

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

Present:

Mayor Ollie Clemons
Valerie Anderson
Melanie Elder
Devon Myrick
Sandra Leverette
Randy Green
Marlin Lamar

Also, present: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; 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 needed to add items to the agenda. Mrs. Anderson stated she needs to add item 13B, Privilege License to the agenda.

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to add item 13B, Privilege License. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

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 - \$1,705.90
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting January 4, 2021

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette Motion passed. (6-0)

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mr. Kimbrough stated we have had a cool winter so far & everything is going good.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Lowe, Finance Director

A. Financial Report

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

A. No Report

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON

Bob Starrett, Police Chief

A. Police Report

B. School Zone Speed Camera

The Police Committee requests Council to approve the installation of school zone speed cameras. These cameras would be installed at Garrett Middle School on Austell Powder Springs road and Hendricks Elementary School located on Meadows road. The purpose of the cameras is to improve safety for our children and reduce traffic accidents. The fines for violations will be \$75.00 for the 1st violation and \$125.00 for subsequent violations. This will be a civil violation with no points or insurance ramifications. Non-payment results in denial of annual motor vehicle registration.

Overall, this is the best way to protect our citizens in a way that is fair to violators. A study was conducted on each school zone. The results in one single day results were:

Hendricks Elementary School - 301 violations 10+ mph over legal limit

Garrett Middle School - 1228 violations 10+ mph over legal limit

This information has been given to Judge David Darden, and our City attorney Scott Kimbrough. Judge Darden did have questions, which were answered by Sgt. Robert Sfreddo who has been instrumental in preparing this material. Scott Kimbrough made some changes within the contract.

The costs for the system will consist of a 35% service fee for each paid citation.

Regulations are set in House Bill 978. These cameras are being used in numerous jurisdictions around our area. This system will require the Police department to handle correspondence from persons having questions or disputes and reviewing videos of violators. The money collected shall be used for law enforcement or public safety initiatives. A package containing more information is provided.

Mr. Green moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Speed Zone Cameras, the ordinance & the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (6-0)

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Bo Garrison, Director

A. Adoption for the 2021-2025 Water Conservation Rate Increase & Laboratory Fees
 On February 4, 2019, the City approved water rate increases passed by Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority beginning January 1, 2019 through January 1, 2023. Effective January 1, 2021, the governmental contractual water rate will be increased by 2.5 percent (\$0.06 per 1,000 gallons) instead of the original 2 percent resulting in an additional .5 percent cost to the City.

Recommendation:

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to adjust the City's water rates by the same .5 percent beginning January 1, 2021 through January 1, 2025. See proposed rates below:

	Current	Proposed				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<u>Inside City & Greif</u> <u>(Austell Boxboard)</u>						
First 2000 gallons (Minimum Bill)	10.88	11.37	11.82	12.30	12.79	13.30
2001-7000 gallons	4.62	4.83	5.02	5.22	5.43	5.65
7001-15000 gallons	5.30	5.54	5.76	5.99	6.23	6.48

greater than 15001 gallons	7.35	7.68	7.99	8.31	8.64	8.99
<u>Outside City</u>						
First 2000 gallons (Minimum Bill)	11.42	11.93	12.41	12.91	13.42	13.96
2001-7000 gallons	4.89	5.11	5.31	5.53	5.75	5.98
7001-15000 gallons	5.64	5.89	6.13	6.37	6.63	6.89
greater than 15001 gallons	7.89	8.25	8.57	8.92	9.27	9.65

Also, the 2021 Budget will include an increase in Laboratory fees. The fees per sample charge for non-routine, non-sole-source, and non-system (Private) samples collected and test during normal work hours will increase from \$50.00 to \$65.00 and for overtime samples for any customer will be \$200.00 and all subsequent overtime samples on that day will be \$65.00.

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the 2021-2025 Water Conservation Rate Increase & Laboratory Fees. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (6-0)

B. 5960 Harrison Ave. Right-of-Way

The property located at 5690 Harrison Ave. has recently been purchased by Old Post Interest, LLC. Harrison Ave. runs through this property making it unusable to the company. The City of Austell would like to purchase the property for ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) and that will allow the road to remain open for the emergency vehicles to have a better response time.

It is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the extension to Harrison Ave. that crosses through 5690 Harrison Ave. Parcel number 1912800400 as a City of Austell road and Right-Of-Way.

Mrs. Leverette moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the 5960 Harrison Ave. Right-of-Way Project. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (6-0)

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT
DEVON MYRICK, CHAIRPERSON
Jim Graham, Director

A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

A. Code Enforcement Report

B. Privilege License

The Community Affairs Department received an application from Mauro Alvarex for a privilege license. Chef Smokey's will be located at 2805 Veterans Memorial Hwy. They have requested to sell beer, wine, liquor and Sunday sales.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the privilege license. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (6-0)

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

A. No Report

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

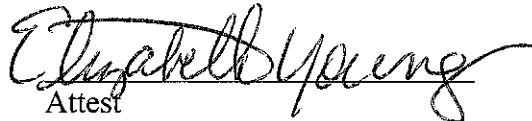
A. No Report

16. ADJOURN

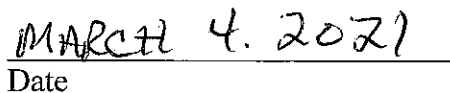
Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (6-0)



Mayor



Attest



Date