

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022

On the 30th day of August 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; Laura Hopkins; Debra Johnson; 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.

3. WORK SESSION – RESIDENT COMMENT POLICY

Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Construction of a new ramp at City Hall Annex.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the construction of the ramp at City Hall Annex needed to be repaired and is now completed. The city estimated the completed work to range from \$5,000 - \$10,000. The ramp has been completed at \$8,000.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

B. Presentation – Development of a Cricket Pitch field honoring Alicia Philipp.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta approached the City of Clarkston in 2020 to construct the cricket pitch field at Milam Park. The Community Foundation provided a grant of \$30,000 to pay for the estimated initial costs. It was agreed as a condition of the donation that the pitch will be maintained as long as Milam Park is a public facility or no less than 10 years.

Elyse Hammett of Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta provided a brief overview of the previous discussions that were held between the foundation and the previous City

Manager. She stated during the height of the pandemic the discussion was held but had to be put on hold due to COVID-19.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

Vice Mayor Eyasu presided over the meeting.

C. Proclamation for Healthy Seniors Month.

Mayor Beverly Burks stated September is Healthy Aging Month and the city wants to emphasize for ages 45 and over to continue to stay healthy.

Kay Sibetta, the Georgia AARP representative presented comments on this item and offered the AARP Walk Audit for the community.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

D. Proclamation for African Immigrant Heritage Month.

Mayor Beverly Burks stated she was approached by the African Women's Pack to do this for September. Clarkston is 60% of African descent and the Mayor would like to recognize and appreciate the diversity of the community with this proclamation.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

The following citizens offered comments: Yonas from the Eritrean American Community of Georgia, Oma Utah, Glory Kilanko, and Dede Ntumba of the Congolese Community.

Ms. Utah informed the citizens and Council of the African Heritage Month festival will be held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds on September 3, 2022.

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

E. Recognize Dr. Gukshan Harjee, an AARP 2023 Purpose Prize Fellow.

Mayor Beverly Burks recognized Dr. Gukshan Harjee, an AARP 2023 Purpose Prize Fellow. Dr. Harjee is the Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of the Clarkston Community Health Center.

Dr. Harjee expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Council. Ms. Sibetta also offered comments.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Mayor Burks presided over the meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. A discussion of a resolution to amend the 2022 Operating and Enterprise Fund Budget.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the purpose of the resolution was to amend the FY2022 Operating Budget approves an annual budget at the beginning of each fiscal year based on projected revenues and expenditures. Throughout the year, various factors influence the budget which impacts projected revenues being realized and which affect necessary expenditures. As part of our annual audit review, the Georgia Department of Accounts and Audits (GDAA) monitors our budget vs. actuals reports at the legal level of control, which for the City of Clarkston is by fund and departmental level. This budget amendment is needed to correct the FY2022 Amended budget appropriations based on actual expenditures in FY2022 to be in compliant with the GDAA. The attached worksheets show the line-item budget amendments being proposed to the make adjustments for projected revenues and expenditures for both the General Fund and the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

Ms. Qawiy and Finance Director, Dan Defnall gave a brief overview of the proposed budget amendments by line items.

The Council briefly discussed this item and inquired about line items that were reduced.

Ms. Qawiy and Mr. Defnall presented answers pertaining to the reduced line items.

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

B. A discussion of a resolution to authorize a Municipal Court Amnesty Program.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the purpose of this item was to consider a resolution that will authorize the Clarkston Municipal Court Amnesty Program.

The City of Clarkston desires to provide an opportunity for municipal court defendants with outstanding citations and/or warrants to resolve these issues. The Clarkston Municipal Court Amnesty Program shall be administered in accordance with the following terms and conditions. (1.) The program shall begin September 12, 2022, and expire on October 12, 2022. (2.) The program shall apply to all misdemeanor State law charges and city ordinance violation charges for which the defendant was cited or arrested prior to January 1, 2022. (3.) Defendants must appear at Clarkston Municipal Court, enter a plea of guilty or no contest (if allowed by the municipal court judge) if the citation has not previously been

adjudicated, and pay all fines and fees associated with their outstanding citation(s) during the Amnesty Program period to take advantage of the benefits of the program.

(4.) Defendants that comply with the terms of the amnesty program will not be subjected to arrest or incarceration in connection with any outstanding bench warrant and will not be assessed any additional punishment for contempt of court. (5.) Bench warrants previously issued will be canceled for defendants that comply with the terms of this amnesty program; and (6.) It shall be the responsibility of the municipal court clerk to publish the terms of the Clarkston Municipal Court Amnesty Program, including times and hours for defendants to appear in order to take advantage of the program.

Chief Court Clerk, Dorothy Jackson gave a brief overview on the process of putting this program together. Ms. Jackson will take additional steps, such as mail-outs to get a better turnout.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

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

Vice Mayor Eyasu presided over the meeting.

- C. A discussion of a resolution to impose a temporary moratorium on development of new car wash facilities.

Mayor Beverly Burks stated she forgot to add this moratorium to the list of moratoriums that were approved at the previous meeting.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- D. A discussion of a resolution to create an Equity and Community Empowerment Department.

Mayor Beverly Burks stated this was previously presented to the Council but was referred to the committee for discussion. She stated the resolution was based on a discussion with nonprofit organizations and residents' which included things like translation and how we address and have the employee be a part of dealing with the housing issues.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

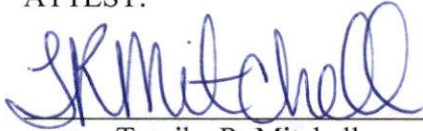
This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

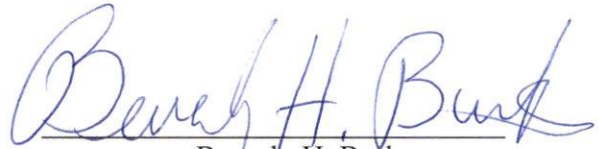
Councilmember Hopkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor