



# City of Powder Springs

City of Powder Springs  
4426 Marietta Street  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

## Meeting Minutes - Final Council Work Session

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Wednesday, April 12, 2023

5:00 PM

Ford Center Reception Hall  
4181 Atlanta Street, Building 2  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

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### Location Information:

**Onsite: Ford Center Reception Hall, 4181 Atlanta St., Powder Springs, GA 30127**

**Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86703011638>  
Meeting ID: 867 0301 1638 Dial: 1-929-205-6099**

### Call to Order

Mayor Thurman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All Council Members were present on site. Council Member Dawkins arrived at 5:28pm. Also present on site were City Attorney Julie Livingston, City Manager Pam Conner, and City Clerk Kelly Axt.

Staff in attendance: Bill Tanks, Lane Cadwell, Travis Landrum, Tamara Newkirt, Chris Pike, Travis Sims, Eric Meyer, and Rosalyn Nealy.

**Present** 6 - Mayor Al Thurman, Mayor Pro Tem - Ward 1 Henry Lust, Council Member - Ward 2 Doris Dawkins, Council Member - Ward 3 Dwayne Green, Council Member - At Large Post 1 Patrick Bordelon, and Council Member - At Large Post 2 Patricia Wisdom

### Mayor's Comments

Mayor Thurman made no comments.

### Work Session Matters

[RPT 23-038](#) Report - Nonprofit Partnerships

Jon Walker, City Manager of the City of Chamblee, provided an overview of their partnerships with state verified non-profits and business communities that are designed to help strengthen relationship building, branding and with funding opportunities.

The Mayor asked when was the program established. Community Engagement Director for the City of Chamblee Brittney Lindsay answered that the program launched September 2021.

[RPT 23-039](#) Report- GMEBS Presentation

Michelle Warner, of Georgia Municipal Association, provided a presentation of the current pension plan of the employee, Mayor and Council. Ms. Warner defined retirement eligibility and benefit calculations.

The Council body asked is the pension taxable. Ms. Warner replied yes it is taxable.

City Manager Pam Conner added that Staff is looking at some recommendations such as changing the retirement age from 65 years to 62 years for field personnel and public safety, vesting time from 7years to 5 years and addressed request from employee survey to increase the benefit multiplier from 1.75% to 3%. The 3% multiplier is typically in Cities where Social Security is not withheld.

[RPT 23-040](#) Report Driveway Curb Ramps

Pam Conner, City Manager, stated that the City has been informed that the street parking on Hotel Avenue has to be removed once the Novare development is completed per the Cobb County Fire Marshall. Mrs. Conner added that Staff has requested quotes to paint over those parking spaces. She also mentioned that staff noticed motorist conflicts going into the driveway at the municipal parking lot and suggests closing the front driveway forcing vehicles to enter in the rear.

No discussion was held.

[RPT 23-041](#) Proclamation - Mayor's Reading Club

Pam Conner, City Manager, discussed the Mayors Reading Club Program that focus on literacy and that Mayor Thurman and other Council Members will participate.

No discussion was held.

[RES0 23-097](#) A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA POWER COMPANY TO RELOCATE A METER IN DOWNTOWN FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$16,865.00; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Eric Meyer, Development & Infrastructure Agency Executive Director, discussed that as a result of Novare's development project downtown some lights were disconnected and a meter needs to be moved to reconnect those lights.

The Mayor asked what is the time frame on the work. Mr. Meyer replied maybe May or June but no promises.

[RES0 23-098](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SPINNAKER INSURANCE COMPANY FOR ADDITIONAL CYBER COVERAGE WITH FOR AN ANNUAL PREMIUM OF \$1877; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Chris Pike, Chief Financial Officer, discussed receiving two quotes from vendors to provide additional cyber coverage. Mr. Pike recommends Cowbell Cyber Inc. for up to one million dollars of cyber coverage. Mr. Pike added that the premiums runs under \$2,000 annually.

The Mayor asked how much would one million dollars cover; and in the event of human error is there something in the policy that would prevent the vendor from paying. Mr. Pike replied that the coverage would cover almost any type of cyber event the city would run into; and that he would check the policy but doesn't think would be a factor.

[RES0 23-099](#) A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH WEST ROCK TO HAUL AND PURCHASE SEPARATED RECYCLED MATERIALS FROM THE CITY RECYCLING CENTER; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Eric Meyer, Development & Infrastructure Agency Executive Director, discussed the service delivery improvement in the contract with no price change.

No discussion was held.

[RES0 23-100](#) A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PERSONNEL MANUAL TO INCLUDE A LEAVE POLICY FOR THE BIRTH OR ADOPTION OF A CHILD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Pam Conner, City Manager, discussed requests for paid parental leave up to six weeks for the birth or placement of a child. Mrs. Conner reminded everyone that FMLA is available after a year of service.

No discussion was held.

[RES0 23-101](#) A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH WASTE PRO OF GEORGIA, INC. TO HAUL AND PURCHASE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Eric Meyer, Development & Infrastructure Agency Executive Director, discussed the service delivery improvement in the contract with no price change.

No discussion was held.

[RES0 23-102](#) A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS TOTALLING \$15,873 TO NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED ORGANIZATIONS MEETING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Wayne Wright, ARPA Program Manager, presented the 2023 applicants for the neighborhood grant. Mr. Wright added that the maximum grant award was \$4,000; the grant required a 100% match; nine applications were submitted and made recommendations for six awardees.

The Mayor asked for the criteria of the grants; how was this grant program marketed; and is there insurance that the grant monies are used for the purpose given. The Mayor and Council body suggested that the next grant should be marketed in the quarterly billings and newsletters, update the HOA contact list to make them aware and not rely solely on online marketing so some of the older neighborhoods with greater need have opportunity.

Mr. Wright replied that they tried to make the criteria general. City Manager Pam Conner added that the criteria were to be city residents, with no outstanding taxes or code enforcement issues with respect to area; Mr. Wright stated that it was marketed on social media and city website; and the awardees are paid 50% upfront to purchase necessary materials and the remainder of the grant is paid when the work is completed and inspected.

[PZ 23--009](#) Variance Request. To vary Section 8-23 of the UDC to reduce stream buffers. The property is located at 3152 Brooks Lane, within land lot 725 of the 19th District, 2nd Section, Cobb County, Georgia. PIN: 19072500120.

Pam Conner, City Manager, discussed the placement of the accessory building in relation to the newly discovered second stream buffer on Brooks Lane.

The Council body asked by how much can the applicant vary into the buffer. Mrs. Conner replied that they can encroach into the 75 foot buffer with the enlargement of the accessory structure by 25 feet. There are no issues with the state buffer requirements.

[2023 -025](#) Proclamation - Earth Day Steward - Lester Hicks

Pam Conner, City Manager, discussed the environmental accomplishments of Powder Springs resident Lester Hicks.

No discussion was held.

2023 -026

Proclamation - Earth Day

Pam Conner, City Manager, discussed the proclamation to celebrate and highlight cities and the services they provide.

No discussion was held.

**Executive Session was called for the purpose of Real Estate at 6:12pm and Dinner Recess at 6:30pm.**

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem - Ward 1 Lust, seconded by Council Member - Ward 2 Dawkins, that this Executive Session be called for the purpose of Real Estate at 6:12pm and Dinner Recess at 6:30pm was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Henry Lust, Doris Dawkins, Dwayne Green, Patrick Bordelon, and Patricia Wisdom

**Executive Session was concluded from the purpose of Real Estate at 7:20pm and Dinner Recess at 7:00pm.**

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem - Ward 1 Lust, seconded by Council Member - Ward 3 Green, that this Executive Session be concluded from the purpose of Real Estate at 7:20pm and Dinner Recess conclude at 7:00pm be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Henry Lust, Doris Dawkins, Dwayne Green, Patrick Bordelon, and Patricia Wisdom

**City Manager and Council Reports**

City Manager Pam Conner made no reports.

Council Member Dawkins stated that it was great to see everyone.

Council Member Green made no reports.

Council Member Lust stated that he attended the GMA Dinner meeting in Kennesaw the night before. Mr. Lust also mentioned that Greg Lewis of Selig Enterprises invited the Mayor and Council to tour the progress of the Heartwood Powder Springs development on Brownsville Road on Tuesday April 18th at 3pm.

Council Member Bordelon made no reports.

Council Member Wisdom welcomed everyone in person as well as those on Zoom. Ms. Wisdom provided updates on the planting of flowers by the Keep Powder Springs Beautiful committee.

**Recess to Next Scheduled City Council Meeting**

**A motion was made by Council Member - Ward 2 Dawkins, seconded by Council Member - At Large Post 20 Wisdom, that this Recess to Monday April 17, 2023 at 6:30pm be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 5 - Henry Lust, Doris Dawkins, Dwayne Green, Patrick Bordelon, and Patricia Wisdom