

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019**

Present:

Marlin Lamar
Valerie Anderson
Ollie Clemons
Scott Thomas
Randy Green
Sandra Leverette

Absent: Mayor Joe Jerkins

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Denise Soesbee, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Development Director; Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief, Bob Starrett, Police Chief and Elizabeth Young, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Clemons called the meeting to order and Pastor John Bailey gave the Invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked if anyone needed to add items to the agenda. No one added items to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated we have several employees here for years of service recognition. He asked Keith Fields to come forward. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons thanked him for his 15 years of service to the city and presented him with a plaque and pin. He also stated that Mr. Fields will be retiring at the end of this month and wished him well on this next journey in life. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Dustin Evans to come forward. He thanked Mr. Evans for his 10 years of service to the city and presented him with a plaque and pin. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Alesha Long to come forward. He thanked her for her 5 years of service to the city and presented her with a pin.

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 \$2,610.00
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting March 4, 2019

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (5-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

No one spoke.

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

JOE JERKINS

Mr. Kimbrough stated everything is going well so far. We are ahead by 211,000 MMBTU's than this time last year.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Soesbee, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. No Report

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON

Bob Starrett, Police Chief

A. Police Report

B. Privilege License for Voulkstuin, LLC

Andrew Lundstrom of Voulkstuin, LLC has applied for a privilege license for the City of Austell. The business, Volkstuin, LLC will sell canned Malt Beverages and canned Wine. Background check was submitted. No negative returns shall prohibit the issuance of the license.

Mr. Green asked Mr. Lunstrom if he would be serving this in plastic cups since citizens cannot walk on the street with canned alcohol. Mr. Lundstrom stated yes it would be served in plastic cups.

Mr. Green made a motion to approve the privilege license. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed. (5-0)

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON
Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief

- A. Fire Report
- B. Purchase of a 2019 Chevrolet 1500 Truck

The City of Austell Fire Department has received quotes for purchasing a new vehicle for use by the Fire Department. This vehicle would be used by the fire department in varying capacities from responding to calls in the city, responding to calls outside the city when the boat is requested, going to classes and used for duties within the city.

#1: Hardy Chevrolet, 2019 Silverado 1500	\$34,517.60
# 2: Thornton Chevrolet 2019 Silverado 1500	\$36,049.00
# 3: Thornton Chevrolet 2019 Silverado 2500	\$35,096.00

Quotes and specifications for all vehicles are attached.
The Fire Department recommends approval of the proposed estimate by Hardy Chevrolet for the 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 due to the price of the vehicle and for the options that are on it. The vehicle will be a built to order vehicle, so the estimated delivery date is 12-16 weeks from date of order. Funding of this vehicle will be from 100-3510-54-2500.

Mrs. Anderson asked if this would be purchased with the \$65,000.00 from the sell of the fire truck several months back. Mr. Maxwell stated yes it would be. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked if we had a truck for the boat mentioned above. Mr. Maxwell stated we have ¾ ton truck for that as well. This truck will be used for the firefighters going to school and to respond on different calls. Each truck must have different equipment to accommodate different types of calls.

Mr. Lamar made a motion to approve the purchase of the new truck. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed. (5-0)

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Bo Garrison, Director

- A. No Report

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT
SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director

- A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director

A. Code Enforcement Report

Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated there was a question on 5950 Water Oaks from our Preagenda meeting. Mr. Graham stated that Barry Maxwell was suppose be taking care of that address. Mrs. Anderson asked Mr. Maxwell about the property on Bowden Street and what the status was. Mr. Maxwell stated we have sent out the Blight Tax letter. Mr. Merritt, Assistant Fire Chief, stated the property owner has made contact with them several times and there has been an issue with the title over an inheritance issue. The property owner is working with an attorney to get these issues corrected. Mrs. Anderson asked if we can make the property owner make the property look better while the title issues are being worked out. Right now, there is a blue tarp on the house and that is half way off and the door is open which is a hazard. Mr. Maxwell stated we can definitely make her secure it, we are trying to work with her because she is scared to put the money into it and then if she doesn't end up with it, then she is out that money. Mr. Merritt stated that she has about 2 weeks to come up with a plan on the next steps. Mr. Maxwell stated there is 1 other property we may have to go to the next step on, but the letters have gotten people talking to us.

B. Planning and Zoning Board of Appointment

Due to the resignation of Curtis Stanfield. It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to appoint Sarah Shurden to the remainder of Mr. Stanfield's appointed Planning and Zoning board term, to expire on May 31, 2019.

Mr. Lamar made a motion to approve the new P & Z Board member. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed. (5-0)

C. Annexation Request

The Community Affairs Department has received a request from Derek Caffé to annex the property located at 5060 Austell Powder Springs Road, LL 1163 of the 19th District, 2nd Section of Cobb County. The Planning and Zoning Board voted to defer to Mayor and council. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons turned it over to our city attorney, Scott Kimbrough, for a public hearing. Mr. Kimbrough stated Carlos Bickers was there to speak also and he asked Mr. Caffé and Mr. Bickers to come forward to swear them in. Mr. Caffé stated he requested the annexation into the city of Austell for several reasons. The first is the increase to public services, to take advantage of efforts by Austell to make a more livable community and to participate in that action. Mr. Caffé has lived here since 2015 and feels Austell is on an upward trend and wants to be a part of that and he feels it will help increase the property values of his home. He is looking at an increase in communication between him and the government. He has dealt with the Community Affairs department multiple times and feels he gets a much better personal response from the city rather than Cobb County. He is also concerned about voting and wants to be in there to provide support with his vote. Mr.

Caffe stated his views match up with the city's views and that is important to him. The benefits to the city are he is looking at increased tax revenue and gaining a citizen that is dedicated to its growth and will vote for progress. He stated if his property is annexed in, being his property is on the outskirts of his community this would act as a guinea pig to see the changes that would come. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Mr. Caffe if he had polled his neighbors to see if they had any input. Mr. Caffe stated there are 44 properties that border the city of Austell and most people do not care but there are several that do. He stated he has not had the time to poll them or go door to door asking. He stated there are a few that are adamant against it. Mrs. Anderson asked how would this affect the historic district there. Mr. Caffe stated he had heard if it was not designated a historic district then the railroad would have wiped it out. He is not sure how but that is what he was told. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Mr. Caffe what is the structure behind his house. Mr. Caffe stated this was a flex/storage space for him and his wife and it increases the value of their property. It does have plumbing, electrical and HVAC and is permitted by Cobb County. Mr. Kimbrough asked Mr. Bickers to speak. Mr. Bickers stated he has lived here his whole life and wants to support Mr. Caffe with the annexation. He hopes Clarkdale will someday be annexed into the city. It will provide better public safety to the community. Mr. Green stated it is not that we do not want to annex people in, but as a community that has a historic value to everybody, if we take 1 or 2 people then the whole district has to change because of that. We need to look into that to see that we are not going to hurt these other people. We need time to go back and research this before we proceed. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Mr. Graham to give his opinion on the matter. Mr. Graham stated he would like to offer this suggestion. If council turns this down today, Mr. Caffe can come back in 6 months to file an annexation again. That will give us time to adopt a historical ordinance to possibly keep Clarkdale historical. Also, if Mr. Bickers & Mr. Caffe could go around to everyone in the neighborhood, then we could have a meeting with everyone to let them know what services Austell has that would benefit them. We want to do our due diligence and have time to do this the right way. Mr. Graham also stated if we could get 2/3 of the community, it would be better off for the city. If we piecemeal it together, it will be difficult on all the services we provide to keep everything in order. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated they got a letter from Cobb County Community Development and the last sentence states this annexation could also cause a wider adverse effect for the entire Clarkdale Mill Village historic district as it would diminish the historic captivations of the neighborhood. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated he doesn't feel we have enough background or information to go forward at this time but possibly in the future.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department to deny the annexation request.

Mr. Lamar moved to follow the recommendation to deny the annexation request. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed. (5-0)

D. Threadmill Building Repairs

The Community Affairs Department received two bids to repair the exterior building of the Threadmill Complex. The North elevation was completed earlier this year. The remainder elevations include the East, West and South. The repairs include caulking all brick control joints and stone joints, pressure washing, installation of masonry sealer, and replacement of broken brick and mortar repair.

Tanner Waterproofing Company presented the lowest bid of \$136,970.00.

The majority of the expense will be paid from Threadmill Operations budget account 311-1565-52-2200, and any remainder will come from contingency.

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the Threadmill building repairs. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA Meeting
April 9, 2019 @ 6:30 pm
City of Smyrna
Smyrna Community Center
200 Village Green Circle, SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

B. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated the council needs to go into executive session.

Mrs. Anderson made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)

Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated there were no motions made and no votes taken in executive session.

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (5-0)