

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020**

Present:

Mayor Ollie Clemons
Valerie Anderson
Sandra Leverette
Melanie Elder
Devon Myrick
Marlin Lamar

Absent: Randy Green

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Development Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; and Elizabeth Young, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clemons called the meeting to order and Reverend Joel Rodriquez gave the Invocation and Mayor Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone needed to add items to the agenda. Ms. Elder stated she needed to add item 8A Insurance Renewal to the agenda. Mrs. Anderson stated she needed to add item 7B Audit Presentation to the agenda.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to add items 8 A and 7B to the agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

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 \$3,807.65
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting December 2, 2019

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mrs. Ann Turner stated light # 1 & #8 are not working by Sweetwater Creek. Mr. Graham stated he would get in touch with the power company regarding the lights. Mrs. Turner stated the city looks very good.

Ms. Nikki Elder stated she is from Greater St. Paul AME Church, 2990 Broad Street, on January 12, 2020 at 3:00, they will be having a prayer for our Elected Officials & want to invite all our Elected Officials to come. She stated they will be serving lunch at 1:00 until the service starts.

Mr. Derek Caffee stated he wanted an update on items the Mayor stated he was working on in his term:

1. What timeline is there on making the railroad a quiet zone?
Mayor Clemons stated there is a grant available to assist with the process of a quiet zone & we are checking into that. There are different moving pieces to this and after April, we will have better timeline on this.
2. Austell Powder Springs Road Mixed Use Trail & Overlay District update?
Mayor Clemons stated this is a 3-way joint project with us, Powder Springs & Cobb County and is a SPLOST project that is in the works.
3. Sweetwater Creek Access information
Mayor Clemons stated we have investigated into this and spoke with the Army Corp of Engineers. There are ways to get grants to help clean up the creek. We are looking at a point where we can make a designated entry and exit point but trying to get resources to help clean it up.
4. Semi-Trucks in Austell-what can be done to alleviate the problem with power lines?
Mayor Clemons stated the trucks make deliveries in the downtown area, which make the power lines droop, this is a Georgia Power concern. This has caused damage to properties downtown. Mayor Clemons has made a call to Georgia Power leadership to follow up.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mr. Kimbrough stated we are warmer than last year. As of right now, it does not look like we are going to have a good winter unless it's a late winter.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Soesbee, Finance Director

- A. Financial Report
- B. Audit Presentation

Mayor Clemons stated Mr. James Whitaker is our auditor & has completed our audit. He is coming before us with the report. (The annual financial report was given to Mayor, Council & all Department Directors.)

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. Insurance Renewal

After Mayor Clemons met with Hub International (Heritage Corp.) & discussed all options, he decided to stay with Aetna Health Insurance. The rates have increased a significant amount due to our claims experience. The city will absorb a huge amount of the increase, but the employees will have to absorb some of the increase as well. Below are the new weekly rates as of January 1, 2020:

Base Plan:	Buy-Up Plan:
Employee \$20.00	Employee \$25.00
Employee + Spouse \$155.08	Employee + Spouse \$176.95
Employee + Child(ren) \$154.06	Employee + Child(ren) \$175.35
Family \$205.19	Family \$225.14

Ms. Elder moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Insurance Renewal. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (5-0)

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON

Bob Starrett, Police Chief

A. Police Report

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

B. Assistant Fire Chief Position

This position will be filled by Kenneth Strong as of January 1, 2020. Ken has been with the City for 14 years and proven himself as a leader and a hard worker. We feel he was the best candidate and we are looking forward to the opportunity of working with him and trying to continue moving our department forward.

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Bo Garrison, Director

A. No Report

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

DEVON MYRICK, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

A. Code Enforcement Report

B. Privilege License Renewals

Listed below are the Privilege License Renewals for 2020. The Community Affairs Committee requests Council to approve the following renewals, pending the payment for renewals for 2020. (see attached)

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Privilege License Renewals. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

C. International Code Council Building Valuation & Permit Fees

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to adopt the International Code Council Building Valuation Data (BVD) and new Building Permit Fees. The (BVD) will provide clarity in establishing square foot construction cost in Austell. The International Code Council updates the Building Valuation Data every six-months. (see attached)

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the International Code Council Building Valuation & Permit Fees. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. No Report

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (5-0)

Willie B. Clemons Jr.
Mayor

Elizabeth Young
Attest

2.4, 2020
Date