

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007**

Present: Joe Jerkins, Mayor
Kirsten Anderson
Beverly James Boyd
Randy Green
Virginia Reagan
Scott Thomas
David "Bo" Traylor

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Austell City Council was held on June 4, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order. Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney gave the Invocation. Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jerkins asked if any member of the Council would like to add items to the agenda. Mayor Jerkins presented Firefighter Gary Dobbs with his five year pin and thanked him for his efforts and hard work. Mayor Jerkins mentioned a former Council Member Mr. Bill Jones had passed away this last weekend and had the funeral service yesterday.

2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE

(No Action Required by Council – See Specific Department Director before Meeting.)

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$2,291.63
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting May 7, 2007

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Traylor. Motion passed (6-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Representing the Austell Business Association, Mr. Jason Greer with Roy Davis Funeral Home introduced himself to Mayor and Council. Mr. Greer stated Felicia Jones with Servpro of SW Cobb Cascade has all the details but I would like to do an overview of what we are asking.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 2**

We would like to have a festival including the City of Austell and its citizens as well as the business community and to revive the tradition again in the Austell area around September. We would like to do this maybe on September 15, 2007. This would not be just for the businesses in Austell to give them some exposure but to revive the downtown area and bring attention to the downtown area. In years past when the City has done all this, the turnout has been very positive. The ladies in the ABA have taken a lot of time and gone through great detail to put this together. Mr. Greer asked Ms. Jones to elaborate on the details. Ms. Jones stated the first thing would consist of three phases which would be: Retail, Vendor and Entertainment. Our goal in all of this is to upgrade the image of downtown Austell because we do have a lot of members who belong to ABA. We are trying to draw traffic and draw awareness to the downtown area as well as the Austell Business Association. We would start with a parade at the Collar Community Center into Joe Jerkins and ending at the festival entrance which is Joe Jerkins. You have a map showing in your packet. This would bring all the visitors to the actual event on that day. We will have craft and food vendors in the parking lot behind Jefferson Street and have parking across from Ani-Mart. We will have hand made crafts nothing which will compete in the retail stores. We would have a two stages area for choral groups and dancers who would bring their families with them. On the main stage we would have the bands. We will have t-shirts with the sponsor's names. We would need the street closings and the bathroom facilities as well as electricity, trash pickups, permits and licenses. The event would start at 10:00 a.m. and go through till four or five that afternoon. This would be a family oriented event. We think the overall benefit out weights the burden it would cost the City of Austell. We are trying to figure a way where it would not be a great burden on the City.

Mayor Jerkins stated we need to discuss some of the city's participation. We start Halloween preparation around September. When we finish Halloween we immediately have to start the Christmas lights and the installation of them. Mr. Graham's department has to do all of this and I certainly think the City should participate but we will be limited as to certain requests. I am not saying we don't want to be involved but it will push Mr. Graham's staff to get everything together. It would be better if you did this on Memorial Day or springtime and this would be a lot easier for us. One other thing I have had some people talk with me about closing the streets so I think you should be able to coordinate with the other businesses to accomplish this, however, some of the people do not like this because it hurts their business especially on a Saturday. Mr. Greer thanked Mayor Jerkins for the guidance and information.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 3**

Mr. Greer stated he did not want this to be a burden to the city at all. Mayor Jerkins stated he was glad the ABA had taken an interest in having an Austell Day and appreciated everything they had done. We are also running on a tight budget this year because of the money we have already spent and our new budget will start July 1, 2007. I think the council approves of this if we can come together on a date. Ms. Anderson stated she thought something needed to be done as far as another event. My concern is speaking to the other businesses as far as closing of the streets especially on a Saturday.

Even though it would be advantageous for them to get exposure and get people in their stores some people like to have some input, so maybe you could spend a day and go door to door. Ms. Boyd suggested making a list with a header saying do you support the closing of the certain streets and let them put their name under what they support the name of their business and a contact number. Ms. Boyd stated you would surprised how many will oppose to the street closings and calling us to complain. In the past, we have always had Austell Day in the spring and it was May for many years. Ms. Boyd asked Chief Williams when it was moved to another date. Chief Williams stated it was around the mid-eighty's. The council has talked about having Austell Day but instead of having it in September, having it in the spring so we would have a full staff and not put a burden on Mr. Graham's department and Mr. Bowen's department. It is not the council doesn't want to do this in September we would like to do it, but we have to have enough staff to participate. I would like to ask a question, are your sponsors already committed? Ms. Jones stated we have commitments from our local sponsors but not the corporate sponsors yet pending the approval of the city council. Ms. Boyd stated she knew Georgia Power contributed a lot to Powder Springs/Country Gathering Day. You might want to check with Georgia Power. They have a Powder Springs Day and the Business Association puts this together and the City of Powder Springs only contributes six hundred dollars for this event. We do need the exposure for the businesses and we do agree and glad ABA is putting forth the effort. Mr. Greer stated he would talk to the bigger sponsors and asked what the City would be able to donate? Mayor Jerkins stated the City of Austell should be able to help clean-up and close the streets, Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. Graham if the city could this. Mr. Graham stated, yes, we can do that, but my biggest concern is the overtime pay we will have to pay out. Mr. Graham stated, as I understand it you would like for us to help set-up and you stated you needed power. My concern is we do not have anyone who is a certified electrician so we would have to hire one which we estimated a minimum of twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.00) to get this done. Plus the stages you want we will have to wait to install these because of the other businesses. As far as food vendors you have to have people to pick up trash all day long and dump into our City garbage truck.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 4**

My point is unless you have a lot of volunteers to help with this you cannot pull it off. When we were having a Labor Day event it was costing the city forty thousand dollars because we had to pay everything because we had no volunteers. We will have to have a list of who would want power and who would not. So I am saying it would and could get very expensive because of the overtime.

Mayor Jerkins stated on the permits we could waive this and help that way. Ms. Boyd stated maybe we could help the ABA on Friday during the day instead of night time because of the overtime hours. Ms. Boyd asked the Mayor if this would be o.k. Mayor Jerkins stated, yes, this would be fine. Mr. Thomas stated when you survey your sponsors you may come up with all the money you need. Mr. Anderson stated this was what they are counting on with the sponsors.

Mr. Graham recommended getting together as a committee to discuss what can be done. I will be willing to give you some directions on anything.

Mayor Jerkins stated he would suggest get back with Mr. Graham and let him know what the sponsors say and the other businesses. Mr. Greer agreed.

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone else would like to speak to Mayor and Council. Mr. Noah Givens stated he spoke with Mr. Kimbrough about the issues of the use of the Community Center and the fees and Mr. Kimbrough bought up some interesting language about this and I think it needs to be discussed.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mayor Jerkins stated he and Mr. Kimbrough attended the gas meeting. The discussion pertained to Atlanta Gas System is trying to force Austell Gas System to do boundaries in Douglas County and Cobb.

**7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT
BEVERLY JAMES BOYD, CHAIRPERSON
Denise Soesbee, Director**

A. Financial Report

B. 2nd Reading – 2007-08 Budget

Ms. Boyd stated tonight will be the second and final reading of the 2007-08 fiscal budget. You will find attached a copy of the 2007-08 financial budgets for your review.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 5**

This document will be presented to the council for a vote on June 4, 2007 Council Meeting which is tonight. There is a city wide decrease in the budget of \$801,504. This decrease budget proposal includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. The completion of the Veterans Memorial Highway sewer project in 2007 which resulted in a decrease budget of \$1,093,371.
2. We have included a 3% cost of living increase for all employees in this proposal. The cost of living increase would be effective as of July 1, 2007 and would cost approximately \$110,000 city wide. There have been no positions added for the 2008 fiscal year.
3. Included are all principal and interest for bond payments due as per the most recent CAFR schedule. This budget proposal also includes installment payments for vehicles purchased in FY2007 for Police and Public Works.
4. We are waiting to hear from our health care provider for the increase in premiums for FY2008. For this proposal, we have included a 12% increase from the 2007 budgeted premiums.
5. We have included amounts required to be transferred from the General Fund for excess Threadmill Complex expenditures of \$193,966 and amounts required to be transferred from the General fund for excess E-911 expenditures of \$383,381.
6. There are three new funds the City is required to add per our 2006 audit. The Confiscated Assets Fund (210), the Hotel/Motel Fund (275) and SPLOST fund (325).
7. The SPLOST fund (325) increased the overall budget by \$315,000. These funds can be used for the purchase of 800 MHz radios, D.O.T. projects, and resurfacing projects.

Please review the attached budget and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 6**

Ms. Boyd stated at this time she would like to turn the public hearing for 2007-2008 Budget over to Mr. Kimbrough. Mr. Kimbrough stated at this time we will call a Public hearing in the matter of the City of Austell 2007-2008 Final Budget for the second reading and consideration. Any questions or concerns from the council or the public after review of the budget. Do any members of the council or the citizens of Austell have any questions or concerns about the 2007-2008 Final Budget?

Ms. Ann Turner stated she had a simple question. Large numbers don't seem real. In the overall scheme of things does the City anticipate receiving more money than it spends or must it be a zero sum gain?

Mayor Jerkins stated we always try to take in more than we spend but sometimes when you budget for something, just like when we budget for the gas system sometimes we have more money and sometime less. You have to have a little leeway in between and we try to have a little cushion and this is called reserve. Ms. Turner stated any monies generated by increased rental fees, for example, from the Community Center would go into General Revenue and would be offset by potential increases in overtime in the fall for the fall festivities. Mayor Jerkins stated we try from year to year we try to budget and make it come out as zero balance it just doesn't work that way. Ms. Turner asked to do we wind up with more or less. Mayor Jerkins stated most of the time we have some reserve to fall back on and if we don't we are in trouble.

Mr. Kimbrough stated every time we have had bond issues for the City of Austell or the Austell Gas System the financial rating the city receives is the best it can be every single time. They have to go through the city audits as well as the gas systems audits to determine what kind of rating they will be getting on these bonds placed on the open market. The City of Austell has always had very high ratings. The department heads have done a great job over the past fifteen years.

Mayor Jerkins explained the better the rating you get the cheaper the interest. We have some that are three and half percent. Austell is in good financial shape. Ms. Boyd stated if anyone is concerned about making money at the Community Center this is not true. We have never made any money on the Community Center. Just like 911, these kinds of things are what we use the tax dollars for because it will never pay for itself.

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to close the hearing. Seconded by Mr. Traylor. Motion passed (6-0).

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of the Financial Committee to approve the 2007-08 Budget. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 7**

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Carolyn Duncan, Director**

A. Yard of the Month – Fred & Catherine Newsome

Ms. Anderson stated this evening she would like to present the Yard of the Month to Mr. and Mrs. Newsome of Ward 3. The yard was picked by Mr. Lynn, South Cobb High School and Future Farmers of America and his students. Ms. Anderson presented Mr. and Mrs. Newsome a fifty dollars gift card to Home Depot.

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

**VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON
Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

A. Police Report

B. Code Enforcement Report

C. 911 Resolution Wireless Charge

Ms. Reagan stated the Police Committee requests the City Council approve a Resolution allowing the City of Austell to impose a charge of \$1.50 per month per each wireless telecommunications connection subscribed to by subscribers whose billing address is within the jurisdiction of the City of Austell. The Resolution is attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the 911 Resolution Wireless Charge. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

D. Austell Gold & Pawn – Privilege License Request

Ms. Reagan stated Thomas Blackman has filed a Business License request to operate a pawnshop. Austell Gold & Pawn, to be located at 6205 Veterans Memorial Highway in Austell.

His fingerprints have not been returned from the GBI at this time. Mr. Thomas is asking if Council will approve the Privilege License Request, pending the return of his fingerprints. A copy of the application is attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the Austell Gold & Pawn Privilege License pending the return of Mr. Thomas fingerprints. Seconded by Ms. Boyd. Motion passed (6-0).

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 8**

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the Austell Gold & Pawn Privilege License pending the return of Mr. Thomas fingerprints. Seconded by Ms. Boyd. Motion passed (6-0).

**10. FIRE DEPARTMENT
SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON
Tim Williams, Fire Chief**

A. Fire Report

Mr. Thomas stated he would like for Chief Williams to give the Mayor and Council a report on the Boot Drive for the Burn Foundation. Chief Williams stated the Boot Drive raised four thousand and eighty-one dollars (\$4,081.00).

**11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DAVID "BO" TRAYLOR, CHAIRPERSON
Randy Bowens, Director**

A. List of Surplus Vehicles

Mr. Traylor stated the City of Austell will hold a public auction consisting of surplus vehicles and other miscellaneous items. The auction will be held in the rear side of the Austell Threadmill Complex located at 5000 Austell-Powder Springs Road, Austell. Items can be viewed beginning Friday, June 8, 2007 from 12:00 Noon until 5:00 P.M. The auction will began at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 9, 2007. Local checks, certified checks, and money orders will be accepted. No cash or credit cards.

Vehicles:

#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN
1	1985	Chevrolet	Pickup C10	1GCCC14N1FF378883
2	1987	Ford	F700	1FDWF70H6HVA60012
3	1990	Ford	Ranger Pickup	1FTCR10A6LUC10844
4	1991	GMC	Utility	1GTDC14Z2MZ524565
5	1992	Ford	Mustang GT Cobra	1FACP42EONF137930
6	1993	Ford	Ranger Pickup	1FTCR10U6PUD13648
7	1993	Ford	Ranger Pickup	1FTCR19U2PUD13646
8	1994	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71WORX149002
9	1995	Ford	Pickup F150	1FTEF15Y1SNB27581
10	1995	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71W6SX178445
11	1995	Dodge	Van	2B7H821T8SK578754

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007
PAGE 9**

12	1995	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71W8SX178270
13	1996	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71W6TX144748
14	1997	Ford	Ranger Pickup	1FTCR10U8VUC70427
15	1998	Ford	Ranger Pickup	1FTYR10U4WUB81929
16	1999	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAFP71W8XX238830
17	2003	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FAFP71WX3X154616
18		Ford	445 Tractor	NO TITLE

Miscellaneous:
Office Equipment

**12. PARKS DEPARTMENT
RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director**

A. No Report

**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BEVERLY JAMES BOYD, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director**

- A. Adoption of Cobb County's Group Home Amendment
- B. Collar Community Center Rental Rate Increase

14. CITY ATTORNEY – DUPREE, KING & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

**15. MAYOR'S REPORT
A. CMA MEETING
DATE:**

June 12, 2007

TIME:
LOCATION:

6:30 P.M.
Acworth – Summer Cookout

16. ADJOURN