

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA HELD
BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

On the 4th day of October 2022, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Clarkston, Georgia met in regular session by teleconference, Zoom Audio/Video in said City. Mayor Beverly Burks called the meeting to order. The following members 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of Council were present.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS/ PRESENTATION

Approved the 09/06/2022 City Council Meeting minutes and 09/27/2022 City Council Work Session minutes.

Councilmember Hood made a motion to approve the 09/06/2022 City Council Meeting Minutes and 09/27/2022 City Council Work Session Minutes. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

4. REPORTS

A. Planning/Economic and Development Report and the City Manager's Report

- The Economic Development Coordinator attended a Grant Writing class today and will attend the Place Making Conference next week.
- Working on RFP for a right-of-way mowing and landscaping maintenance services and a RFP for the Greenway LCI Grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission.
- Faith in Blue will be on October 7, 2022, at Milam Park with the movie Sing2 showing.
- October is Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and City Hall will be lite with colors to support the initiatives.

B. City Manager's Report

- This report was given during the Planning/Economic and Development Report.

C. City Attorney's Report

- Stephen Quinn presented a brief report from the Legislative Session, General Assembly: HB 1405-Zoning Procedures Law; HB 1461 – Amendment to Annexation Procedures; SB 345-Covid Vaccination Preemption; and Constitutional Carry Law-No license required to carry a firearm in Georgia.

D. Council Remarks

- The Council members briefly gave an overview of meetings and events they attended, and projects they are currently working on.

E. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Burks gave a brief overview of meetings and events she attended and other news of the City.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brian Medford presented comments pertaining to the previously held Transportation and Environment Committee Meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Approval of a resolution to authorize the establishment of a Small Business Matching Grant Program.

Councilmember Bell stated the purpose of the program was to improve the city's economic development incentives to maintain, recruit and retain businesses, improving our local tax basis.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the establishment of a Small Business Matching Grant Program. Councilmember Hood duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-0-1). Vice Mayor Eyasu abstained.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of a resolution to authorize a maintenance agreement with Jani-King of Atlanta to clean, sanitize and deodorize all city facilities (City Hall, City Hall Annex, Public Works Bldg.).
- B. Approval of a proclamation for Energy Efficiency Day on October 5.
- C. Approval of a proclamation for National Hispanic Heritage Month; September 15 – October 15.
- D. Approval of a proclamation for Congo Week; October 16-22.
- E. Approval of reopening the Rental Assistance Program allocating \$150,000 for three months.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of allocating additional funds to the calisthenic equipment, park maintenance/upgrade projects for the installation of a poured stone base and rubber surface with site security for \$17,275 plus up to \$6000 for a proposed shade structure or canopy.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated this item was from staff based on the prior approval of the calisthenic equipment for Milam Park. The allocation was not to exceed \$25,000 to purchase equipment for hard upgrades. Ms. Qawiy also presented information about the ground covering options and long-term play.

Vice Mayor Eyasu made a motion to approve the calisthenic equipment, park maintenance/upgrade projects for the installation of a poured stone base and rubber surface with site security for \$17,275 and no canopy.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-1). Councilmember Hopkins voted “no”.

- B. **PUBLIC HEARING** - Approval of consideration for a variance request from Doug Steverson/Rajen Sheth of Boardwalk Development Group for the properties located at 795, 801 and 803 Glendale Road to eliminate (the) parking requirements and reduce the landscape buffer from 50’ to 10’ to construct a storage facility.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated this request was from last week’s meeting and the applicant has updated the request stating they submitted a letter of notice on September 28, 2022 to withdraw the variance request to reduce the landscape buffer from 50’ to 10’, per the September 27, 2022 City Council Work Session. Boardwalk has developed a Plan B that fully complies with the 50’ landscape buffer. Boardwalk has also modified the variance request to reduce the parking to 12 parking spaces.

A variance request from the terms of the ordinance must not be contrary to the public and must be evaluated based on the 6 criteria points. A variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship upon a finding by the city council that all of the following conditions exist:

1. There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property in question because of its size, shape, or topography.
2. Such conditions are peculiar to the particular piece of property involved.
3. Such conditions are not the result of the actions of the applicant.
4. A literal interpretation of the provisions of this ordinance would create an unnecessary hardship.
5. The variance requested will not cause substantial detriment to the public good nor impair the purposes or intent of the zoning ordinance.
6. The variance is not a request to permit a structure or use of land not authorized in the applicable district.

Raj Sheth with Boardwalk Development Group presented a brief presentation of a variance request for the properties located at 795, 801 and 803 Glendale Road with a few additional requests.

Jeff Haymore with the law firm representing the developer, Boardwalk presented brief information about the development.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

The Public Hearing is opened.

Brian Medford presented comments against this variance request.

EJ King presented comments against this variance request.

Joe Garjulow, owner of the property presented comments about the variance request.

Priti presented comments against this variance request.

The Public Hearing is closed.

Councilmember Hopkins made a motion to deny the request for the variance on parking for the parking on Glendale Road. Councilmember Johnson duly seconded the motion.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved for the denial of the variance request. (5-1-1). Councilmember Carroll voted “no” and Vice Mayor Eyasu abstained.

9. ADJOURNMENT

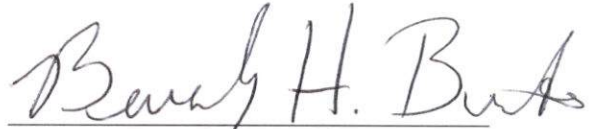
Councilmember Hopkins made a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor