

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014**

Present: Mayor Joe Jerkins
Kirsten Anderson
Ollie Clemons
Randy Green
Virginia Reagan
Scott Thomas
Suzanne Thomason

Absent: Carolyn Duncan
Denise Soesbee
Bob Starrett

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Sandra Farmer, Deputy City Clerk; General Administration; Randy Bowens, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Development Director; Tim Williams, Fire Chief.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jerkins called the meeting to order. Pastor John R. Bailey gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerkins asked the Council Members if they had any items to add to the Agenda.

Mr. Thomas stated he would like to add 12B. – Collar Park Tennis Court Project.
12C. -Beaver Park Basketball Court Project.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to add the items to the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. 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 \$1,737.50
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting March 3, 2014

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

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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Ms. Gleda James stated she was lucky that Sweetwater Creek had receded and she was thankful it was not like 2009. I would like to commend the City on the landscaping of the Veterans Park. It really looks good and you did a wonderful job. I must tell you that Frog Rock is in a state of disrepair or at least access to it. The culverts are very dangerous to try and cross over. Someone needs to come and look at these culverts and there is a whole lot of trash. I don't if it has washed up from the highway. There is a wheel over there with a tire on it on the bank of the creek. The good news is I received an e-mail from an author Elaine Scott who lives in Portland, Oregon. She has written the biography and the last story of Louise Suggs. It has gone to the publisher and it is due out in two months. I have mainly discussed a book signing with Pat Medlin and this was our discussion for the last several years. Pat and I discussed a book signing at the Threadmill and the City of Austell as the sponsor. The book will cover Louise's early years and learning the game of golf on the course and growing up in Austell as well as her successful career and as the founder of the LPGA and member of the State National and International Hall of Fame. She is right up there with Bobby Jones. Everyone has heard of Bobby Jones for the last eighty or ninety years. But, they both went into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame as first time inductees in 1979. Due to the publicity Jones has received throughout all the years and most local people have never heard of Louise Suggs other than the park in Austell. She is a great known golfer and champion and founder of the LPGA which is Ladies Professional Golf Association in 1948. She was born on September 7, 1923 and will be ninety-one (91) this next birthday. I am considering organizing Friends for Louise Suggs non-profit to pay tribute to her honor for years to come after I have long since departed. So I just wanted to bring this before the Council tonight. I have discussed this with the Mayor and he seems to be in favor of the book signing at the Threadmill Complex. The author has informed me the book will be published in two months so that will be in June or July. I need suggestions and ideas from the Council Members to help work on this project. I have also discussed this with the Librarian at the library at the Threadmill. She is going to inform all the libraries throughout the County about the book signing so we can really get a good start to get a good turnout for this through Cobb County and others who are interested in women's golf. This is has been sadly overlooked since the inception of it in the early years. Mayor Jerkins asked Ms. James did she say sometime in June or July. Ms. James stated she was not sure of the time as of yet. She stated the publisher and the author will suggest several things when the book comes out and I am sure Louise Suggs will be on the cover. I told the author to give me at least six weeks' notice. This can be very successful for the City of Austell since she grew up here and graduated here at the old Austell High School. Mr. Green was supposed to get me a photograph of the school. Mr. Green stated he had one but just couldn't get to it right now. Ms. Suggs was the valedictorian of her graduating class. I think it would be fitting to have a picture of the high school. I have a copy of a picture of Louise on top of Frog Rock.

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Mr. Green stated we have some old albums in the museum at the Threadmill that should have some pictures of Ms. Suggs. Ms. James stated she did not find any in the museum. I also looked in the library and did not find anything. Mr. Green stated the ones he has would be in the sixties. Ms. James stated there was only one Austell High School and I am not sure of the date it was torn down. Mr. Thomas asked don't we have one in the museum? Mr. Green stated yes, I think we do but it may be later when it was a middle school. Ms. Reagan stated I know there are pictures in the museum because they have been on Facebook and I know the curator has them in the museum. Mr. Green asked Ms. James if she had spoken to Mr. Johnson. Ms. James stated yes, she had and told him she was looking for a picture of the high school. Mr. Graham asked if Ms. Suggs was coming up for the book signing. Ms. James, stated, yes, she is. Mr. Graham stated there is a section where the old ATM used to be at the Threadmill we are going to take that room and renovate it and it might be fitting to do a whole section of Louise Suggs in that room. If we could get some old golf clubs or something people could look in and see a picture of her and the book. The space is not very big but big enough for one person. Ms. James stated if one would go on the internet and advertise for Louise Suggs and get some golf memorabilia we could find some response to that. Mr. Graham asked stated he will speak to the curator Mr. Johnson about this. I will try and have all this done before the book signing. Ms. James stated there will be a chapter about Austell in the book. Mr. Green stated maybe we could put a notation in the water bills. Ms. James stated she would keep in touch about the committee. Mayor Jerkins stated please let know in advance and will try and setup everything she needs in the book signing. Pat Medlin has retired and will not be able to help but Kathy will be able to help with this. Mr. Graham stated we will have everything setup and try and get some press to cover it. Ms. James stated I would suggest it be during the week because most of the press will not come out on the weekend. A bigger turnout would be during the week. Mr. Graham stated yes, we have asked a lot lately and they don't show up till after the fact and it depends on what the news is of the day. Ms. James stated with the publisher permission I will notify the Associated Press because she is world known in the history of golf.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE
JOE JERKINS**

Mr. Kimbrough stated he attended the meeting two weeks ago and nothing much going on. Just finished with a good winter as everyone knows and the gas bills went up a little bit due to the demand all across the country. Not too bad but we haven't seen those prices for about three or four years. We adopted the gas rate schedule for this month and getting ready for the summer months.

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7. FINANCE REPORT

**VIRGINIA REAGAN, CHAIRPERSON
Denise Soesbee, Director**

- A. Financial Report

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**KIRSTEN ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
Carolyn Duncan, Director**

- A. No Report

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

- A. Police Report
B. Code Enforcement Report
C. Privilege License Approval – La Salsa Restaurant, LLC

Ms. Reagan stated an application has been received for an Alcoholic Beverage License from Donna Villanueva to operate the business at La Salsa Restaurant to be located at 2856 Veteran's Memorial Highway in Austell. A background check has been completed, and there was nothing found that would prevent her from obtaining this license. A copy of the application is attached.

Ms. Reagan moved to follow the recommendation of the Police committee to approve the Privilege License. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

**RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON
Tim Williams, Fire Chief**

- A. Fire Report
B. Wellness Program/New Gym Facility

Mr. Green stated the new gym facility is progressing and looking great. Mr. Graham and his staff have done a great job renovating the suite.

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In February, the City Council approved \$40,000 from our City Contingency funds to supplement our Wellness Grant Award of \$5,000.00 from the Georgia Municipal Association. As the project has progressed, additional funding will be needed.

Wellness committee members have been shopping and pricing used gym equipment packages. We have located packages with excellent pricing but have not been able to purchase due to the renovation cost.

I ask that you approve Mayor Jerkins to approve the cost of the gym equipment packages and all additional cost involved with the completion of our new gym facility. With your approval, we will be able to proceed and complete this project in a more efficient manner.

Mr. Green moved to follow the recommendation to approve the cost of the gym equipment and all additional cost involved with the completion of the new gym. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed (6-0).

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

A. Request for Road Closure

Mayor Jerkins stated this is to approve a request from Austell First Baptist Church to close Mulberry Street and Grace Street. The Public Works Department is in receipt of a request from Austell First Baptist Church to close Mulberry Street and Grace Street on Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. The church is having their annual Spring Fling that will include games, a hay ride, food, and inflatable's. Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. Bowens if he had some barricades to help with this. Mr., Bowens stated, yes we do.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the request from the Austell First Baptist Church to close Mulberry Street and Grace Street on Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

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

A. Purchase of Park Equipment

Mr. Thomas stated the Parks Committee recommends approval to purchase a Lazer S 60 inch cut mower at this time in the amount of \$8,199.00 to be paid for using SPLOST funds.

The Parks Department received multiple estimates attached for your review. After comparing the cost estimates, the Parks Committee recommends approval of purchasing the equipment from Lost Mountain Outdoor Power Equipment, LLC. (Estimates attached).

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Parks Committee to approve the purchase of a Lazer S 60 inch cut mower from Mountain Outdoor Power Equipment, LLC. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

B. Collar Park Tennis Court Project (Vote to Add)

Mr. Thomas stated the City of Austell Parks Committee recommends approval of the Collar Park Tennis Court project. The project will consist of a complete rebuild of the tennis court. The project will be funded using money from SPLOST.

The Parks Department sought estimates for this project but was only able to get one. The estimate from Sport Surfaces International is attached. The Parks Committee recommends approval of the attached estimate in the amount of \$56,594.00. (Estimates attached).

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Collar Park Tennis Court Project. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

C. Beavers Park Basketball Court Project (Vote to Add)

Mr. Thomas stated the City of Austell Parks Committee recommends approval of the Beavers Park Basketball Court project. The project will consist of resurfacing and restriping the basketball court. The project will be funded using money from SPLOST.

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The Parks Department sought estimates for this project. The estimate from Sport Surfaces International is attached. The Parks Committee recommends approval of the attached estimate in the amount of \$7,500.00. (Estimate attached).

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of the Parks Committee to approve the attached estimate in the amount of \$7,500.00. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed (6-0).

**13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director**

A. No Report

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. CMA MEETING

TIME:

LOCATION:

JUNE 10, 2014

6:30 P.M.

ACWORTH CITY HALL

MOVIE INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA

B. Proclamation – Patriot's Day

Mayor Jerkins read the Proclamation for Patriot's Day.

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Proclamation for Patriot's Day. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).

C. Community Prayer Breakfast – May 1, 2014 @ 8:00 A.M. – Community Center

Mayor Jerkins stated Austell First Baptist and Austell Presbyterian Church have invited the City and the Community for a Prayer breakfast on May 1, 2014 @ 8:00 A.M. at the Community Center.

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Reagan. Motion passed.

