

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
JUNE 4, 2012**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins
Kirsten Anderson
Trudie Causey
Virginia Reagan
Scott Thomas
Suzanne Thomas

Absent: M. Standard

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Carolyn Duncan, City Clerk; Sandra Farmer; Deputy City Clerk; General Administration Department; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community affairs Director; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; Tim Williams, Fire Chief.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob Neal gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jerkins asked the Council if anyone had any items to add to the Agenda. Mr. Thomas stated he would like to add 12C. Disc Golf (Information Only).

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Items added. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$1,316.00
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Minutes May 7, 2012

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jerkins stated he would like to introduce someone who has been a great person in Cobb County and whom I have known for a long time. Mr. Vic Reynolds, he is running in the election for D.A. for Cobb County. I wanted everyone to meet him and he may have a few words to say to you.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 2**

Mr. Reynolds thanked the Mayor and Council and the audience. Mr. Reynolds introduced himself and stated he was running for District Attorney in Cobb County this year. The current D.A. Mr. Pat Head is retiring and I have been blessed to receive his endorsement and the endorsement of the Fraternal Order of the Police and I am a former Policeman myself. I am a former prosecutor and a former Judge and been in practice for twelve (12) years. I would be very honored for your support and your prayers and your vote on July 31, 2012. Mr. Reynolds thanked the Mayor and Council and the audience.

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone would like to speak to the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Ann Turner introduced herself and stated she lived at 5415 Austell-Powder Springs Road. I have a couple of simple questions. If a citizen purchased a couple of video cameras for surveillance to go in the gazebo or on the gazebo at Legion Park to focus on the river birches that are being stripped of their bark. Would that citizen also be required to put the cameras in place? Mayor Jerkins stated I guess we could put them up or get someone to put them up. I don't see that it would be a problem getting them up.

Mayor Jerkins stated to everyone if you are here to speak about taxes we will have a public hearing a little later and you can speak then. Mr. Lamberton asked when the Public Hearing would be. Mayor Jerkins stated in a few minutes. Mayor Jerkins asked again, if anyone would like to speak with Council. No one did.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mayor Jerkins stated Mr. Kimbrough attended the meeting. Mr. Kimbrough stated we handled the normal business at the meeting and adopted the gas rate schedule applicable to this billing period. We also need to address the reappointment of two board members Ann Collins and A.D. Wilder to serve again for a two year term.

- A. Reappointment of AGS Board Members – Ann Collins
A.D. Wilder

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation to reappoint Ann Collins and A.D. Wilder for a two year term to serve on the Austell Gas System Board. Seconded by Ms. Causey. Motion passed (5-0).

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 3**

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT
VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON
Denise Soesbee, Director**

- A. Financial Report
- B. 2012-13 Final Budget – Public Hearing

Mr. Kimbrough stated at this time he would like to call for a Public Hearing for the second 2nd and final reading of the 2012 -2013 Final Budget. This was presented to everyone at the last pre-agenda meeting. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone would like to speak on behalf of the City or if anyone would like to speak on behalf of the final budget for 2012 – 2013 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Lance Lamberton stated his name and Mr. Kimbrough swore in Mr. Lamberton. Mr. Lamberton stated he and his wife have lived in the City of Austell and property tax payers for eleven years. I am here before you tonight to express my opposition to the twenty-eight percent (28%) mileage rate increase that is being considered now. We are in a down economy as we all know and a lot of us are very hard pressed to make ends meet. We feel this is the wrong time to impose a tax increase at this time. Over the past year and half the Cobb County SPLOST has been reinstated for another four years. The County mileage rate was increased back in July and now we are facing a possibility of a transportation tax or SPLOST which would increase our sales tax about seventeen percent (17%) in a referendum going before the voters on July 31, 2012. We have been faced over the last year and half with a series of tax increases and this would be another tax increase on top of those. The Economists tell us the worst thing you could do during a down economy is to raise the taxes. If you want to stimulate growth and spur economic development what you want to do in the very least is reduce taxes and certainly not increase taxes. Instead of taking the political expediency in the course of raising our taxes I would ask the Council to vote instead to reduce spending. To do what the rest of us have to do when our household budget is being constrained. When money is tight and we have to make adjustments and we just can't ask for more money and expect people to give it to us. There are a few ways I think this could be done. Establish a citizen's oversight committee following lead of the County. I think it would have been better if we would have considered doing something like this when we saw the budget shortfall was coming. But, it still isn't too late to do that. Another thing you could do is review the recommendations and the findings of the book I would like to donate to the City if you are interested. It's called Cutting Back City Hall.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 4**

It has a lot of standing suggestions and ideas on how to streamline government and make it more efficient without cutting vital services. It's really a good book and if you are interested I will gladly donate my copy to you. According to the newspaper reports the only reduction I have heard is the Halloween Festival. I don't really see there is a committee on the part of the Council from what I have read in the newspaper reports that there is really looking at the spending side of the ledger. With all due respect the Halloween Festival is a nice event but I would not consider it one of the vital roles of City Government. Instead of moaning the loss of revenues that came from the franchise fees from Austell Gas System due to a warm winter this tax increase would to some extent cancel out the welcome relief that we enjoyed with the lower rates that we all are enjoying with our citizens, enough to make me pray for colder weather. The bottom line is that the City exists to serve the tax payer with services that cannot easily be provided by the private sector. We do not exist to serve the City as a convenient cash cow where our taxes automatically go up just to maintain current levels of spending when times are tough. Therefore, I respectfully request that you vote down this tax increase and thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my opinion on this important issue.

Mayor Jerkins asked if someone else would like to speak to the Council.

Ms. Ann Turner stated she would like to speak. Mr. Kimbrough swore in Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner stated she had lived in the City since 1995. I moved here because the City was well run. I came from a City of about 16,000 people which in Georgia is small and in New Hampshire is one of the largest cities in the state. We have only twelve cities in the state. I don't believe my taxes are out of line. The County has reduced my property value by thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in three years. Granted the flood had something to do with it and granted I was not the only one hit. The City was hit hard, I know because I was part of it so I know. My taxes have gone down because the value has gone down. I am in an industry, if you will that is totally dependent on people's discretionary income. My husband's job isn't terribly much better. I am perfectly willing to pay a bit more and I don't what the percentage is but I will be willing to pay. I read in the paper and I don't remember what it was. I don't think it will have an enormous impact on us as residents and if it will retain a few Police Officers who will get out of the building and on the street I am all for it.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 5**

If it means I will have to pay Georgia Power for the light that still isn't working across the road from my house for the rent of that light I have no problem doing that. If I have to pay directly for that light I have no problem doing that. I would rather have a few more pennies go toward the City than anyone from the County because I think the City spends it much more wisely and have the services of the City that is already pared to the bone and be cut any further. I don't think we have anymore to cut beyond people we really need.

Mayor Jerkins stated he would like to respond to the tax increase. Number one we are about half of all the other five cities in Cobb County even if we go to four (4) mils. Powder Springs charges (8.5) mils. Kennesaw charges (9.5) mils. Acworth charges (7.6) mils. Marietta charges (5.333) mils. Smyrna charges (8.9) mils. Austell charges (3.123) mils. To put it in line twenty eight percent is not going to be enough the way the taxes are and the way they say we are charging and what the City gets out of it. With the discount Cobb County gives you and they give you 3.06 millage rate discounts off of their taxes in Cobb County from the City of Austell because we own our own Fire Department. So your County taxes are 3.6 mils cheaper because you live in the City of Austell. For example, Mr. Lance Lamberton's taxes last year his city taxes were \$144.87. When he received his discount of \$141.00 from Cobb County because he is inside the City he had to pay \$2.92. He paid \$2.92 and he is worried about us hurting the economy. Everybody's taxes are this way and this is how cheap it is. No one understands this and then you have all these services from the City you will get. Mr. Lamberton received all these services for \$2.92. He just spoke about how bad it was on the economy. You have Police protection, Fire protection, you have streets and limbs and cleanup. You have parks, playgrounds and ball fields. You have garbage pickup and April and October clean up and pickup and household goods which we go around twice a year to pickup and we do not charge you for that. We have our own water department, our own sewer department and stormwater department. You get 911 services because we have our own 911. None of these other cities but Smyrna has all these services that we give to the citizens of Austell. Powder Springs does not have a Fire Department or a Parks Department. We also have street lights, and Code Enforcement that we do. Planning and Zoning we have. Senior Citizens with Cobb County we have. We have the Library involved with us through the County. The Community Center we rent to people. All of this, he received for \$2.92 and he is complaining about us going up a little bit for one year. When I came into office the millage rate was 6 mils. We have cut the millage rate eleven (11) years in a row and got it down to 3.123 mils.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 6**

It hasn't gone up and the value of your homes went down about three years ago. When it did go down we got six hundred and something thousand a year in taxes out of an eleven million dollar (\$11M) budget. When it went down it came down a third the property tax did to about four hundred and something thousand this is all we are collecting for City taxes throughout the whole city. That is all we get in taxes. I didn't hear anyone saying I appreciate you going down on the taxes. Then you are talking about the economy and what the gas system has done. There is twenty-six million dollars in this area that Austell Gas didn't collect last year because of the mild winter. The twenty-six million dollars had to help the economy it had too. What little amount we will go up on taxes is nothing compared to what that did. That took a million and half dollars out of our budget that we cut nobody understands this. He is thinking we just cut a little bit, but we did cut a million and a half dollars out of it. We are only going up a little over a hundred thousand dollars for this year. Next year if it gets back to where it was we will probably cut it back below to what it is now which is almost nothing. Everybody's taxes based on Lance Lamberton's house which is \$115,000 home and appraised at that and he paid \$2.92 City tax last year for all these services. Last year we had to cut \$700,000. We are not laying anyone off and we are keeping everybody. If we were to lay off at the Fire Department just to tell you how it would affect you it would make your house insurance go up. Probably, about fifty dollars (\$50.00) a year but it would be more than the taxes. So, because we are not laying anyone off it is helping you in that way as far as your homeowners insurance. It has a lot to do with how we operate the Fire Department which determines what your insurance will be. It is not just Lance Lamberton's tax it's everyone tax including my own. It's almost nothing. You are wrong about the 28% because if you actually count what the County gives you as a discount and what he is paying we would be going up about 3000%. His taxes next year with the proposed he would pay the City \$40.68 which would be about \$37.00 increase which is a bunch since he is paying only \$2.92. This is temporary and all of these things you are getting for \$2.92. Look at what our taxes are compared to the other five cities and what you are paying here and all the services you get. A lot of them do not have their 911 System anymore. Powder Springs does not have the 911 System anymore. We still have our 911 System. The Fire Department Powder Springs does not have and we do. All the other cities except for Smyrna have given their 911 System to the County. We still maintain our system and ours cost us about \$600,000 a year but we need to keep it here so we can respond quicker. If someone has an emergency our response time is one of the best in the State of Georgia. This means a lot when someone is in an emergency situation.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 7**

I would like for all of you to understand what kind of bargain you are getting from the City of Austell and we are not robbing you and we are doing a great job. But, this time next year if the Gas System gets back to normal we will cut that back and it will probably end up less than what it is now. Mr. Lamberton may make \$5.00 instead of costing him \$2.92 next year when we go down because the County will give a discount. I just want all of you to understand what a bargain you are getting even if we go up a little bit. This is not voting on the tax tonight we will have a Public Hearing for that and we will have three Public Hearings in July to go up on the millage rate. We have it figured in the budget to do this. We are not laying anyone off and I read in the paper that Powder Springs is going to lay off about four employees. I just want everyone to understand that Mr. Lamberton is worried about the economy and he is paying \$2.92 City Tax. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. Anderson stated she had a comment. I have family, my parents, visiting here for graduation and they have traveled extensively throughout the United States and the World and they are big walkers. They have commented numerous times about our wonderful sidewalks in the City of Austell. It is so wonderful to walk on good sidewalks as my father is eighty and my mother is seventy-nine. They don't have to worry about trying to walk in the road because the sidewalk is so uneven or potholes in them. Our sidewalks, much of that does come from SPLOST money. It is a small percent to pay for the wonderful City we do have and it does make me feel good when people from out of town comment on our City and walk on our nice sidewalks. It is one percent here in Cobb County and not as much as they are paying in the City of Atlanta or even Paulding County. I forget when I go shopping because there is more tax in Paulding County. So, please appreciate your services. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Ms. Joan Sanford stated she would like to speak. Mr. Kimbrough swore in Ms. Sanford. Ms. Sanford stated she had lived in Austell for twenty-five years. When our taxes go up our house payment goes up. We are barely making it now. I was just wondering where is the 28% going. I appreciate Austell, I do, and I have always loved it. I was just wondering because this is hurting us right now and we have been through a lot. I guess our house payment will go up again because of the tax increase of 28%.

Mayor Jerkins stated but what if you didn't get the County tax discount. Mayor Jerkins asked Ms. Sanford what was the value of her home. Ms. Sanford stated it had gone down to \$49,000. Mayor Jerkins stated then you are probably paying \$1.25 City tax.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 8**

Mayor Jerkins asked Ms. Sanford if \$1.25 per year would hurt her if the City goes up in taxes. Mayor Jerkins stated yours will go up to about \$20.00 a year. So, how much will your house note go up about a \$1.00 or something. Ms. Sanford stated it went up \$15.00 just this past month. Mayor Jerkins stated it wasn't from our taxes that it went up. Ms. Sanford stated well, when the city taxes goes up my house payment goes up. Mayor Jerkins stated the City taxes haven't been increased in twenty-three years. Mr. Kimbrough stated it will be twenty dollars a year which will be about less than two dollars increase a month on your house payment. Ms. Sanford stated also, they have been telling us they will come out to dig the gutters up on the street because when it rains it really gets bad on our street. Ms. Reagan asked Ms. Sanford where she lived. Ms. Sanford stated she lived at Wellington Way. Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. Bowens if he knew anything about this. Mr. Bowens stated we are working on that now and we have a proposal now on Stormwater Management. We will come over there and clean those out and create a different piping system to take the water off of the street. Ms. Sanford stated she lived down the street and all the water goes in our yard. Mr. Bowens asked if she lived at the very end. Ms. Sanford stated she lived three or four houses from the end 6337 Wellington Way. Mr. Bowens stated one problem we have also is that a lot of times with the value of it and it is kind of like the curbing that rolls and people do not want the bump like going into their driveway they will go out and put asphalt in that to make a smoother transition. I know for a fact there was a couple like that so we are going to have to remove those and actually concentrate the water to take it on down the hill. Mayor Jerkins stated if I was you and the fact that Mr. Lamberton paid \$280.00 to Cobb County and didn't give him any services. Plus, if you were not inside the City you would pay another \$140.00 to Cobb County. But, they discounted that you see. I wonder what they give you for \$280.00. We give him all these services for \$2.92 and Cobb County charges \$280.00 and there are no services. Ms. Sanford stated she had always appreciated the City of Austell. Mayor Jerkins stated people need to understand what we do as a City and how good they have it made in the City of Austell on property tax and all the services they have. I have a place in Florida and my taxes there are \$3500.00 a year. I do not get any services down there. My here in Austell was maybe \$5.00 and something after I got the discount from the County. Just look at the bargain you are getting and another thing if you are complaining about your house note we didn't collect twenty-six million dollars last year. We usually sell sixty-five million dollars a year in gas and we get 7% of that so that is what hurt us like a million and half dollars. There is twenty-six million dollars in this area that somebody didn't pay to Austell Gas last year and if you are on the gas system you probably saved at least a thousand dollars.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 9**

By the gas being down and we are charging \$1.50 for tax, so stop and think about the economy there is twenty-six million out there we didn't collect on gas bills so somebody has that money somewhere and didn't have to put in to something else. It definitely didn't go into taxes. Ms. Sanford stated it just shocked her with percentage rate. Mayor Jerkins stated if you count what we have collected and the discount it is probably about 3000%. Ms. Causey stated when your house note comes in and you see it has gone up twenty dollars they give you the option to pay the twenty dollars and your house note will stay the same. Ms. Sanford stated she was struggling right now. Ms. Causey stated everybody is struggling right now. If we lost our benefits in the City it would be terrible. Mayor Jerkins stated we are not laying anyone off and we are not cutting any services and we are doing the best we can. We are going up a little over \$100,000 on property taxes and we cut this year a million and a half out of our budget. Mr. Lamberton thinks we need schooling on this and I have been here twenty-three years and this is the first time we have had to do this. We could have done this differently but I felt like the citizens of Austell would appreciate keeping all their services with a little bit of tax increase for one year. Probably next year we will more than likely cut it back and it will be less than it is today. It does sound like a lot and if you are only collecting ten dollars in taxes and you go up ten dollars that is a 100%. So, when your taxes are low it looks like a lot but it isn't. Mayor Jerkins thanked Ms. Sanford for attending the meeting. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone else would like to speak at the Public Hearing.

Mr. Kevin Norman stated his name and Mr. Kimbrough swore him in. Mr. Norman stated he would like to ask Mr. Bowens some questions. Mr. Norman asked when you will get the asphalt out of the gutters so they will drain properly any idea of the time frame. Mr. Bowens stated he had actually checked with several different companies and what we are trying to do is lease a nosing machine because a lot of times when the re-surfacing crews came in years back what they did instead of milling the street down to accept the new re-surfacing what they did was come in there and overlaid the entire area. Over a period of time those overlays actually went into the valley gutters and fill those in. Mr. Norman stated when they did it they filled it up and it wasn't from over time it was asphalt actually covering the concrete. We have washing problems in our yards and it has been several years this has been going on. Mr. Bowens asked if he had not been to that location where is coming down through the front yard. Mr. Norman stated no, it was another location. Mr. Bowens stated he had gone to a location where the drop-end was at the roadway and there was one that actually went between the property lines and went out to the back area.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 10**

Basically, what we did we didn't have the funds nor the revenue to address a lot of this Stormwater problems that we were having in the City. But, recently since we implemented our Stormwater Management fee it has provided us with a lot of our revenue to actually look at drainage problems and such as that. To focus on that and if we have to have engineering done we will do engineering and probably structural devices like drainage pipe and drop inlets. The first thing we need to do is open up those valley gutters to keep it from overflowing into anyone's yard. Then to look at if we need any more structural devices such as pipes to go out between properties where you are getting sheet flows. I know in that particular area there was something like a wall I believe a small wall between some properties that actually wasn't the problem. The problem was where the valley gutters were full of asphalt and they were allowing the water to come over into the front yards and then come down into the adjacent properties as it goes down the hill. So, that is one concern we have. Mr. Norman stated we had to build walls between the properties to keep them from washing out. Mr. Bowens stated I think the initial thing we need to do is to keep the water in the street and in the gutters and going on down pass the properties and not going into the front yards. Mr. Norman stated he could not afford to put more dirt in his yard. I have already put four dump truck loads in my yard. Mr. Bowens asked Mr. Norman his address. Mr. Norman stated it was 60341. Mr. Bowens stated so you are close to Ms. Sanford. Mayor Jerkins stated Mr. Bowens will be working on that for you and trying to get some of those problems solved. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone else would like to speak to the Council.

Ms. Harley stated her name and Mr. Kimbrough swore her in. Ms. Harley stated she heard the Mayor mention about the chance of the property going up. What would have to occur to stay at the rate you are proposing?

Mayor Jerkins stated we will decide that next year and if we get back to half way normal on our gas system we will cut it again next year. It's hard to take a million and a half dollars without doing something and we do not wish to cut the services. Ms. Harley stated what series of events would have to happen to get it to stay where it is. Mr. Kimbrough asked you mean to stay where it is right now or the proposed tax increase. Ms. Harley stated, yes, the proposed tax increase. Mr. Kimbrough stated another warm winter. Mayor Jerkins stated I do not think it got below 32 degrees last winter but one time. Which in reality it helped everyone. It probably saved me a thousand dollars at least on my gas bill. A little bit of tax increase is not going to hurt anyone when they have that kind of deal on their gas.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 11**

If we get a decent winter and I don't want everyone gas bill to go crazy, but I would like it to get back to normal and then we will cut it back. Ms. Harley stated she had another question on Humphries Hill when you cross over C.H. James when you go down that hill on that steep curve is there a plan to raise that because when it rains it is very dangerous. Mayor Jerkins asked if it was where the small bridge is. Ms. Harley stated yes and it sometimes floods and when you come around that curve you have to get way over to avoid the water and the cars. Mr. Bowens stated he had met with the County, Mr. Bill Dickens with their Stormwater Water Management Division. It is a concern and it has been doing that for a number of years. The reason it does that is downstream from there the beavers and we have had our crews and inspectors out there and they have trapped numerous beavers out there. Because the beavers oddly enough you can't drive them out of an area. They will have a litter and they will push them out of the nest and they will go upstream or downstream. We have cleared that out of beavers at one point in time, but we don't have the equipment and we have actually ask the County for assistance for a amphibious machine to go out there and break up some of the beavers dams. Basically, what we have done we have gone out there in waders and break up the beaver dam after we have removed the beavers from that location. That is what makes it flood. But then to we can only work in that area within our juridical boundaries. We have tried to get the county to come out because once you go down Humphries Hill Road and you cross the bridge to the left of that is all county. So they have to address all of that upstream. I think that will solve the problem but only temporarily. Until beavers come back in there and start damming it up again. Ms. Harley asked is that why the water level is higher than the other bridge at Mill Creek and I don't remember it being that high. Could that be part of the reason? Mr. Bowens stated no, not necessarily because Mill Creek actually dumps into Sweetwater which is downstream from the bridge you are referring to. The only thing I can attribute that to is blockages or bottlenecks down in Sweetwater Creek in that area. I think a lot of it is Stormwater runoff from upstream that actually comes downstream and makes that water high. Even in the last rain we had I noticed and the Mayor and I have been discussing in detail about this and the bridge being raised at some point and time. It actually allowed a lot of water to come into Austell a lot faster than it normally would because the old bridge acted as a weir to block the water. That is something that needs to be addressed upstream. We are constantly out with our inspectors doing stream bank inspecting to make sure there is no bottlenecking of trees or trees that have fallen over from erosion from the banks. Ms. Harley asked so is there anything in the future to manage this problem. Mr. Bowens stated no not by the City. Ms. Harley stated so it would be by the County. Mr. Bowens stated, yes.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 12**

Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone else would like to speak on the budget. No one did. Mr. Kimbrough stated we need a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Ms. Causey. Motion passed (5-0).

Mayor Jerkins stated he would like to make one more statement. We are in Douglas County and the millage rate in the City of Austell is zero. So, we do not charge any taxes for anyone who lives in Douglas County. We get sales tax money from them so we don't have to charge any taxes. Then the one percent (1%) sales tax that Mr. Lamberton was referring to, I don't blame him for being against it on July 31, 2012 because I am too. I don't think it's right to give a little bit of money to the cities and take all of that money and do something else with it other places. I am not in favor of that tax it will not benefit us. Now the one we just passed it was not a new tax and that one benefited all the counties and all the cities and gave us a bunch of money. We get a big portion of it ourselves and we are able to do some things where you as citizens don't have to have a property tax increase and I just wanted to let everyone know this one coming up I am not for it.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to approve the 2012 – 2013 Final Budget. Seconded by Ms. Causey. Motion passed (5-0).

**8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Carolyn Duncan, Director**

- A. No Report

**9. POLICE DEPARTMENT
VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON
Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

- A. Police Report
B. Code Enforcement Report

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 13**

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON

Tim Williams, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

Chief Williams stated to bring everyone up to date on the MDA boot drive. We collected \$3,444.00. The next three Fridays starting this Friday there will be collecting for the burn foundation. Mr. Thomas stated we commend the department for a job well done.

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Randy Bowens, Director

Recommendation and Approval:

A. Purchase of 2012 Freightliner Brush Hawg Grapple Loader

Ms. Anderson stated this item is to approve the purchase of new equipment for the street department. The Department has received two quotes as follows:

EnviroWaste Equipment, Inc. for \$122,908.00 and PalFleet Truck Equipment \$126,650.00.

Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the purchase of new equipment from EnviroWaste Equipment, Inc. at a cost of \$122,908.00 and to authorize the Mayor to execute corresponding documents. The purchase of this equipment will be financed through Georgia Municipal Association and will be funded from the 2011 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

A. Surplus Sales of Parks Department Equipment

Mr. Thomas stated the City of Austell Parks Committee recommends approval to sell the following equipment using SPLOST funds:

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 14**

- (1) 1978 Ford F-700 52' Boom Truck
- (2) 1985 Case Loader

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Parks Committee to approve to sell the above referenced equipment on GovDeals as part of the surplus sale. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

B. Purchase of Equipment

Mr. Thomas stated the City of Austell Parks Committee recommends approval to purchase the following equipment using SPLOST funds:

- (1) Landa Self-Contained Hot Water Pressure Washer

The cost of the purchase in the amount of \$5,200.00 will be shared equally between the Parks Department and Public Works Department.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Parks Committee to approve the purchase of one Landa Self-Contained Hot Water Pressure Washer to be shared equally between the Parks Department and Public Works Department. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (5-0).

C. Disc Golf Course Update

Mr. Thomas stated he would turn this over to Mr. Graham. Mr. Graham stated the initial design of the proposed disc golf course at Louise Suggs Park has been completed and the course has been set...ready for testing. The positions of each tee pad have been marked with red paint and a flag. There are also flags indicating the pin locations. No longer than forty-five (45) days to two months we should have it open and ready for operation. We have had numerous requests to start playing on it. Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Graham if he was getting a lot of responses on this. Mr. Graham stated, yes, we have had a lot of inquiries on it and we have a feeling when we do open it up we will be very busy. I really didn't realize it was that big of a sport.

**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SUZANNE THOMASON, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director**

A. Proposed Ordinance to Adopt the International Building Codes 2012 Edition

Ms. Thomason stated the Community Affairs Committee recommends the City adopt the International Building Codes 2012 edition and update the City's ordinance to reflect this change.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012
PAGE 15**

This update will be an important factor in keeping the homeowner's insurance rates down for the citizens of Austell.

Ms. Thomason moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to adopt the International Building Codes 2012 edition and update the City's ordinance to reflect this change. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (5-0).

14. ATTORNEY – DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA MEETING

JUNE 12, 2012

TIME:

6:30 P.M.

LOCATION:

Hosted by Marietta @ Cobb Chamber

16. ADJOURN

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Causey. Motion passed (5-0).