

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF AUSTELL  
CITY HALL BUILDING  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:** Randy Green

Also present: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Affairs 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, gave the invocation & led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone needed to add items to the agenda. No items were added.

**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-May 2020 - \$5,445.00
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting May 4, 2020

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

**4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. CITIZENS REPORT**

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE**

**OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR**

- A. Cobb County Franchise Agreement Renewal
- B. Douglas County Franchise Agreement Renewal

Mr. Kimbrough stated that both items can be handled under one motion. The Austell Gas System has Franchise Agreements with all governmental entities that are within the System's service area. These governmental entities include the cities of Austell and Powder Springs, and Cobb County and Douglas County. The Franchise Agreements with Cobb County and Douglas County are up for renewal/extension this year. The original Franchise Agreements that were adopted in 1953 for Cobb County and 1954 for Douglas County were renewed/extended in 1980 for a period of forty (40) years. Both Franchise Agreements are for a term of forty (40) years. Cobb County and Douglas County have both approved these extensions.

It is the recommendation that the Council approve the extensions.

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to approve the Douglas/Cobb County Franchise Agreement Renewals. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)*

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**

**Denise Lowe, Finance Director**

- A. Financial Report
- B. Public Hearing - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of 2020-21 Final Budget

Mr. Kimbrough called for a public hearing. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone signed up with questions about the budget or if any council member had questions. Mrs. Young stated no one signed up with questions & no council member had questions.

*Mr. Kimbrough stated we need a motion to close the public hearing. Mrs. Leverette made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Ms. Elder. Motion passed. (5-0)*

*Mrs. Anderson followed the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the budget. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)*

- C. 2022 SPLOST Projects

City of Austell projects to be included in the Cobb County 2022 SPLOST. The 2022 SPLOST will be voted on in the general election on November 3, 2020. This is a continuation of a 1% sales tax that is set to expire on December 31, 2021. The City of Austell will receive approximately \$9,678,496 over 6 years (2022-2027) to spend on capital projects, including \$3,000,000 for a joint project with the County. The Mayor and each department have met and collaborated over the last 12-15 months

to determine the best use of these funds based on future needs. A summary of the projects accompanies this memo.

It is the recommendation to approve proposed project list to be included in the referendum on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the 2022 SPLOST Projects. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)*

## **8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON**

**Elizabeth Young, Director**

A. No Report

## **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. Addition for bunker gear storage room

Mr. Lamar stated after discussion during our Pre-agenda meeting, we will table the addition for the bunker gear storage room for further research.

*Mr. Lamar made a motion to table the Addition for Bunker Gear Storage Room. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)*

## **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

Mr. Lamar asked when the parks would be opening. Mayor Clemons stated that Suggs Park is already open. He stated he plans on meeting with Jim Graham to discuss how to move forward with the other parks.

**13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**

**Jim Graham, Director**

A. Code Enforcement Report

Mrs. Anderson stated on Franklin Street, someone has been dumping debris right off Bowden Street. Also, if you go up the street, someone has been dumping there too. She stated she asked Chief Starrett to put a camera up on Franklin Street. Mr. Graham stated he would put this area on zone patrol for code enforcement.

**14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH**

A. No Report

**15. MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. No Report

Mayor Clemons thanked Rachel Yarbrough & Denise Lowe for working diligently on the SPLOST Projects.

**16. ADJOURN**

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

Ollie B. Clemons Jr.  
Mayor

Elizabeth Young  
Attest

July 7, 2020  
Date