

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 7, 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	Absent	
Andrew Hixson	Councilmember	Present	
Josh Bare	Councilmember	Present	
Matt Myers	Councilmember	Present	
Arlene Beckles	Councilmember	Present	

The regular Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Mayor Craig Newton

- E. Presentation of previous meetings minutes for acceptance
 - a. 23-6788: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion

A motion to Approve an amendment to the July 10th Regular Council Meeting Minutes, with the following addition to item 23-6771: Mitchell Road Emergency Pipe Replacement and Roadway Repair:

The finding of an emergency was based on the hazardous erosion and existing conditions of the city street and stormwater system, which caused an imminent threat to public safety and welfare.

A motion to approve the July 17th Special Called Meeting, Policy Work Session, and Executive Session.

Mayor and Council - Regular Meeting - Jul 10, 2023, 6:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Arlene Beckles, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Arlene Beckles
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

Special Called Meeting - Special Meeting - Jul 17, 2023, 6:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Arlene Beckles, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Arlene Beckles
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

Policy Work Session - Policy Work Session - Jul 17, 2023, 6:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Arlene Beckles, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Arlene Beckles
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

F. Set agenda as presented for the scheduled meeting.

1. 23-6789: Acceptance of the Agenda and Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion

A motion to accept the Agenda and Approve the Consent Agenda. The following items were moved to discussion:

23-6760: FY 24 Budget Discussion

23-6785: Authorized Positions FY 2023-2024 and Pay Scale Shift

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josh Bare, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Arlene Beckles
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

Faye McFarland recalled when community service workers cleaned the city's entryways. Norcross Tucker Road needs attention. The council needs to continue working on Homestead Exemptions, and 775 E. Glochester still looks horrible.

Andrea Albi introduced herself as a candidate for the Gwinnett County District Attorney's office.

b. Comments by Council

23-6792: Open Letter - Councilmember Dr. Arlene Beckles

RESULT:	INTRODUCED AND READ BY COUNCILMEMBER DR. ARLENE BECKLES
----------------	--

c. Comments by City Manager

PH. Public Hearings

PH. 23-6770: Public Hearing on the Proposed Millage Rate

Motion

A motion to set the property tax millage rate for the tax year 2023 at 6.249 mills.

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

PH. 23-6766: Text2023-002 Proposed Ordinance Amendments to Sec. 104-6(K)

Motion

A motion to Approve an amendment to Section 104-6, Article IV, Chapter 100 of The Unified Development Ordinance of Norcross, Georgia, providing for a change in the applicable public hearing procedures, to repeal contrary provisions, and to set an effective date, with the following enacting clause:

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norcross, Georgia, hereby ordains that the adopted Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as more particularly set forth below. It is the intention of the Mayor and City Council, and it is hereby ordained that the following provisions shall become and be made a part of the Code of the City of Norcross, and the Sections in the Code in the Ordinance be renumbered to accomplish that intention.

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

J. Reports of the Mayor and Councilmembers

a. General Announcements

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Farm Fresh Days

Wednesday, August 9 | 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Thrasher Park

Jazz in the Alley: Teresa Kay Williams & Tiffany Goode

Saturday, August 12 | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Betty Mauldin Park

Movie Monday: Ticket To Paradise

Monday, August 14 | 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. | Cultural Arts & Community Center

Farm Fresh Days

Wednesday, August 16 | 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Thrasher Park

Summer Concert Series: The Ray Howard Band

Friday, August 18 | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Thrasher Park

Coffee With Council

Saturday, August 19 | 8:00 a.m. | 45 South Cafe

Policy Work Session

Monday, August 21 | 6:30 p.m. | City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Farm Fresh Days

Wednesday, August 23 | 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Thrasher Park

Movie Monday: The Man From Toronto

Monday, August 28 | 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. | Cultural Arts & Community Center

Farm Fresh Days

Wednesday, August 30 | 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Thrasher Park

Coming Up In September:**Summer Concert Series: Black Jacket Symphony**

Friday, September 1 | 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Thrasher Park

City Hall Closed for Labor Day Observance

Monday, September 4 | Sanitation & Recycling Services Will Be Delayed.

K. Board Appointments**A. 23-6790: Board Appointment - Discovery Garden Park Board**

Motion

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

Discovery Garden Park Board

Gregory Devon June 1, 2025

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

L. Consent Agenda

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

1. 23-6783: Surplus Vehicles Request

Motion

A motion to Approve the surplus of five (5) vehicles.

2. 23-6784: Update to Roadways Authorized for Use of Speed Detection Devices

Motion

A motion to Approve an updated list of roadways Norcross Police Department officers are authorized to run speed detection devices on for submittal to Georgia DOT.

and

A motion to Approve/Deny an amendment to the City Code Of Ordinances Article II of Chapter 34 to amend the On-System Roadways in the city and to provide for applicability to speed at school zones, with the following enacting clause:

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norcross, Georgia, hereby ordains that the adopted Code of Ordinances, is hereby amended as more particularly set forth below. It is the intention of

the Mayor and City Council, and it is hereby ordained that the following provisions shall become and be made a part of the Code of the City of Norcross, and the Sections in the Code in the Ordinance be renumbered to accomplish that intention.

3. 23-6787: RFP 23-06 – Right of Way Acquisition

Motion

A motion to Approve the award of the Right of Way Acquisition contract for the PI 0016067 Norcross Greenway LCI project to Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson Incorporated (JMT), funded by the ARC in the amount of \$1,520,600, with matching city capital budget funds of \$380,150 for a total project cost of \$1,900,750. satisfying the 80/20 requirement.

M. Items for Discussion

1. 23-6760: Budget Discussion

A motion to Approve the FY2024 Budget as presented by the attached resolution with the amendment of the Contracted Services of \$334,300 to be reduced by the amount of \$5000 and reallocated to the Mayor's travel budget to make that \$8,815, keeping the bottom line equal.

RESULT:	AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Myers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Andrew Hixson, Councilmember
AYES:	Andrew Hixson, Josh Bare, Matt Myers, Arlene Beckles
ABSENT:	Bruce Gaynor

2. 23-6785: Authorized Positions FY 2023-2024 and Pay Scale Shift

Motion

A motion to Approve a resolution to authorize positions for FY2023-2024 and a 4% shift in the current pay scale.

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

N. Adjourn in memory of

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

Councilmember Bare motioned to adjourn to executive session for real estate and personnel, seconded by Councilmember Myers, vote was unanimous. The meeting closed at 7:53 PM.

Signed by _____ Mayor, Craig Newton

Attest _____ Monique Philip, City Clerk

Subject: Transparency and Accountability Regarding My Travel Expenses

As your elected representative, I believe in the utmost transparency and accountability when handling public resources. I wish to address a matter that concerns our shared responsibility for fiscal responsibility and ethical conduct - my travel expenses.

On two occasions, a citizen raised concerns regarding Mayor and Council travel expenses, notably mine. I understand and deeply respect the need for accountability, especially concerning public funds.

To address these concerns, I want to provide you with a clear breakdown of my travel expenses and explain their reasons. Firstly, I want to assure you that all my travel expenses have been incurred solely for official duties and responsibilities as your elected official and aimed to serve the interests of this city best.

Second, my background is in Information Technology, and I have worked in several industries. Each industry has its caliber of training. I attend conferences, workshops, and seminars relevant to the needs and interests of the city as they relate to Government Information Technology. These events provide valuable opportunities to learn from experts, gain insights, and bring back innovative ideas to address the challenges we face in the respective industry I work in, in this case, Municipal Government.

To be clear, Banking IT differs from Government IT, as is Medical IT, my current industry. While I firmly believe that these expenses are necessary for fulfilling my duties as your elected official, I also acknowledge the importance of financial caution and transparency. To address concerns moving forward, I commit to the following actions:

1. Detailed Expense Reports: Detailed expense reports will be available on request, as is current practice, listing all travel-related expenditures and the purpose behind each trip and informing you about how your tax dollars are spent.
2. Cost-Effective Alternatives: Costs are offset for the IT Conferences I attend annually – Accommodations, including food for up to 3 days, are covered for my participation and contribution to the industry, such as panel discussions, presentations, and round table exercises.
3. Travel Pre-Approval: I will submit all future travel for review and approval.

I am grateful for your continued trust and support, and I want to reassure you that I take my responsibilities as your representative with the utmost seriousness. If you have any further questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

I appreciate your understanding and remain committed to serving you and our community with dedication, integrity, and transparency.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arlene Beckles, Councilmember – The City of Norcross