

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 6, 2023

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Mayor and Council

Mayor Craig Newton

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Gaynor

Councilmember Andrew Hixson

Councilmember Josh Bare

Councilmember Matt Myers

Councilmember Dr. Arlene Beckles

- A. Call to Order by Mayor Craig Newton
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- D. Roll Call (recorded)

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Craig Newton	Mayor	Present	
Bruce Gaynor	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Andrew Hixson	Councilmember	Present	
Josh Bare	Councilmember	Present	
Matt Myers	Councilmember	Present	
Dr. Arlene Beckles	Councilmember	Present	

Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Mayor Craig Newton

- E. Presentation of previous meetings minutes for acceptance

23-6688: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion

A motion to Approve the February 6th Regular Council Meeting Minutes and the February 20th Policy Work Session and Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Mayor and Council - Regular Meeting - Feb 6, 2023 6:30 PM

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Arlene Beckles, Councilmember
SECONDER: Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
AYES: Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

Policy Work Session - Policy Work Session - Feb 20, 2023 6:30 PM

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Arlene Beckles, Councilmember
SECONDER: Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
AYES: Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

- F. Set agenda as presented for scheduled meeting.
- 1. 23-6689: Acceptance of the Agenda and Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion

A motion to Accept the agenda and consent agenda with the following items moved to discussion:

23-6677: Summerour Park Concession Stand RFP

23-6679: RFQ for Overhead and Underground Distribution Construction Labor and Equipment Rates

23-6680: City of Ethics Re-certification

23-6709: Opposing House Bill 517 Preemption of Local Building Design Standards

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER: Bruce Gaynor, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES: Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

Motion

A motion to amend the agenda and add the Resolution Opposing House Bill 517 Georgia Homeowner Opportunity Act.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
AYES:	Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

G. Ceremonial Presentations, Recognitions, and Swearing in Ceremonies**23-6663: Proclamation Recognizing Linda DeMaris**

RESULT:	PRESENTED BY MAYOR NEWTON
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23-6662: Proclamation Recognizing Susan Bell

RESULT:	PRESENTED BY MAYOR NEWTON
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H. Floor Open to Citizens Desiring to Address the Governing Authority**a. Comments by Citizens**

* Bob Grossman - Comments regarding the introduction of the Norcross Library Founder's Club. The Norcross Founders Club is a group of community members with the goal to support the local Gwinnett County Public Library with special projects, equipment and other needs not funded through the county.

* Faye McFarland - Comments regarding code enforcement complaints

* Mike McGinnis - Comments regarding code enforcement complaints

b. Comments by Council**c. Comments by City Manager**

* Comments regarding the appreciation of staff.

PH. Public Hearings**PH. 23-6676: Comp Plan Kickoff Presentation****Motion**

A motion to Approve a request to conduct the State required kick off public hearing for the update to the Norcross Comprehensive Plan and Town Center LCI.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
AYES:	Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

J. Reports of the Mayor and Councilmembers**a. General Announcements****MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS****Planting for Pollinators Workshop**

Saturday, March 11 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | City Hall 2nd Floor Community Room

Movie Monday: Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris

Monday, March 13 | 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. | Cultural Arts & Community Center

Coffee With Council

Saturday, March 18 | 8:00 a.m. | 45 South Cafe

Irish Fest

Saturday, March 18 | 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Skin Alley

Policy Work Session

Monday, March 20 | 6:30 p.m. | City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Historic Trolley Tour

Friday, March 24 | 1:00 p.m. | The Crossing Parking Lot

Movie Monday: Uncharted

Monday, March 27 | 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. | Cultural Arts & Community Center

Coming Up in April:

April 7 | First Friday Concert: Xtreme Party Band

April 8 | Easter Egg and Eggs-tra Special Needs Hunt

April 10 | Movie Monday: Courageous Legacy

April 15 | Planting for Pollinators Workshop

April 22 | Neighborhood Cleanup & Recycling Day

April 24 | Movie Monday: Redeeming Love

K. Board Appointments

There are no Board, Commission, or Authority appointments/re-appointments for Mayor and Council to consider at this time.

L. Consent Agenda**1. 23-6675: Contract for Translation Services**

Motion

A motion to Approve an agreement with Language Line Solutions to be our telephone language interpreter services vendor.

2. 23-6678: RFQ for Contracted Work Building Maintenance Contracted Services

Motion

A motion to Approve a request to proceed with an RFQ to solicit qualified contractors for on-call Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing services on an annual contract.

M. Items for Discussion**1. 23-6677: Summerour Park Concession Stand RFP**

Motion

A motion to Approve/Deny a request for staff to proceed with issuing an RFP to accept proposals for quality concession services at Summerour Park,

RESULT:	TABLED TO
TO:	Next: 3/20/2023 6:30 PM
MOVER:	Policy Work Session
SECONDER:	Bruce Gaynor, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
	Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

2. **23-6679: RFQ for Overhead and Underground Distribution Construction Labor and Equipment Rates**

Motion

A motion to Approve a request for staff to proceed with a Request for Qualifications from qualified contractors to provide overhead and Underground Distribution Electric labor services and equipment rates.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bruce Gaynor, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
AYES:	Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

3. **23-6680: City of Ethics Re-certification**

Motion

A motion to Approve the re-adoption of a resolution establishing the five ethics principles to achieve re-certification as a City of Ethics by the Georgia Municipal Association and authorize the Mayor to request re-certification.

RESULT:	TABLED SENT TO [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 3/20/2023 6:30 PM
TO:	Policy Work Session
MOVER:	Bruce Gaynor, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Dr. Arlene Beckles, Councilmember
AYES:	Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

4. **23-6709: Opposing House Bill 517 Preemption of Local Building Design Standards**

Motion

A motion to Approve the attached Resolution for the Mayor and City Council of Norcross to voice their opposition of House Bill 517, a Preemption of Local Building Design Elements.

[Resolution Opposing HB 517](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Arlene Beckles, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
AYES:	Gaynor, Hixson, Bare, Myers, Beckles

N. **Adjourn in memory of**

O. **Adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate or Legal**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM with a motion made by Councilmember Bare to adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate and Legal, seconded by Councilmember Hixson.

P. **Signed by** _____ **Mayor Craig Newton**

Q. **Attest:** _____ **Monique Philip, City Clerk**

A RESOLUTION

Opposing House Bill 517, "Georgia Homeowner Opportunity Act".

WHEREAS, HB 517 would prohibit local governments from regulating "building design elements" in single or double family dwellings, which could negatively impact economic development efforts and harm competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, appropriate local standards and land use policies create a diverse, stable, profitable and sustainable residential development landscape; and

WHEREAS, HB 517 is a bill that would undermine self-determination of citizens to establish community standards as illustrated by the following:

- No provision of the legislation contains an assurance of more affordable housing. There are no guarantees, claw-backs, covenants, or even definitions of affordability.
- Design guidelines are an important tool for local governments to use to develop vibrant communities that benefit all citizens.
- HB 517 goes much further than just design guidelines, however. This bill would preempt cities from requiring garages, setting minimum lot width, requiring road frontage, and other basics of land development.
- The bill goes further than prior preemption efforts and upends zoning classifications by setting a statewide square footage standard and statewide lot size requirements.
- The bill fails to take account of infrastructure needed to support development.
- Plan review allows citizens a chance to learn about proposals for the development of adjoining property and to share their concerns. When evaluating plans for property development, the planning board and city council have to consider the interests of both the property owner proposing the development and the nearby property owners who are affected.
- Local governments are the closest to the citizens. They are the most accessible and responsive. When something goes wrong in the local community, residents turn to their local officials, and it is important that those local officials be able to head off problems before they develop.
- This legislation undercuts one of the core functions of all local governments to plan for the growth and development of their community, and it undermines the ability of local residents to have input through their local community planning processes.
- HB 517 would severely erode the ability of all 538 Georgia cities and 159 counties to address unique and community-specific quality of life issues.

WHEREAS, county and municipal governments use local standards to protect property values, and encourage compatible development; and

WHEREAS, local standards assure residents and business owners that their investments will be protected, and that others who come behind them will be equally committed to quality; and

WHEREAS, local governments spend a large amount of resources studying, surveying, crafting, and defining their vision and development strategies, and local standards are an integral part of those endeavors to attract residents, businesses, and the much-coveted trained workforce; and

WHEREAS, development and redevelopment efforts should reflect the community and its vision while simultaneously creating a sense of place; and

WHEREAS, county and municipal government officials are elected to make decisions about the look and feel of their communities, and HB 517 would transfer that power from duly-elected local leaders to outside groups with little to no stake in the future or success of Georgia's municipalities; and

WHEREAS, local standards neither discourage nor favor affordable housing, nor prevent the availability of certain housing types; and

WHEREAS, local governments should have the ability to provide more affordable housing options without sacrificing their unique character or threatening economic growth; and

WHEREAS, although historic districts are protected in HB 517, which indicates an understanding that standards do in fact make sense, downtown overlays or other similar special zoning districts are not; and

WHEREAS, local governments should be empowered to enforce local standards to make today's thriving downtown tomorrow's historic district; and

WHEREAS, by limiting the ability of local governments to enforce local standards in single or double family dwellings, HB 517 would negatively impact quality-of-life issues, including economic growth and the safety and welfare of Georgia citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Mayor and City Council of Norcross that the this governing body voices its opposition to HB 517, "Georgia Homeowner Opportunity Act".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to members of the Norcross local delegation, and made available for distribution to the public and the press.

Craig Newton, Mayor

Attest:

Shayla Alexis, Deputy City Clerk