

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

On the 31st day of May 2022, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Clarkston, Georgia met in a Work Session by teleconference, Zoom Audio/Video in said City. Mayor Beverly Burks called the meeting to order. The following member of the Council Members were present: Vice Mayor Awet Eyasu; Councilmembers Jamie Carroll; Debra Johnson; Laura Hopkins; Yterenickia Bell, and Susan Hood. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Shawanna Qawiy (City Manager); Dan Defnall (Finance Director); Tomika R. Mitchell (City Clerk); and Stephen Quinn (City Attorney).

NOTE: Items appearing in these minutes are in the order they were discussed, not necessarily in the order they appeared on the agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

All members of the City Council were present.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to move Item 4A from Presentation/Administrative Business to Item 6E under New Business. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-0). Councilmember Hood was absent.

3. WORK SESSION – RESIDENT COMMENT POLICY

Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

Councilmember Hood entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Service Delivery Strategy Update-Clarkston.

Interim City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the Service Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County is pending. The DeKalb County is undertaking the development and adoption of its 2050 Unified Plan. This effort will combine two traditional comprehensive planning documents, (The Comprehensive Land Use Plan and The Comprehensive Transportation Plan). The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Community & Economic Development Division has advised DeKalb County that municipalities within DeKalb County must update its DeKalb County's Service Delivery Strategy as a part of the 2050 Unified Plan effort.

Amy Medford presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on Consent Agenda by resolution at the next City Council meeting.

B. Discussion to remove rocks from Friendship Forest.

Vice Mayor Eyasu gave a brief overview and history of the rock placement at Friendship Forest and agreed the rocks should be removed and possibly be placed by the riverbank.

The Council briefly discussed this item and Councilmember Bell recommended this item go to the Transportation and Environment Committee for discussion and public input.

Brian Medford and Amy Medford presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda to be referred to the Transportation and Environment Committee.

C. Atlanta United Football Club, LLC - Free Youth Soccer Programs at Milam Park.

Interim City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the Atlanta United Football Club, LLC program is exploring to continue to support youth soccer in the Clarkston community. They are seeking an opportunity to host soccer programs in the City of Clarkston at Milam Park. (Soccer field). The proposed program will be a free program for the community and will not generate any revenue from this initiative. The dates will include one Saturday in August (27) 2022, predominantly the Saturdays in the months of September and October 2022 and March and April 2023. There will not be a program during the Winter months. Kids would receive a t shirt and are welcome to play in sneakers. Shin guards are encouraged but will not be provided. The starting amount is 60 players. They will expand if there is an increased interest of participants. Parents are required to register and sign a waiver for the youth participants.

The Council briefly discussed this item and recommended the city collect the fee from the organization.

Amy Medford and Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda.

D. Empower Clarkston.

This item was moved to Item 6E under New Business.

E. Proclamations: LGBT Pride Month; World Refugee Day; and Juneteenth.

Vice Mayor Eyasu presented this item and gave a brief overview of each proclamation.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and clarifying a request for funding from Fresh Harvest and the proposed MOU between the City and Fresh Harvest.

Attorney, Stephen Quinn gave a brief overview of the status of the MOU regarding the Fresh Harvest food truck to deliver food to Clarkston residents in need and the use of ARPA Funds. He also mentioned at the time of the initial vote there were several details that were not ironed out, so Council asked him and the Interim City Manager to meet with the applicant to produce a MOU. Mr. Quinn then stated as staff was working on this MOU, it was determined that purchasing a vehicle was not an authorized use of the ARPA funds, unless it was for a special purpose related to the Coronavirus.

The MOU was then modified to comply with ARPA, now there is now no reference to the food truck in the amended MOU, only \$40,000 for food delivery and it has also been switched to a reimbursement model, same as other agreements.

Joshua Deaton presented comments as the applicant on this item pertaining to Fresh Harvest intentions with the City.

Ms. Qawiy explained the reimbursement process to Mr. Deaton.

The Council briefly discussed this item asking for clarification on previous approvals. Councilmember Johnson also mentioned that Ms. Qawiy stated in a previous meeting that buying a vehicle as a non-permitted use. Council also recommended Fresh Harvest catering to the entire 30021 zip code.

Mr. Deaton and Ms. Qawiy will meet this week to discuss details in the new MOU.

Amy Medford and Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

The Council briefly discussed this item. This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda.

B. Discussion of Speed Tables on Rogers Street.

Interim City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the council requested that the consultant engineering team submit a rendering to show the locations of the approved three (3) speed table.

Mr. Kaiser gave a brief overview of the location of where the speed tables will be on the street.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Amy Medford presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of the appointment of the City Manager.

Mayor Burks stated the contract has been reviewed with Attorney Quinn and they have talked with Ms. Qawiy to discuss the terms of the document.

Mayor Burks and Vice Mayor Eyasu expressed their thoughts about Ms. Qawiy serving as Interim City Manager.

Amy Medford presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda.

B. Discussion of appointments to the Early Learning Task Force.

Vice Mayor Eyasu gave a brief overview of the Task Force recommending approval of all the members to the Task Force.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Roberta Malavenda presented comments on this item as the Chair of the Task Force.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda.

C. Discussion of signage on Market Street at its intersections with E. Ponce de Leon Ave. and with N. Indian Creek; and the street scape on Market Street.

Councilmember Hood stated this item was placed on the agenda to conclude the street scape efforts. She also stated Mr. Kaiser has provided a couple of mockups of the signage. Councilmember Hood recommended sending this item to a committee for input.

The Council briefly discussed this item and Vice Mayor Eyasu recommended sending this item to the Transportation and Environment Committee for discussion.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda.

D. Discussion of the creation of an Equity and Community Empowerment Department utilizing ARPA Funds.

Vice Mayor Eyasu expressed there is a lot of diversity in Clarkston, but also a lot of inequity in our community that needs to be addressed. He also encouraged the City Council to move forward with creating the department.

The Council briefly discussed this item. Mayor Burks also presented her comments stating we are the connector in our community.

Vice Mayor Eyasu also stated he believed this would be a permanent position and funding would last until the expiration of ARPA funding, then the City would have to fund the position from the City budget.

Mayor Burks also mentioned funding options for this position when the ARPA funding expires.

Amy Medford presented comments on this item and requested the discussion move forward to a committee to get the input from the public.

Mayor Burks recommended referring this item to the Equality, Inclusion, and Opportunity Committee for further discussion.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda on Consent Agenda.

E. Empower Clarkson

Councilmember Bell stated Empower Clarkson presented their initiative to the City Council in April, as well as, to a committee to get further input. Councilmember Bell a brief overview of Empower Clarkson stating this is a one-year Workforce Development Program for \$125,000 for a one-year program for Clarkson residents.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Luke Keller of Tekton Career Training presented additional information and clarity on the program, Empower Clarkson.

Former Councilmember Mark Perkins presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council agenda.

Vice Mayor Eyasu made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilmember Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Council discussed a personnel matter.

B. Council discussed a legal matter.

Vice Mayor Eyasu made a motion to exit Executive Session. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

8. ADJOURNMENT

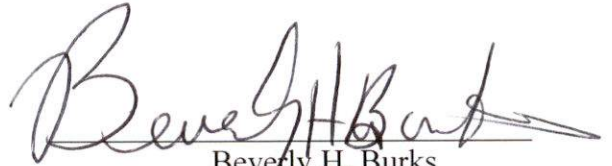
Councilmember Hood made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor