

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022**

Present:

Mayor Ollie Clemons (virtual)
Valerie Anderson (virtual)
Melanie Elder
Devon Myrick
Sandra Leverette (virtual)
Marlin Lamar
Meredith Adams

Absent: Scott Kimbrough, Attorney

Also, present: Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Natalie Poulk, Police Chief (I), Darrell Weaver, Community Affairs Director 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 had items to add 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.)

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills - \$2,621.88
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting December 6, 2021

Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mayor Clemons stated there are not many changes as of right now & the gas company is doing well.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Lowe, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. 2022 New Health Insurance

To better serve our employees, the city has changed insurance coverage from Aetna to Humana. Humana is effective as of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Below are the bi-weekly/monthly premiums:

Bi-Weekly/Monthly Premiums – Humana Base Plan

<u>Employee Pays</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>City Pays</u>	<u>Total</u>
Employee 31.26	\$67.74	\$1,112.82	\$1,180.56
Emp. + Sp \$277.70	\$601.68	\$1,759.45	\$2,361.13
Emp. + Ch \$277.68	\$601.63	\$1,641.44	\$2,243.07
Family \$349.19	\$756.57	\$2,785.12	\$3,541.69

Bi-Weekly/Monthly Premiums – Humana Buy Up Plan

<u>Employee Pays</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>City Pays</u>	<u>Total</u>
Employee \$70.00	\$151.66	\$1,278.47	\$1,430.13
Emp. + Sp \$378.90	\$820.95	\$2,039.32	\$2,860.27
Emp. + Ch \$375.70	\$814.02	\$1,903.24	\$2,717.26
Family \$475.28	\$1,029.78	\$3,260.43	\$4,290.20

Ms. Elder moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the 2022. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEVON MYRICK, CHAIRPERSON

Natalie Poulk, Police Chief (I)

A. Police Report

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON
Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON
Bo Garrison, Director

A. 2022 Wastewater (Sewer) Rate Increase

The City of Austell has not had an increase in wastewater rates in over 5 years. On September 14, 2021, Cobb County Board of Commissioners passed an 11% increase (\$.52 per 1000 gallons). To cover this increase & as increases in City operational expenses, the Public Works Committee would like to increase the wastewater rate by 15% or an additional \$.44 per 1000 gallons. This would cost the average customer approximately \$5.13 per month.

The recommendation is to approve the proposed 15 percent increase to wastewater rates. See below:

	Inside City Limits	Outside City
Limits		
Current Wastewater Rates*	\$6.40	\$6.67
Proposed Wastewater Rates*	\$7.36	\$7.67

*Per 1000 gallons

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the 2022 Wastewater (Sewer) Rate Increase. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

B. Acknowledgement to Public Works

I, Sandra Leverette, Committee Chairwoman, would like to take the opportunity to express special thanks of gratitude to the Public Works Department; Thank you to each of our staff for the hard work and dedication to our department. I hope we continue the good work in the future.

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

MEREDITH ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON
Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Tree Lighting Ceremony (Informational Only)

On December 4, 2021, the Parks & Recreation Department set up for the City's annual tree lighting and Santa's Arrival Ceremony. After providing support to Sweetwater Mission's daytime event, the evening became a festival of lights. The city's first Trail of Trees was a hit with the community and staff is already making plans to expand the program next year. The Grinch also made his debut and almost stole the show. Overall, the department was proud to have facilitated such a community-oriented event.

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Darrell Weaver, Director

A. Code Enforcement Report

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. Flea Market Article Renumbering

Due to the adoption of the solicitation ordinance last month, Article VII, Flea Markets, has to be renumbered. The new solicitation ordinance section numbers are 10-290 through 10-339. The existing Flea Market section numbers are 10-324 through 10-332. As such, it is necessary to renumber the Flea Markets provision of the Code of Ordinances so that the new section numbers will be 10-341 through 10-349 with Sections 10-350 through 10-352 being reserved. There will be no change to the wording of the code sections, just the code section numbers.

Ms. Elder moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Flea Market Article Renumbering. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. No Report

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)

Ollie Clemons Jr.
Mayor

Elizabeth Young
Attest

FEB. 14. 2022
Date