

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA HELD  
BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO  
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023, 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; Yterenickia Bell, Laura Hopkins, 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

- A. To approve the 12/06/2022 City Council Meeting minutes and 01/03/2023 City Council Work Session minutes.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the 12/06/2022 City Council Meeting Minutes and the 01/03/2023 City Council Work Session Minutes. Vice Mayor Eyasu duly seconded the motion.

Councilmember Hood expressed a correction to Item 2, Roll Call of the January 3, 2023 minutes. City Clerk, Tomika Mitchell stated she would make that correction.

Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

- B. To approve awarding Russell Landscaping the Right-of-Way Maintenance and Landscape Services Project in the amount of \$242,022.

Ms. Qawiy stated this item was to review, discuss and approve the staff's recommendation for Russell Landscaping, as the lower bidder for the Right-of-Way Maintenance and Landscape Services Project. The project amount has been reduced to \$132,185 due to in-kind services.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve Russell Landscaping to receive the contract for the Right-of-Way Maintenance and Landscape Services Project in the amount of \$132,185. Councilmember Johnson 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 City received grant funding to assist with a Crosswalk Design Project.
- The Forty Oaks historical analysis is near completion. Draft report expected to be complete by February 10.
- The Zoning Re-Write is still under construction. The construction team has received numerous comments. The draft will be ready for public review by the February 23 Planning Meeting.
- Weather conditions have delayed the Rowland St. Project.
- The Amnesty Program allowed several people to take care of their tickets.
- The Flock Safety Clarkston Drone Pilot Program will start testing the utilization of drones as first responders in Clarkston.
- Name your Pocket Park received 14 responses. The top three responses were: Sanctuary Park, Clarkston Halfway Park, and Trailside Green.

##### B. City Manager's Report

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

##### C. City Attorney's Report

- No report given.

##### 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 made comments on Rowland St. holding the water during the rain event last week.

#### 6. OLD BUSINESS

##### A. To approve the 2023 LMIG Proposed Projects.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the Office of Local Grants forwarded the FY 2023 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) award letters to the mayors and the chairpersons of all the local governments within the state. The FY 2023 LMIG award letter contains information on how to apply for the LMIG funds, and the total award amount.

To complete the application process, staff is providing the proposed list of projects for consideration under this fiscal year of funding. The formula amount for the Fiscal Year 2023 program is \$93,532.50 with a local match of \$28,059.75 (30%). The total project budget will be \$ 121,592.25.

With an approved listed of projects the mayor will sign a cover letter with a notarized LMIG application. The entire LMIG package will be submitted on-line before the application deadline of February 2023.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Hood made a motion to roll over the funding and combine it with next year's projects. Councilmember Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. To approve the reappointment of the City Attorney.
- B. To approve a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the Municipal Court Judge.
- C. To approve a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the Auditor.
- D. To approve the appointment of Councilmembers to the Standing Advisory Committees: Public Safety and Legal Committee; Transportation and Environment Committee; Housing and Infrastructure Committee; Community Development and Civic Innovation Committee; Business and Economic Development Committee; and Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Committee.

Judge Will reiterated that it was his honor to serve the City and citizens of Clarkston and provided a few updates on projects and programs within the Municipal Court.

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

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **PUBLIC HEARING** - To approve amending the zoning map to rezone the properties located at 572 Woodland Avenue (18 047 32 007), 582 Woodland Avenue ( 18 047 32 002), 586 Woodland Avenue (18 047 32 006), 590 Woodland Avenue (18 047 32 005), 596 Woodland Avenue (18 047 32 004), 600 Woodland Avenue (18 047 32 009), 606 Woodland Avenue (18 047 32 008) and 616 Woodland Avenue (18 047 34 001) Scottdale, GA 30079 (within the City of Clarkston) from I- Light Industrial to NR-CD Neighborhood Residential Community Development District.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated this item was approve an amendment to the zoning map and a rezoning of the properties from I- Light Industrial to NR-CD Neighborhood Residential Community Development District.

*The Public Hearing opened at 7:34 p.m.*

Brian Medford spoke in favor of the rezoning.

*The Public Hearing closed at 7:38 p.m.*

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Hopkins did not support this item due to information not given during the Work Session and other reasons.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn provided understanding on this item.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve the NR-CD zoning for the parcels. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (4-1-1). Councilmember Hopkins voted “no” and Vice Mayor Eyasu abstained.

B. To approve selecting a Vice-Mayor.

Mayor Burks gave a brief overview of the role as Vice-Mayor, then allowed each candidate Vice Mayor Eyasu and Councilmember Johnson to address the Council.

Vice Mayor Eyasu expressed his thanks to Council for the support over the years and presented his thoughts about him serving in this position. Vice Mayor Eyasu then stated he would like to continue to serve as the Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Johnson thanked Councilmember Hopkins for the nomination and gave a brief overview of her tenure while serving on Council.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Hopkins made a motion to nominate Debra Johnson as Vice Mayor. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion.

Attorney Quinn reviewed the City’s Charter and provided the process of selecting the Vice Mayor. Mr. Quinn stated the Council would need to vote on each nominated candidate.

The Mayor called the roll for a vote for each candidate.

The following Councilmembers voted for Awet Eyasu: Susan Hood, Jamie Carroll, and Awet Eyasu.

The following Councilmembers voted for Debra Johnson: Laura Hopkins, Y’Terenickia Bell, and Debra Johnson.

Mayor Burks declared the votes were tied and vetoed the votes by voting for Debra Johnson.

Debra Johnson will serve as the new Vice Mayor for the City of Clarkston.

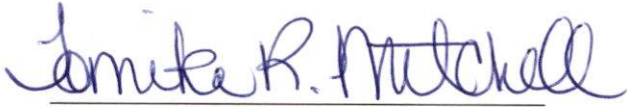
9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. ADJOURNMENT

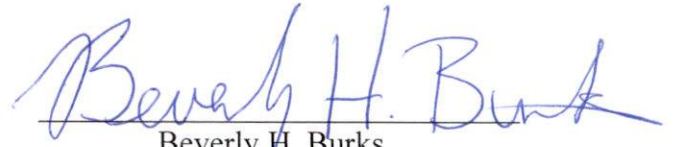
Councilmember Hood made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (6-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell  
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks  
Mayor