

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2006**

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

Absent: Fire Chief Tim Williams

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Austell City Council was held on November 6, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order. Pastor Marvin "Doc" Frady of Clarkdale First Baptist Church gave the Invocation. Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jerkins asked if any member of the City Council would like to add items to the agenda. Ms. Reagan stated she would like to add 9. J – Police Dog. Ms. Boyd stated she would like to add 13. B – Changing date of Christmas Tree Lighting. Mr. Kimbrough stated he would like to add 14. A – Acquisition of Property.

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$2,161.41
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting October 2, 2006

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Traylor. 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 the Mayor and Council. Ann Turner introduced herself to Mayor and Council and stated she lived at 5415 Austell-Powder Springs Road. I have two questions, Why is the blinking light not working at the train track? The other question, I was fifteen strides into crossing Powder Springs Road and the light changed from walk to stop and I want to know if this can be changed. Mayor Jerkins told Ms. Turner she would have to complain to Cobb D.O.T. or we can call them and notify them. Ms. Turner stated the lights at the train station are out and Mayor Jerkins stated we would call Norfolk-Southern to take care of this. Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Mr. Eddie Jett introduced himself as well as his wife and his neighbor. Mr. Jett thanked the Mayor and Council for the chain link fence the City had installed. Mr. Jett stated he just wanted to know what was going to be done to pretty up the fence area. Mayor Jerkins stated we are trying to stop the dumping there and the Fire Department will be doing some of their training on the property. This will not be at night, but in the daytime and it will not be noisy. Mr. Jett recommended a wooden facade or something on it. Ms. Boyd asked, are you talking about the whole length of the fence? Mr. Jett stated, no, not the entire fence. Mayor Jerkins stated he would paint it and Ms. Boyd suggested planting some shrubbery along the fence. Mr. & Mrs. Jett thanked the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Shane Burnum introduced herself and stated she was denied a pouring license work permit to work at Sweetwater Inn. I was denied based on the fact I was arrested about eight years ago for criminal trespassing. I haven't been in any trouble since then. Mayor Jerkins asked Chief Starrett if he had received an application from Ms. Burnum. Chief Starrett stated he didn't know and if he did the application would be on file but he did not have this with him. Mayor Jerkins stated the Mayor and Council could not make a decision nor vote on this until Chief Starrett had the application with him. Mayor Jerkins asked Ms. Burnum to please come back next month and Mayor and Council would vote at that time.

Ms. Gail Hicks introduced herself and stated she lives on Center Street and Pine Street close to the cemetery and also known as baby land. I am a recent resident over there and I have been a resident of Austell for five or six years. The community itself is troubled. I think everyone knows about that area and it is one where no one wants to come into the neighborhood.

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The homeowners have complained and expressed to me about potential buyers coming into the area because they are afraid. I have called the Police, I don't know how many times, for loitering, vagrancy, urinating on property. I have called about breaking and entering into my place and scratching and vandalizing my vehicle. I do not wish to be run out of my neighborhood, and I really won't be, but what I would like to do is to see what is available to improve the community. All we need is a couple of willing minds and resources to help us. I have contacted Kirsten Anderson, Council Member responsible for this area. The community Pastor in the neighborhood, Pastor Clarence Ellerbee, has a small church, Causey Baptist Church. I have contacted him to find out what his avenues would be to help us. We have a plan that we would like to present a proposal next month entitled Self Help Hope whereby this program we enable the community and people to get up and help. We can help the church and they can help us. I called Code Enforcement and they returned my call and I asked them if they had any vacant abandoned buildings available. I have an army of people who want to help. These people want something to do and will do it, they just do not have anything available nor any hope left. I would like to present this proposal next month to Mayor and Council. Mayor Jerkins stated to Ms. Hicks he would look forward to the presentation next month and the city would help in any way.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

JOE JERKINS

Mayor Jerkins stated Mr. Kimbrough attended the gas meeting and the gas rates were discussed.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

BEVERLY JAMES BOYD, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Soesbee, Director

A. Financial Report

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Carolyn Duncan, Director

A. No Report

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9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

- A. Police Report
- B. Code Enforcement Report
- C. Sexual Offender Registry – Information Only

Ms. Reagan stated due to numerous Citizen complaints on sexual offenders living in Austell, and the lack of monitoring of these individuals, the Austell Police Department is looking into a way to establish a procedure to verify the registered address of the sex offender, and to identify absconders as early as possible.

At this time Chief Starrett is researching the Georgia laws to see how they may apply to a program of this type. The Mayor and Council will be updated as this research continues.

- D. Budget Revision – Radio Purchase

Ms. Reagan stated on January 22, 2006, after Mayor Jerkins met with the Commissioners of Cobb County, the Police and Fire Departments ordered radios from Motorola that were to be purchased from monies received from taxes collected. Now that the City of Austell has begun receiving this money, a budget order has been submitted. The Police Committee is requesting that Council approve transferring the amount owed, \$38,432.06, from contingency to Account 53.1600 for payment. A copy of the budget revision is attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the Budget Revision – Radio Purchase. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

- E. Radio Purchase

Ms. Reagan stated the Police Committee requests Council to approve the payment of a bill to Motorola for radios that have been purchased. A copy of the bill is attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the Radio Purchase. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

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F. Budget Revision – Vehicle Purchase

Ms. Reagan stated the Police Committee requests Council to approve a budget revision for the purchase of two Patrol vehicles. A total of three vehicles, fully equipped, will be received. Two will be paid for up front, and a third will be financed for one payment due next year. A budget revision is attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation to approve the Budget Revision- Vehicle Purchase. Seconded by Mr. Traylor. Motion passed (6-0).

G. Vehicle Purchase

Ms. Reagan stated the Police Committee is requesting Council to approve the purchase of two Patrol vehicles, and the financing of a third from the lowest of three bids, Family Ford in Dallas, Georgia. These vehicles will be fully equipped. The total cost will be \$115,057.72, with \$75,322.72 being paid now, and one payment of \$38,698.18 being paid next year. The bids and paperwork are attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the vehicle purchase. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

H. RIMS Upgrade

Ms. Reagan stated Austell 911 will receive an update to their Fire and Police Computer Reporting system, which will include mobile and mapping software, installation and training. The cost has been estimated at \$51,770.00. This was a budgeted expense, and the money will come from Account 54.2500. A copy of the purchase is attached.

Mayor Jerkins asked if Council had any questions. Ms. Anderson asked is this where we get our dollars from the cell phones? Mayor Jerkins stated, yes, it is, and what will happen when we get this system in when you dial 911 it will go to City of Austell instead of Cobb County or Douglas County. Once we get the system the money will go to City of Austell and each call made there will be a dollar charge and we will recoup the money pretty quickly. Mayor Jerkins stated we have needed this for a long time.

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Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the RIMS upgrade. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

I. Deputy Chief's Position

Ms. Reagan stated Deputy Chief Randy Henson has retired from the Police Department. Natalie Poulk has been named as his replacement. The Police Committee recommends that her salary be changed from \$40,577.79 to \$47,582.70. This would place her in the Assistant Director Range, Range 5, Step 7. This is a salaried position, and she will not be eligible for any overtime. A copy of the payroll change is attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve the Deputy Chief's position. Seconded by Mr. Traylor. Motion passed (6-0).

J. Police Dog

Ms. Reagan stated Chief Starrett's Police dog, Benno, is having bad health problems and can't walk anymore. The Police Committee is requesting that for now, Council will approve Chief Starrett to work with Romi, a female Dutch Shepherd he has had for several years.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police Committee to approve Chief Starrett permission to work with Romi, the Police Dog. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

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

A. Fire Report

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

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A. Addendum to Recycling Service Contract

Mr. Traylor stated the current recycling service contract with BFI has expired and a month-to-month agreement has been in effect since January 1, 2006. In order to continue the service for an additional year, it will be necessary to approve the attached Addendum. The Addendum indicates that the current rate of \$2.54 per resident will increase to \$2.86 (approximately 15.323%) per resident to become effective December 1, 2006, and ending December 31, 2007. Due to the fluctuating gas prices, this increase includes a fuel recovery fee.

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to authorize Mayor Joe Jerkins to execute the attached Addendum.

Mr. Traylor moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to authorize Mayor Joe Jerkins to execute the attached Addendum. 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. Community Center Security Deposit, Rules and Regulations Updates

Ms. Boyd stated due to the recent increase in the amount of teen parties and the resulting damage to walls and floors, Community Affairs and the Parks Committee recommend an increase in the amount of the deposit from \$100.00 to \$200.00. As I explained to all of you we do not cash that deposit check, we hold it in the office. When the report comes in, and if the building is left clean and undamaged, we return their personal check. If there is damage we deposit the check to cover the damage. We hope by increasing the deposit it will encourage people to take better care of the Community Center.

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In addition to this increase they further recommend the attached highlighted changes to the Rules and Regulations (see attached sheets).

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Community Affairs and the Parks Committee to increase the Damage Deposit and Fee Increase. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

B. Change Date for Christmas Tree Lighting

Ms. Boyd stated the date of the Christmas Tree Lighting which will be December 1, 2006, will not give us enough time to decorate and do the things necessary by that date. The Community Development Committee would like to recommend changing the date to Friday, December 8, 2006. This will give us ample time to get everything done. We will send out notification in our water bills.

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Development Committee to approve the date change to December 8, 2006, for the Christmas Tree Lighting. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

14. CITY ATTORNEY – DUPREE, KING & KIMBROUGH

A. Acquisition of Land

Mr. Kimbrough stated a motion and recommendation was needed giving Mayor Jerkins the authority to go forward with the Acquisition of Land that was discussed in Executive Session on October 30, 2006.

Ms. Boyd moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to give Mayor Jerkins the authority to go forward with the Acquisition of Land. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA MEETING

DATE:	NOVEMBER 14, 2006
TIME:	6:30 P.M.
LOCATION:	SMYRNA

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16. ADJOURN

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