

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins
Kirsten Anderson
Valerie Anderson
Ollie Clemons
Randy Green
Scott Thomas

Absent: Sandra Leverette

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall.

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Carolyn Duncan, City Clerk; Sandra Farmer, Deputy City Clerk; General Administration; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Affairs Director; Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief; and Bob Starrett, Police Chief.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order and Pastor Reverend Michael Martin gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any items to add to the Agenda. No one did.

Mayor Jerkins presented a five-year pin to Angie Cochran/Supervisor of Court Service and thanked her for her hard work and dedication to the City of Austell.

Mayor Jerkins also presented Michelle Williams/Court Services with a five-year pin and thanked her for her service and hard work in Court Services.

2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$3,340.50
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting May 2, 2016

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. Motion passed (5-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone would like to speak to the Mayor and Council.

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Mr. Alvin Poole and another gentleman out of the audience spoke. They stated the cemetery at Causey Chapel is in bad shape. A few people have tried to maintain it but it is really becoming a problem. We are asking if the City can help us in any way. Mayor Jerkins stated we used to own Rosehill and now we own the streets there but not the cemetery. If we start helping with cemeteries we will open a door to get involved with all the cemeteries. Mr. Poole stated he felt the door was already opened. I see the City worker's there cutting that cemetery. Mayor Jerkins stated yes, we used to own it but we sold the lots. We still own the streets and we have to cut the streets because we own them in Rosehill but nothing else. We cannot get involved with other cemeteries because it would be a huge burden on the City. Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated she had a question. How old is this cemetery at Causey Chapel? Mr. Poole stated it goes back to the 1800's. Ms. Anderson asked are there any other cemeteries in Austell besides Rosehill cemetery that go back that far. Mr. Green stated he didn't know of any other cemeteries in the City. Ms. Valerie Anderson stated the only ones I know of are Rosehill and Causey Chapel the ones they are speaking of the only two cemeteries in the City of Austell. Mr. Poole stated you have one that has ten graves in it that belongs to the Causey family and then you have the other one on the other side of the road. Mayor Jerkins stated the house on the other side of the road is not in the City of Austell. Mr. Poole asked if the church was in the City. Mayor Jerkins stated he wasn't sure about the church but he was sure about the house. Mr. Poole asked is the cemetery in the City of Austell. Mayor Jerkins stated he wasn't about the cemetery if it was in the City of Austell. Ms. Valerie Anderson stated the church is in the County but the cemetery is in the City limits. Mayor Jerkins asked why the cemetery would be in the City. Ms. Anderson stated because it is across the street from it. Mayor Jerkins stated the Fincher house joints the cemetery. Mr. Poole stated we should be fair to everyone if we are cutting one cemetery then we should be cutting them all. Mayor Jerkins replied we should not be cutting Rosehill at all. They used to do it voluntarily and then we got the inmates to cut it. Then we lost the inmates. Mayor Jerkins suggested funds setup for cutting the cemeteries and that would solve the problems. Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated she had another question. She asked how long the City has been cutting Rosehill cemetery. Mayor Jerkins stated it was volunteers when I first came in to office and then they couldn't keep up with it. There was a guy that volunteered and they would give him a hundred dollars every now and then to cut the grass. Mayor Jerkins stated his wife went to City Hall in 1968 and bought twelve lots for thirty-five dollars. Mr. Poole asked is Rosehill owned by the City of Austell. Mayor Jerkins stated no, we own the roads throughout the cemetery but not the lots. Mayor Jerkins stated we are not supposed to cut it but we have been cutting because the volunteer help quit cutting it. Mr. Poole stated the man that was cutting Causey Chapel cemetery who was eighty-four years old passed away last week so that leaves me. I am not a young man but I have been doing it for eighteen years.

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I will be out there at night by myself cutting grass to try and keep it nice. Mayor Jerkins stated again, if someone could setup some funds to handle the grass cutting it would be the best thing to do for both commentaries. Mr. Green stated we need to check to see if Causey Chapel is in the City or the County. Mayor Jerkins stated most of your cemeteries charge a lot of money to keep the lots cut and maintained. But, the City of Austell didn't do that and now there is a problem. Mr. Poole stated we would appreciate any ideas or solutions you may have to help us. Mr. Thomas stated we don't need an eyesore in the city limits of the City. Mr. Graham stated he thought Cobb County has a cemetery committee for historical cemeteries. Mayor Jerkins stated we have had some funds donated to Rosehill. I think a couple of thousand dollars. Mr. Graham stated it was donated out of a trust from a family and I think it was one thousand to fifteen hundred per year to that cemetery. Mayor Jerkins stated we do not have the inmates anymore and then plus we have about ninety houses that we are cutting grass on that we had to buy out from the flood. This put a lot of extra work on us to keep this grass cut. We have been backed up with all of these flooded homes that we have had to buy and tear down. All the money we have spent and plus we had to cut a million dollars out of our budget this year because of the gas system's prices and plus we had a very mild winter. It has really hurt us. Right now, we are hurting on money. Ms. Valerie Anderson asked if we could research and make sure the Causey Chapel Cemetery is in the city limits of Austell and bring it back to the City Council to discuss. Mr. Graham stated to let him research this and see if it is in the City or not. Ms. Duncan, City Clerk stated that Cobb County does have a Cemetery Commission and I think they meet a couple of times a year so maybe we could tap into that. Mr. Graham stated he would check into this with Cobb County. Between Mr. Bowens department and mine it takes a full day to cut the cemetery. Mayor Jerkins stated there is a family owned cemetery close to Mr. Clemons. It is right on Austell Road and they have let it grow up and there are woods around it. Mr. Graham stated they are all over the County. Mayor Jerkins stated it is a good size cemetery on Austell Road. It is surrounded by the City but it is not in the City. Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated she had another question because she was just curious; Most of the people in that cemetery are they from the City of Austell. Mr. Poole stated he thought the majority was. Mayor Jerkins stated we will try and research it and see what we can resolve. Mr. Poole thanked the Mayor and Council.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mayor Jerkins stated we had a meeting two weeks ago and like I said the gas prices are down still. The meeting was business as usual.

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7. FINANCE REPORT

**OLLIE CLEMSONS, CHAIRPERSON
Denise Soesbee, Director**

A. Financial Report

B. Public Hearing – 2nd Reading Final 2016-2017 Budget

Mr. Clemons stated on May 2, 2016 the City Council conducted the first reading of the 2016-2017 Public Hearing was held for public comments. Tonight is the second and final Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Budget. Copies of the proposed budget have been available upon request in the Finance Department and the Public Hearings have been advertised in accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-81-5.

Some highlights of the 2016-17 Budget include:

- Revenue decrease for Austell Gas System: The projections for 2016-17 fiscal year is \$920,000 lower as a result of gas prices decreasing from approximately \$4.00 to \$2.00 as well as decreased usage by customers.
- Personnel Services: There are no salary increases projected for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- Healthcare: Healthcare costs are projected to stay approximately the same.
- Capital Outlay: Purchase of miscellaneous equipment for parks, public safety, and public works will be paid for by SPLOST dollars as well as new sidewalks and resurfacing projects are planned for 2016-17.
- Other: Rental revenues from City owned properties have increased by approximately \$30,000. The City continues its efforts to revitalize the downtown area with the remodel of city owned properties as well as business façade grants through CDBG.

Mr. Clemons stated at this time he would like to turn this over for a Public Hearing to Mr. Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney.

Mr. Kimbrough stated at this time I would like to call for a Public Hearing. This is the second and final Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2016-2017 Final Budget. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the final budget. Hearing none I would entertain a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. Motion passed (5-0).

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Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the 2nd Final Reading of the 2016-2017 Budget. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (5-0).

**8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON
Carolyn Duncan, Director**

- A. No Report

**9. POLICE DEPARTMENT
OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON
Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

- A. Police Report
B. Code Enforcement Report

**10. FIRE DEPARTMENT
RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON
Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief**

- A. Fire Report
B. MDA Firefighter Appreciation Month Proclamation

Mayor Jerkins read the Proclamation and stated the Firefighters have collected fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) in the last eleven years in donations. They have really done a fantastic job. Mayor Jerkins stated I need a motion to approve the Proclamation.

Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Proclamation. Seconded by Ms. Kirsten Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).

**11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Randy Bowens, Director**

- A. Purchase of New Ice Maker

Ms. Anderson stated the purpose is to approve the purchase of one new Scotsman Prodigy Plus Ice Maker.

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The Public Works Department has a need to purchase a new ice maker. The ice maker currently in service is no longer producing ice. This ice maker was in the September 2009 flood and has not worked correctly since.

Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the purchase of one new Scotsman Prodigy Plus Ice Maker from Restaurant Solutions, Inc. Further, it is the recommendation to waive the three bid rule. Funding will come from the Public Works General Fund (100-4210-54-2500) in an estimated cost not to exceed \$3,230.00. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. Motion passed (5-0).

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

A. Purchase of Downtown Equipment

Mr. Thomas stated the Parks Committee recommends the purchase of 6 french door trash receptacles with top and liners, nine, six foot metal benches and 3 bike racks with a total cost of \$17,310.00. These items will be placed downtown and come from the Parks budget account 110/6210 – 52.1200, sight improvements.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Parks Committee to approve the purchase of Downtown Equipment. Seconded by Ms. Valerie Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).

**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director**

A. Façade Improvement Grant Program Application

Ms. Valerie Anderson stated the Department of Community Affairs requires approval from the Mayor and Council for the Façade Improvement Grant Application submitted by Neil Morrisroe for the property of 2787 and 2789 Veterans Memorial Highway. Cobb County Community Development Block Grant amount requested, \$2,750.00.

Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Department of Community Affairs to approve the Façade Improvement Grant Program Application. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (5-0).

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B. Media Production/Photography Permit Guidelines and Fees

Ms. Valerie Anderson stated the Department of Community Affairs recommends approval for the Portrait/Scenic Photography Permit Guidelines/Fees, and the Media Production Permit Guidelines/Fees.

Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation to approve the Media Production/Photography Permit Guidelines and Fees. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (5-0).

C. Threadmill Elevator Upgrades

Mr. Anderson stated the Department of Community Affairs recommends upgrades for the elevators in the Threadmill Complex. This money will come from the 2016 SPLOST funds.

Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the Threadmill Elevator Upgrades. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. Motion passed (5-0).

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. Ordinance Amendment Sec. 2.41 of the Charter of the City of Austell to change the percentage of gross revenue from Austell Gas System who pays the City of Austell.

Mr. Kimbrough stated tonight for your consideration is the first Public Hearing of the Amendment for the Ordinance amending the Charter and the new Bond Ordinance that would allow for the new increase in the City of Austell Gas System which pays the City of Austell. It is based upon the revenues of the Gas System. This Ordinance is to increase the percentage to 11% of the Gas System's revenues earned from the customers who live in the City limits of Austell. At this time I would like to call for a Public Hearing. We will be required to have two Public Hearings. We will have the first Public Hearing tonight and the second one on Monday, July 11, 2016. We have to do a Bond Ordinance along with the Charter increasing the Gas System fee they pay as well as the Bond Ordinance. We have to do a Bond Ordinance along with the Ordinance amending the Charter as the Gas System revenues are tied to any Bonds the Gas System has outstanding and any revenues the City receives that are directly tied to the City that are outstanding. Although there are no bonds for either at this point and time. In case there are any in the future this has to be contemplated that way.

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Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the replacement position of City Clerk to Sandy Farmer. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (5-0).

Mr. Clemons stated he would like to mention the Active Shooter Presentation at the Austell First Baptist Church. I would like to thank Pastor Tim Ridgeway for the use of the church. It was very well attended and the people really appreciated the program. Captain Randy Henson really did an awesome job. We did have a couple of the Council Members that attended as well.

Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated she wanted to mention the lawn party on June 11, 2016. It will be at the Terrell Gardens and it will be wonderful. You will have the opportunity to build bird houses and plant beds. There will be some people there with seeds. It is a great place to bring your kids and your grandkids. It is from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. at 2836 Wendy Lane. Please tell everyone about this because it is a wonderful place. There is a walking trail by the creek and there are signs for what the different trees are. It is worth making a trip over there.

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kirsten Anderson.