



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2024 at 7:00 PM
THREADMILL COMPLEX
MINUTES

Present: Council, Directors, City Attorney

Absent: Mayor Ollie Clemons, Devon Myrick

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation - Pastor Dorcas Rodriguez - Austell First United Methodist Church
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Add Items to Agenda

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 Adams.
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Adams, Lamar

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Ann Turner - What is the status of the City Hall Building? Was the Police Chief position offered to Natalie Poulk? What is the status of the Bob Starrett situation? If someone lives in apartments, will they be charged the leaf & limb fee?

Derek Caffé - Expressed how thankful he was for all of us and wants to continue improving the lives of families in the city.

Tiffany Byrum - new business owner in the city & is glad to be here.

Melissa Brown - new business at the Threadmill & glad to be here.

Rhonda Barnett - new business owner in the city & glad to be here.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
Ollie Clemons

Attorney Kimbrough stated we are slightly ahead from last year.

7. FINANCE REPORT
Valerie Anderson, Chairperson
Denise Lowe, Director

A. Monthly Financial Report

B. 2023-24 Budget Revisions

The purpose is to reclass the grant budget from the public works department to the parks department to account for spending CBDG funds.

According to, O.C.G.A. 836-81-3 (d) (3) “The governing authority of a local government may amend the legal level of control to establish a more detailed level of budgetary control at any time during the budget period.”

See below adjustments:

Account Id	Department Description	Account Description	FROM	TO	CHANGE
250-4200-54-1000	Grant-Public Works	IMPROVEMENTS	150,000	-	(150,000)
250-6210-54-1200	Grant-Parks	IMPROVEMENTS	-	150,000	150,000

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the above budget revisions for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year.

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

C. 2024-25 Budget Revisions

The purpose is to increase the asset forfeiture budget for monies received.

According to, O.C.G.A. 836-81-3 (d) (3) “The governing authority of a local government may amend the legal level of control to establish a more detailed level of budgetary control at any time during the budget period.”

See below adjustments:

Account Id	Department Description	Account Description	FROM	TO	CHANGE
210-0000-35-1320	Revenue	CONFISCATED PROPERTIES	5,000	60,000	55,000
210-3250-52-1200	Confiscated Properties	PROFESSIONAL	5,000	60,000	55,000

It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the above budget revisions for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year.

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

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Devon Myrick, Chairperson
Elizabeth Young, Director

A. PTSD Resolution

Georgia House Bill 451 will be effective as of January 1, 2025. This bill mandates all public entities that have employed first responders provide lump-sum and income replacement (long-term disability) PTSD benefits. The estimated annual premium is \$7,875.00 which will be split accordingly between the Fire & Police departments.

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

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sandra Leverette, Chairperson
Scott Hamilton, Police Chief

A. Cover Page

B. STATS

C. Significant Events

D. Citizen's Police Academy

Chief Scott Hamilton would like to recognize all the participants in the first Austell Police Department Citizen's Police Academy. This 12-week program offered participants an in-depth look into all divisions of the police department. Classes were held once a week and they covered a plethora of topics including Patrol, CIU, Community-Oriented Policing, Recruiting, K-9, Special Ops, and more.

The purpose of the Citizen's Police Academy is to showcase the police department's functions to the community to help them better understand the daily challenges faced by law enforcement. The program offers hands-on exposure, and it is designed to be informative, exciting, and fun.

E. Operation Christmas Initiative

Chief Scott Hamilton would like to recognize the businesses and individuals who contributed to the 2024 Operation Christmas Initiative by making a monetary donation or purchasing a Christmas Tree to be displayed in downtown Austell.

The proceeds from the sale of the trees in addition to donations were used to provide a shopping trip for 60 students attending Hendrick's Elementary School. Each child will have \$200.00 to spend thanks to our partners.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meredith Adams, Chairperson
Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. December Fire Department Run Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Marlin Lamar, Chairperson

Bo Garrison, Director

A. Adoption of the Cobb County Marietta Water Authority Fees Increase

The city proposes a six (6) percent increase in 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.

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>2025 PROPOSED</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
<u>Inside City</u>			
1st – 2,000 Gallons	\$12.79	\$13.56	\$0.77
2,001 – 7,000 Gallons	\$5.43	\$5.76	\$0.33
7.001 – 15,000 Gallons	\$6.23	\$6.63	\$0.40
15,001- Above	\$8.64	\$9.61	\$0.97
<u>Outside City</u>			
1st – 2,000 Gallons	\$13.42	\$14.98	\$1.56
2,001 – 7,000 Gallons	\$5.75	\$6.10	\$0.35
7.001 – 15,000 Gallons	\$6.63	\$7.03	\$0.40
15,001- Above	\$9.27	\$9.83	\$0.56

Motion to approve made by Lamar, Seconded by Adams.

Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Adams, Lamar

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

Devon Myrick, Chairperson

Darrell Weaver, Director

A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Melanie Elder, Chairperson

Darrell, Weaver, Director

A. November 2024 Code Enforcement Report

B. **2024-06R** request by Medhat Yassa to rezone 1.66 acres located at 5355 Austell Road from R-15 (single-family residential) to GC (general commercial).

Attorney Kimbrough opened the public hearing and asked who was speaking on the applicant's behalf. Mr. Allen Pair & Mr. Medhat Yassa (applicant) came forward & Attorney Kimbrough swore them in. Mr. Pair stated he is the owner of the property. Mr. Yassa stated he wants the business to remain as it is. Mr. Weaver stated the property was zoned in the early 1990's but the minutes cannot be found, so this is a housekeeping item to make sure the zoning is correct.

Anderson made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Leverette. Motion passed. 4-0

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

14. HUMAN RESOURCES

Melanie Elder, Chairperson
Michelle Page, Director

A. Stats

15. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

16. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. No Report



CMA Meeting is December 10 & will be hosted by the City of Marietta.

17. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Anderson, Seconded by Lamar.
Voting Yea: Anderson, Leverette, Adams, Lamar

Mayor

Attest

 
Mel Elder - Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Page

Date

11/21/25