motion approved unanimously, 5-0. Motion carried.

XII. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
GINA AULD, Finance Director

- A. Approval of **RESOLUTION 2020-32, 2020** authorizing the opening of a new bank account for the CARES Act Grant Funding. Finance Department desires to open a bank account for the CARES Act Grant Funding and transmit documents to the bank for the new signature card. Finance Director recommends approval.

Finance Director Gina Auld presented the resolution authorizing the opening of a new bank account for the CARES Act Grant Funding. Ms. Auld informed Mayor and Council the City has received \$894,000.00 from Cobb County and encouraged opening this new bank account to keep the Grant Funding separate from other City funds.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the resolution authorizing the opening of a new bank account for the CARES Act Grant Funding, seconded by Councilmember Henderson.

Roll Call vote taken:

Post 1, James Eaton -- Yay
Post 2, Tracey Viars -- Yay
Post 3, Pat Ferris -- Yay
Post 4, Chris Henderson -- Yay
Post 5, David Blinkhorn -- Yay

Motion approved unanimously, 5-0. Motion carried.

XIII. PUBLIC SAFETY
BILL WESTENBERGER, Police Chief
LINDA DAVIS, 911 Communications Director

No items.

XIV. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RICK ARNOLD, Co-Director
JOSHUA GUERRERO, Co-Director

No items.

XV. PUBLIC WORKS

RICKY STEWART, Director
ROBBIE BALENGER, Building & Facilities Manager

No items.

XVI. RECREATION AND CULTURE

RICHARD BANZ, Museum and Agency Director
STEVE ROBERTS, Parks and Recreation Director
ANN PARSONS, Smith-Gilbert Gardens Director

No items.

XVII. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT FOX, Economic Development Director
DARRYL SIMMONS, Zoning Administrator
SCOTT BANKS, Building Official

No items.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

6:56 PM Floor Open for Public Comments

ANN PRATT [City resident]: Ms. Pratt wants to know why the developer is not maintaining the development on Cherokee Street. Ms. Pratt stated the property has trash lying about and the grass is too high. Ms. Pratt encouraged the developer to clean up the property because she believes it is not the City's responsibility to do so.

6:58 PM Floor Closed for Public Comments

XIX. CITY MANAGERS REPORT – Jeff Drobney

- A. City Manager reports, discussions and updates.
- B. Ratify City Manager's appointment of Luke Howe as the new Director for Economic Development.

City Manager Jeff Drobney introduced the incoming Economic Development Director Luke Howe and is pleased to have him working for the City. Mr. Howe has spent many years in the Economic Development field, not only in the State, but also in the Metro Atlanta area.

Motion by Councilmember Henderson to Ratify the City Manager's appointment of Luke Howe as the new Director for Economic Development, seconded by Councilmember Viars.

Roll Call vote taken:

Post 1, James Eaton -- Yay
Post 2, Tracey Viars -- Yay
Post 3, Pat Ferris -- Yay
Post 4, Chris Henderson -- Yay
Post 5, David Blinkhorn -- Yay

Motion approved unanimously, 5-0. Motion carried.

Incoming Economic Development Director Luke Howe thanked Mayor and Council and is looking forward to working here. Welcome to the City of Kennesaw, Mr. Howe!

XX. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committees, Authority or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve committees, as deemed necessary.

XXI. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Blinkhorn patronized local restaurants this past weekend, which were practicing proper COVID-19 guidelines, and is eagerly awaiting the arrival of Fall weather and football!

Councilmember Henderson walked the new Recreation Center and was pleased to find out how much money the City is saving through the engineer services who provide better, more affordable products.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferris welcomed Mr. Howe to the City and is enjoying the beginnings of what seems to feel like Fall weather.

Councilmember Viars brought attention to the upcoming Scarecrows on Main event. She reminded the public that the application deadline is September 21st and the event will run from September 30th through October 5th.

Councilmember Eaton was making deliveries for one of Kennesaw's new businesses, "Eatin' Fresh," and stopped by Mayor Easterling's house. Councilmember Eaton commended Mayor Easterling for the effort he is putting into fixing his front façade, porch, and entryway.

Mayor Easterling was excited about the news of bringing Cobb County students back into the classrooms. He asked our community to lift each other in prayer and to be kind to one another.

XXII. EXECUTIVE SESSION –Land, Legal, Personnel

- A. Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

No items.

XXIII. ADJOURN

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:07 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

James Friedrich, Deputy City Clerk