

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF AUSTELL  
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016**

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

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on Monday, May 2, 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 Tim Ridgeway gave the Invocation and Mayor Jerkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerkins asked if anyone had any items to add to the Agenda. Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated she would like to add 11C. – Community Garden.

*Mr. Randy Green moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to add 11C. 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 \$ 3,228.03
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting April 4, 2016

*Ms. Kirsten Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Jerkins to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. 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. Jane Manning stated her name and stated she was running for State Court Judge. Ms. Manning stated her qualifications and asked for everyone to please vote for her.

Ms. Kim Childs stated her name and stated she was running for Superior Court Judge. Ms. Childs stated her qualifications and asked for everyone's vote.

Mr. Albert McCrea introduced himself and stated he was the Chairman of the Austell Community Task Force. We had a strategic plan meeting and we would like to expand our services and reach out to the Austell City Community. What we do at the Austell Community Task Force, we collect the voice of our community and we also do a back-to-school jam. We have a Christmas Holiday special and we also work with Sweetwater Mission to do the Wellness Day. We do Public Forums and what we would like to do is to continue to bridge the gap and continue to bring our communities together through the Austell Community Task Force. If I could please ask our Austell Community Task Force to please stand. Our Task Force normally meets tonight the first Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. the same night you have your meeting so we could not get everyone together for a meeting so we said we will come to your meeting and find a way to partnership. Also, I am running for School Board and again, my name is Albert McCrea and I would appreciate Austell's vote.

Ms. Sheila Edwards stated her name and stated she was a candidate for State House Representative for District 39. Ms. Edwards stated she had lived in Cobb County since 1992. I am a homeowner and I am a taxpayer. I have raised two children in the Public School System and they have gone on to graduate from Baylor University and have become constructive citizens in the community. I am running because I believe our community needs an advocate who will voice our concerns at the capitol. A few years ago my community was besieged by a waste transfer station right across the street from us and I live up the street on Veterans Memorial near Discovery and Oakdale. When I did find out I went to work although I was told it was a done deal. Someone had decided that was where it was going to go. I said no, it will not happen. I used my skills learned on the local State and Federal government to pull together a community organization and together we worked for nearly two and a half years to oppose the situation. We lobbied our Commissioners, I contacted our local State and Federal officials and David Scott's office sent a letter for us and U.S. Senator Chambliss sent a letter for us. We engaged everyone that we could and I contacted river keepers because it was two thousand feet away from the river where we get our drinking water.

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So together working with the community we were able to convince them to vote no unanimously and this was a big deal for our community. In our district we already have about five waste transfer stations. We do not need any more in our communities. We have taken on that burden so let someone else do it this time. When I bought my home here in Mableton I was promised there would be new development for Southwest Cobb. I bought into that promise and if I am elected State Representative I would keep that promise to the community. The same way they can build in East Cobb and the other parts of Cobb County. Why don't those monies come to our communities where we live, work and play? The government goes off on these junkets and has other things for the State but not for our community. We need to create jobs in a business district for us. There is a lot of focus for me in terms of running for the House of Representatives. Another focus is the school issue. Again, I mentioned having educated my children through Public Schools and they had a great education. Everyone can't afford Private Schools. What happens to the kids that are stuck in Public Schools? If you start cutting funding and start grabbing power when it comes to schools what happens to those kids? This is a concern of mine. I am asking for your consideration for your vote and my website is [www.ELECTSHELIAEDWARDS.COM](http://www.ELECTSHELIAEDWARDS.COM) if I am elected I am looking forward to working with members of your office and everyone across the County. The County needs a lot of attention and a lot of cohesiveness in terms of working together and making things happen in our community.

**6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE  
JOE JERKINS**

Mayor Jerkins stated we had a meeting Thursday night and gas prices are still down. They have however, started back up a little bit. The revenue is way off as I mentioned at the Pre-Agenda Meeting. We are going to have to cut our next year budget by a million dollars because of the low gas prices because of the warm winter. We finally have everything worked out.

**7. FINANCE REPORT  
OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON  
Denise Soesbee, Finance Director**

A. Financial Report

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B. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget

Mr. Clemons stated we will have to have a Public Hearing. As you can see you have the 2016-17 Budget before you. Some of the highlights of it are as follows:

- 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.
- 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.

This Public Hearing was advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on April 18<sup>th</sup> through April 22<sup>nd</sup> prior to the Public Hearing in accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-81-5. Also the Preliminary 2016-17 Budget is available upon request to the Finance Department. We will have two Public Hearings one tonight and the next one on June 6, 2016. I would like to turn this over now to Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney.

Mr. Kimbrough stated at this time I would like to call for a Public Hearing in the matter of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) Reading for the 2016-2017 Budget. This is the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Reading. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone had any comments or concerns. No one did.

*Mr. Clemons moved to follow the recommendation to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Ms. Kirsten Anderson. Motion passed (6-0).*

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**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

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

**1. Recommendation and Approval:**

A. Purchase of Infrared Asphalt Recycler

Ms. Anderson stated the purpose is to approve the purchase of one new KM 2-18X Infrared Asphalt Recycler. The Public Works Department has a need to purchase an Infrared Asphalt Recycler to quickly repair potholes and other deficiencies in the roadway. Infrared repair would allow us to recycle 70% of the existing material, which decreases new material costs. Infrared repair creates a hot to hot bond between new and existing asphalt, resulting in a seamless weld between the repair area and the area around it, minimizing the chance of water penetration. The seamless weld makes the repair more reliable and permanent than traditional methods.

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*Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the purchase of one new KM 2-18X Infrared Asphalt Recycler from K M International in an estimated cost not to exceed \$11,474.45 and to authorize City staff to execute the corresponding documents. Funding will come from the Special Local Option Sales Tax in an estimated cost not to exceed \$11,474.45. Seconded by Ms. Sandra Leverette. Motion passed (6-0).*

**B. Residential Garbage Services Rate Adjustment**

Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated the City of Austell and Republic Services entered into a residential trash service contract. We have received notification of a ten cent price increase for all customers.

Per our current contract, Section 7 (Adjustments), the monthly fee will increase from \$9.15 to \$9.25 per month per home.

*Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee for the City Council to authorize the residential trash services rate adjustment from \$9.15 to \$9.25, effective July 1, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Clemons. Motion passed (6-0).*

**C. Community Garden**

Ms. Kirsten Anderson stated the purpose is to authorize Andrea Searles; Morenike Olaoye; and Terrie Carter, Cobb County Master Gardeners to utilize the I.T. and Lodemia Terrell Community Garden.

To offer the City of Austell ongoing educational and hands-on programs to serve all residents to also include the un and under employed, high crime and low income communities, and neighborhoods who are in need of innovated options and opportunities to become self-empowered and self-sustainable.

*Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Public Works Committee for the City Council to authorize Andrea Searles; Morenike Olaoye; and Terri Carter, Cobb County Master Gardeners, to utilize the I.T. and Lodemia Terrell Community Garden. Seconded by Ms. Sandra Leverette. Motion passed (6-0).*

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

- A. No Report

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

- A. Façade Improvement Grant Program Committee  
Ms. Valerie Anderson stated the Community Affairs Committee, in reference to the business application process for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded Façade Improvement Grant Program, recommend for appointment by Mayor and Council the following names for the five (5) member Façade Grant Review Committee; Diane Evans (Planning & Zoning Committee), William (Bill) Johnson (Austell Museum Curator), Valerie Anderson (City Council), Mark Thompson (Building Inspector), and Ann Cockerill (Red Cockerill Gallery). The appointed Review Committee will follow the advisory direction of the Secretary of Interiors Standards and Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings. The City of Austell's Façade Improvement Grant Program is designed to stimulate downtown investment, maintain and expand the economic contribution of the Central Business District, promote architectural appreciation and initiate aesthetic improvements in downtown Austell.

*Ms. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of the Community Affairs Committee to approve the Façade Improvement Grant Program Committee. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (6-0).*

**14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH**

- A. No Report

Mayor Jerkins asked Mr. Kimbrough if he would give an update on the Abatements.

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Mr. Kimbrough stated all of the Abatements we have filed and we had four that went through last Thursday night in Court and were approved. One of the abatements that we sent to the owner they tore the structure down themselves. We were still able to get the final order to continue to do that and clean that property up if the owner does not. Another one we had to put off till until the meeting for this month because there is a new owner involved. But, all the abatements we have filed by order. Mr. Kimbrough asked Mr. Bowens if all been torn down. Mr. Bowens stated currently we are just waiting on these that have gone through the court system. Mr. Bowens stated thirteen and fourteen were already torn down by the new owner. The owner is prepared to clean up that site and apply for a building permit. I told him to check in with our office to verify if the property is in the flood plain. My concern is the property on Jones Road; my understanding is one of those properties re-sold. I am not certain which one but I believe it was 5010 Jones Road. Mr. Kimbrough stated this one is not part of the abatement. I think we did 5020 Jones Road but it was not 5010 Jones Road. Mr. Kimbrough stated basically, as we have filed all of these abatements and lawsuits and for those of you who do not know what this is about a lot of these properties, which were damaged in the flood of 2009 and they were just left abandoned and vacant. Once we finished with all of GEMA and FEMA processes that we had to go through to see if some of these homeowners could qualify to receive funds from these organizations then we were able to move forward to file the abatements to have these structures demolished. Everyone that we have filed has either been offered that we tear the structure down ourselves or like a couple of them like thirteen and fourteen Cochise Drive the owners have torn down the structures themselves and have plans to rebuild. Mr. Bowens stated 1129 Pontiac Circle they have plans to rebuild. Mr. Kimbrough stated Ms. Ball was granted the permits to rebuild hers and redo the structure to make it habitable and not a nuisance any longer. Like I said on the last one we just received the information on the new owner it is the old laundromat on Jefferson Street. There is a new owner there and he told us the other night he is planning on coming down and applying for permits to fix that structure as well. If he does not do that in the time period that we gave him which will be the hearing and will be the last Thursday of this month is that correct. Ms. Duncan, City Clerk stated, yes correct. Mr. Kimbrough stated we will proceed forward to get an order from Judge Darden in order to demolish that structure as well. So, everything is going well with those. Mayor Jerkins stated the one on Pontiac Circle we bought through the Federal government. Mr. Bowens stated 1151 Pontiac Circle. Mayor Jerkins asked if this one was to be torn down.

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Mr. Bowens stated this is one I was going to ask Mr. Kimbrough about and if it went through the Court system. Mr. Kimbrough stated yes, it did. Mr. Bowens stated we are actually purchasing 1152. Mayor Jerkins stated we have already bought this property. Mr. Bowens, stated yes sir, we have already sent the check to them and we will demolish that structure in the next two weeks. Chief Maxwell stated 1320 Cochise we are in communication with them and they are going to get permits and rebuild. Mayor Jerkins stated the one on Jefferson Street we have had a hard time with this one and we have already approved a permit for this one and they have a structural engineer working on this property. Mr. Graham stated the Inspector is going to check and make sure the structural engineer is on point with everything. Mayor Jerkins stated they are supposed to start working on that house but it is taking a little time.

**15. MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. CMA MEETING  
TIME:  
LOCATION:

TBD  
6:30 P.M.

Mayor Jerkins stated we are having a prayer breakfast this Thursday, May 5, at 8:00 A.M. at the Community Center. Several churches are involved, Austell Methodist Church, Austell Presbyterian Church, and Austell First Baptist. They will be preparing the food for us and everyone is invited so please try and attend.

Mr. Ollie Clemons stated he would like to remind everyone that the Austell Police Department is having an Active Shooter Presentation which will be next Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. at the Austell First Baptist Church led by the Senior Pastor Tim Ridgeway. Pastor Ridgeway has consented to have this presentation at his church. We would like to invite everyone to attend this presentation if you can. It is information that we unfortunately need to know in this day and time.

Chief Starrett stated he would like to announce we have the Running With the Mayor on Saturday, May 21, 2016. We will start at the Community Center at Collar Park and it will start at 8:00 A.M. Ms. Soesbee stated you can register online at [active.com](http://active.com) and the registration fee is \$20.00.

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**16. ADJOURN**

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