

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JULY 2, 2007**

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

Absent: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney
Sandra Farmer, Assistant Director
General Administration

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Austell City Council was held on July 2, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Also present were: Carolyn Duncan, City Clerk; 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. Reverend Bob Neal 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. Ms. Reagan stated she would like to add 9C- Captain's Position – (Information Only). Mr. Traylor stated he would like to add 11B- Local Assistance Road Program Contract (LAU07-S010-00[357]) and 11C- Request for Street Light at 2627 Sloan Street.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to add items to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Traylor. Motion passed (6-0).

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 \$2,100.74
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting June 4, 2007

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

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

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5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone would like to speak to Mayor and Council. Mr. Martin Standard asked about the park design for the new park on Veterans Memorial Highway. Mayor Jerkins stated, no, we do not have a design yet, but we are working on this and Ms. Boyd is helping with this. Ms. Boyd invited Mr. Standard to help with this project.

Mr. Noah Givens asked for an update on the drought. Chief Williams explained the council was given a press release from the Marietta Daily Journal last week. Cobb County has chosen to go forward with all the public displays with the exception of the City of Powder Springs. City of Powder Springs actually passed an ordinance and they are not doing their public display nor are they allowing fireworks within the city as best as they can police it. The City of Douglasville, as well as Douglas County, cancelled their two public displays and that is all I am actually aware of as far as cancellations at this time. You mentioned Roswell and they are canceling. There will be public displays at Marietta, Acworth, Kennesaw and also some private displays. We are a Level II right now and that is an EPA level and that is a severe drought. They are asking us to be very careful with novelty items, because they do not explode, they stay on the ground, as well as sparklers, and candles because as dry as we are, and with children playing on the deck with the pine straw and mulch, it is very dangerous. We will hope there will be no problems.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mayor Jerkins stated Mr. Kimbrough attended the Gas System meeting and everything was standard at the meeting.

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

A. Financial Report

Ms. Boyd stated the financial reports have been submitted. Ms. Boyd asked if anyone had any questions. No one did. Ms. Boyd stated the Finance Department has already started working on the audit.

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

A. Health Insurance Renewal

Ms. Anderson stated our health insurance renews August 1, 2007. General Administration accepted three (3) Requests for Proposal for brokers to handle placing our insurance coverage and working with our Human Resource Department as well as our employees on any issues that may arise during the next year.

Included in each of the proposals for brokerage services is also renewal information from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, our current carriers, and quotes from several other insurance companies.

Included in your packet of Council Material this month is the proposal from RBC Benefits, Inc., The Wickham Agency, Inc. and Strategic Benefit Solutions, Inc.

Ms. Anderson stated, as we discussed last week in the pre-agenda meeting about the health insurance I make a motion to assign Strategic Benefit Solutions, Inc. as our broker to handle placement of our insurance coverage. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

Ms. Anderson stated the second part of this is our insurance coverage. Strategic Benefit Solutions, Inc. has suggested we move our coverage to Kaiser Permanente. The city would be saving over thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). On this you would be able to use your own doctors. As we discussed last week the pharmacy medications did come down and this would be for out-of-network. It would be \$10.00 for generic and \$25.00 for brand and \$40.00 for non-formulary which is less than what was discussed last week. You could go to their in-network plan which is HMO plan and their generic is \$5.00 and their brand is \$10.00. Basically it is close to the same of what we have had. There is one difference on the deductibles on the PPO and it is \$500.00 and it would also be going up on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield. It would be saving the City \$30,357.00. I make a motion we take the advice of Strategic Benefit Solutions, Inc. to take Kaiser Permanente. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

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Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. Boyd asked if we were taking Kaiser I, II, or III plan and are we taking number three. Mr. Michael Lank, broker for Strategic Benefit Solutions, Inc., explained the different plan options.

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

- A. Police Report
- B. Code Enforcement Report
- C. Captain's Position

Ms. Reagan stated the Police Department budgeted for a Captain's position to be included in the 2007-2008 budget. This will upgrade a Lieutenant's position to a Captain's position and will not be any increase in personnel. This position will supervise the Patrol Division with the additional responsibility of all departmental training and tactical response. The salary was budgeted in the amount of \$42,547.61. Randy Henson will be hired in this position, and will begin employment on July 3, 2007.

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

- A. Fire Report

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

- A. Update on Public Auction

Mr. Traylor stated the public auction was held on Saturday, June 9, 2007, beginning at 10:00 A.M. The auction brought in approximately \$13,142.50. I would like to thank Bob Starrett for being the auctioneer and thank Duane Demeritt and Randy Bowens for their help.

Mr. Traylor moved to follow to approve and accept the funds from the auction. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

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B. D.O.T. Contract – (L.A.R.P.)

Mr. Traylor stated it is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the following streets for resurfacing under the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Assistance Road Program, Contract LAU07-S010-00(357), and to authorize signatures on all corresponding contracts.

<u>Road Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Bowden Street	Humphries Hill Road	Jefferson Street
Filter Plant Road	Rolly Street	Rockhill Street
Joe Street	Joe Jerkins Boulevard	Sweetwater Street
Perk Way	Morningside Drive	Northview Drive
Pine Street	Center Street	Line Street

Mr. Traylor moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the D.O.T. Contract (L.A.R.P.). Seconded by Ms. Boyd. Motion passed (6-0).

C. Request for Streetlight – 2627 Sloan Street

Mr. Traylor stated it is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the installation of one (1) street light at 2627 Sloan Street at a monthly cost of \$9.10.

Mr. Traylor moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the installation of one (1) street light at 2627 Sloan Street at a monthly cost of \$9.10. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

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

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Ms. Boyd stated the Community Affairs Committee recommends approval of Cobb County's amendment to the Group Home ordinance.

The amendment allows for the reduction in the number of residents to 4 or less from the previous 6. In addition to the 4 residents there must be a designated managing caregiver that must also reside in the home.

All other standards and definitions will remain the same.

Mayor Jerkins stated he would like to open the public hearing for the Adoption of Cobb County's Group Home Amendment. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any questions concerning the Adoption of Cobb County's Group Home Amendment. No one did. Mayor Jerkins stated he would like to close the public hearing.

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the Adoption of Cobb County's Amendment to Group Home Ordinance. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

B. Adoption Resolution for Community Agenda Portion of Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Boyd stated the State Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has officially approved the "Community Agenda" portion of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Ms. Boyd introduced Mr. Mike Warwick of Keck & Wood Engineering to make his presentation. Mr. Warwick stated, what has brought us to this point, as you know the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires every City and County in the State of Georgia to prepare a comprehensive plan. We have been working with the city for the past year or so in putting together the different components of the plan and back in November we submitted the first part of the plan to the State and received approval of that portion right before Thanksgiving. The final component of the plan is what you have in front of you and it is called Community Agenda. We have been working on this since Christmas of last year. We have had a few public meetings and received a lot of community input. We were here back in March for the second public hearing which is required and we submitted the plan for State review. They have reviewed the plan and stated it was fine and no required changes to report. It meets all the State planning standards.

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The next step would be for you to officially adopt the plan. When you do that we will send a copy of the resolution to the Atlanta Regional Commission. They will, in turn, send a copy to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and they will reissue the city's status as a certified qualified local government under the planning provisions of GCA. I am here basically to answer any questions you might have tonight.

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Development Committee to formally adopt the Community Agenda portion of the Comprehensive Plan with the signing of the Adoption Resolution (attached). Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

C. Information Only on 2007 CDBG Project

Ms. Boyd stated the Department of Community Affairs has received an official Notice to Proceed from the office of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) with the 2007 Beavers Park Project.

The majority of the allotted \$32,423.00 will be used to purchase new playground equipment (see attached itemized quote).

Other necessary improvements will be done by the City and will include:

- The removal of an old block retaining wall and landscaping the area into a grassy slope
- Parking lot improvements
- Improvements to basketball area
- All over landscaping improvements

Cost of this work will be taken from the Parks Department Budget, line item 54.1200.

D. Term Renewals for Planning and Zoning and Board of Variance Appeals Members

Ms. Boyd stated the Community Affairs Committee recommends approval of the following term renewals:

<u>Planning and Zoning</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>New Expiration Date</u>
Barbara Pendergraft	W4	2 Years	May 31, 2009
Bill Foster	W4	2 Years	May 31, 2008
Evelyn Bragg	W2	2 Years	May 31, 2009

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Martin Standard	W3	2 Years	May 31, 2009
Trudie Causey	W3	2 Years	May 31, 2008

Variance Board

Ann Turner	W3	2 Years	May 31, 2009
Valarie Anderson	W1	2 Years	May 31, 2009
Ollie Clemons	W3	2 Years	May 31, 2009

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the term renewals. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

E. Proposed Downtown Farmers Market

Ms. Boyd stated the Community Affairs Committee would like to propose that the City use the large area at the base of the Stewart Reid overpass bridge for a seasonal produce market. The primary goal would be to attract more visitors and shoppers to the downtown area.

This department collected information from surrounding cities as to how their markets were operated and monitored and what guidelines they went by. From that, we came up with the following plans to implement this proposal:

- Invite local suppliers from the community and surrounding areas to apply for a Peddlers permit to display and sell approved items. Permit fees would be waived.
- Community Affairs Department will monitor and approve applicants and items to be sold. Vendors would sign a Hold Harmless Agreement at the time the permit is issued.
- Approved items would be restricted to produce, honey/syrup items. Flowers/plants and possibly some homemade craft items.
- Day and time of operation would be Saturday morning from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Vendors would set up, tear down and clean up on the same day.
- City would provide trash cans and be responsible for pick up and disposal.
- Possible ABA involvement such as help in advertising.

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Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the Downtown Farmers Market proposal. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

14. CITY ATTORNEY – DUPREE, KING & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **CMA MEETING**

**NO MEETING
SUMMER BREAK**

B. Appointment/Compensation – Austell Gas Board Members

Mayor Jerkins stated the three reappointments are as follows:

Grant Rainwater

R.E. Long

Hank Floyd

Mayor Jerkins stated the increase for the compensation of the Austell Gas Board Members will be increased from \$400.00 per month to \$500.00 per month which is \$100.00 per month increase.

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the three appointments for the Austell Gas Board Members. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the increase from \$400.00 to \$500.00 for the Austell Gas Board Members. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

16. ADJOURN

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).