

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 5, 2024

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 Marshall Cheek

- 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	Absent	
Andrew Hixson	Councilmember	Present	
Josh Bare	Councilmember	Present	
Matt Myers	Councilmember	Present	
Marshall Cheek	Councilmember	Present	

Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Mayor Craig Newton

- E. Presentation of previous meeting minutes for acceptance**

24-7084: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion

A motion to Approve/Deny the July 1st Regular Council Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes, and the July 15th Special Called Meeting, Policy Work Session and Executive Session minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

- a. **Mayor and Council - Regular Meeting - Jul 1, 2024, 6:30 PM**
- b. **Special Called Meeting - Special Meeting - Jul 15, 2024, 6:30 PM**
- c. **Policy Work Session - Policy Work Session - Jul 15, 2024, 6:30 PM**

- F. Set agenda as presented for the scheduled meeting.**

- 1. **24-7085: Acceptance of the Agenda and Approval of the Consent Agenda**

A motion to Accept the Agenda and Approve the Consent Agenda, with the following items moved to discussion:

24-7029: Parks, Greenspaces, Trails & Green Infrastructure Master Plan

24-7027: Fence Mural – Dumpster Enclosure at the Crossing Steakhouse

24-7066: Council Action on Unauthorized Installation of Centro Norcross Mural

24-7075: FY 25 Solid Waste Fees

24-7065: Vehicular and Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements in the Downtown District

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

G. Ceremonial Presentations, Recognitions, and Swearing in Ceremonies

H. Floor Open to Citizens Desiring to Address the Governing Authority

a. Comments by Citizens

- Kathleen Allen - comments regarding the resolution of parking access at the 125 Lawrenceville St Property during major events, unresolved dangerous conditions in the Local Peach Restaurant located at 125 Lawrenceville St, and a request that the Mayor and Council ensure that the DDA carries out its duties and responsibilities pertaining to repairs.
- Faye McFarland - comments regarding relief of solid waste fees for senior citizens.
- Tiny Willis - comments regarding cutting the Pecan tree in Betty Mauldin Park request that the cleared area be kept as green space and that Betty Mauldin Park remain a park.
- Lynne - Comments about the health of the Pecan tree, the area should remain a park, and installation of murals that are the Norcross standard.
- Mary Dowdy - comments regarding the need for services for the homeless population around the library and park and inquired about the city's plan to assist people without housing.
- Pierre Levy - comments about the homeless expressing concerns for safety and inquired about Vision Zero agenda item.
- Eleanor Gilchrist - comments regarding cutting the Pecan tree, the Council should consider an alternative plan.
- Brionne Murray - comments about the resolved parking accessibility during festivals, the unsafe conditions at 125 Lawrenceville St, requests for financial compensation for losses, and assistance from the city to rectify the issues.
- Tiny Willis - comments about the unsafe conditions at the Local Peach and the need for the Mayor and Council to address the issues. Requests that the Mayor and Council limit the number of murals and also install tasteful murals that tell the story of Norcross.
- George Hunter - comments about the issues at the Local Peach and the provision of assistance.
- Jim Eyre - comments about the fees associated with the PGTGI Plan, finding alternative funding, and impact on residents, installing murals more appropriate for Norcross, and the reported current issue at 125 Lawrenceville, Suite 400 has been resolved. Requests that the city work with the DDA to resolve the other substantial issues in the building.
- Nona Johnson - Refuted comments of Jim Eyre, DDA Chair.
- Jim Eyre - Clarified that the most recent reported issue was resolved, and the DDA will be working to resolve other issues.
- Brionne Murray - Refuted the comments of Jim Eyre, DDA Chair, the recently reported issue is partially fixed.

b. Comments by Council

c. Comments by City Manager

PH. Public Hearings**PH. 24-7032: Fiscal Year 2025 Budget**

Motion

A motion to Approve the attached Resolution to adopt the 2024-2025 Operating Budget, Capital Improvement, Enterprise, and Special Revenue Funds Budgets.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Marshall Cheek, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

PH. 24-7059: Public Hearing on the Proposed Millage Rate

Motion

A motion to Approve the property tax millage rate for tax year 2024 at 6.249 mills.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marshall Cheek, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

J. Reports of the Mayor and Councilmembers**A. General Announcements****AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS****Movie Monday: My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3**

Monday, August 12 | 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. | Cultural Arts & Community Center

Summer Concert Series: Geek Squad

Friday, August 16 | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Thrasher Park

Coffee With Council

Saturday, August 17 | 8:00 a.m. | 45 South Cafe

Jazz In The Alley: Teresa Kay Williams & Tulani

Saturday, August 17 | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Betty Mauldin Park

Policy Work Session

Monday, August 19 | 6:30 p.m. | City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Welcome Center & History Museum Open House

Thursday, August 22 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | The Rectory

Movie Monday: Barbie

Monday, August 26 | 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. | Cultural Arts & Community Center

Summer Concert Series: Queen Nation

Friday, August 30 | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Thrasher Park

Labor Day Observance

Monday, September 2 | Sanitation & Recycling Will Be Delayed

K. Board Appointments**a. 24-7086: Discovery Garden Park Board**

Motion

A motion to Approve the appointment and reappointment of the following candidates and terms as presented:

Discovery Garden Park Board

Prasanna Chodey (Reappointment) June 1, 2026

Barbara Kohlhausen (Appointment) June 1, 2026

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

b. 24-7087: Tree Preservation Board

Motion

A motion to Approve the reappointment of the following candidate and term as presented:

Tree Preservation Board

Charlie Riehm June 1, 2027

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Marshall Cheek, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

L. Consent Agenda

RESULT:	ADOPTED ON CONSENT AGENDA [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

1. 24-7064: Heritage Park Stairs Mural - Artist and Concept Design Recommendation

Motion

A motion to Approve a recommendation to commission artist Mihkaela "Cherry" Chandra to complete a mural installation on the stairs of Heritage Park with the recommended design concept.

2. 24-7062: Revised Mutual Aid Agreement Between All Gwinnett Agencies

Motion

A motion to Approve a revised mutual aid agreement between all Gwinnett law enforcement agencies.

3. **24-7063: Settlement Agreement with Norcross Springs Regarding Sediment Removal at Pinnacle Pond**

Motion

A motion to Accept \$164,000 as full and complete settlement of all claims arising out of repair and remediation related to sediment in Pinnacle Pond and authorize the Mayor to sign a settlement agreement and release.

4. **24-7067: Adopting Vision Zero Discussion**

Motion

A motion to Approve the adoption of Vision Zero as the guiding principle for pedestrian safety in the City of Norcross.

M. Items for Discussion

1. **24-7029: Parks, Greenspaces, Trails & Green Infrastructure Master Plan**

Motion

A motion to Accept the Parks, Greenspaces, Trails & Green Infrastructure Master Plan with all recommendations to be subject to Mayor and Council approval to be implemented in a phased approach.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

2. **24-7027: Fence Mural – Dumpster Enclosure at the Crossing Steakhouse**

Motion

A motion to Table the approval of the dumpster enclosure mural at the Crossing Steakhouse and request the re-issuance of RFP -- NPAC 24-03.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

3. **24-7066: Council Action on Unauthorized Installation of Centro Norcross Mural**

Motion

A motion to Accept the substituted mural as presented on page 135 of the agenda packet.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

4. 24-7075: FY 25 Solid Waste Fees

Motion

A motion to Approve the adoption of a 4.8 percent increase in residential and commercial solid waste collection fees, effective with September billings, consistent with the City's increased cost under a five-year contract with Waste Management, and no phase-out of the 50% senior discount.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

5. 24-7065: Vehicular and Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements in the Downtown District

RESULT:	TABLED SENT TO [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 9/16/2024 6:30 PM
TO:	Policy Work Session
MOVER:	Marshall Cheek, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Marshall Cheek
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

N. Adjourn in memory of**O. Adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate, or Legal**

Councilmember Bare motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm, seconded by Councilmember Hixson. The vote was unanimously approved.

Signed by _____ Mayor, Craig Newton

Attest _____ Monique Philip, City Clerk