

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023

On the 31st day of January 2023, 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 members of the City Council were present: Vice Mayor Debra Johnson; Councilmembers Awet Eyasu; Jamie Carroll; 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

Mayor Burks stated there is a correction to be made on the agenda under the Resident Comment Policy. Mayor Burks then read the policy.

Vice Mayor Johnson requested to defer Item 6D to the February Work Session to be able to discuss this item at the retreat.

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to adopt the agenda with the two changes. Councilmember Hood duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

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. To discuss a resolution authorizing the renewal of the City Services Agreement with the Clarkston Community Center.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the City utilizes the Clarkston Community Center for meetings and activity space for special events. Staff recommends renewing the Services Agreement with the Clarkston Community Center.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

B. To discuss a request from CDF for \$10,000 for the Early Learning Task Force.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated CDF on behalf of the Early Learning Task Force requested to host eight meetings to discuss early learning issues, share information, and plan actions and sponsor the Storywalk Project for \$8,360 and Early Learning Information Fair for \$1,640.

Roberta Malavenda of CDF Action gave a brief presentation regarding the Early Learning Task Force Projects.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Hood recommended sending this item to a Standing Advisory Committee for discussion and recommendation to Council.

Eyelachew Desta provided public comments.

Cynthia Dorsey Edwards with CDF Action expresses her thanks to the Council for the support.

Linda Travers, adjunct professor at Georgia Piedmont provided her comments.

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

C. To discuss the recommended firm for the Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the City of Clarkston was awarded an Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Livable Centers Initiative grant in the amount of \$272,000 with a local share (20%) match of \$68,000. The total cost of the project is \$340,000.

The City of Clarkston initiated a Request for Proposals in November 2022 from qualified vendors to produce the Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study. The City received four proposals that were reviewed and evaluated by the evaluation team based on the advertised proposal criteria.

After an extensive review process two firms, PERKINS + WILL and POND, were shortlisted for a final virtual interview on January 19th.

The unanimous recommendation by the evaluation team was PERKINS +WILL. Staff recommended PERKINS + WILL to conduct the ARC LCI- Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- D. To discuss the recommended firm for the 2022 LMIG Church St. and Lovejoy St. sidewalks project.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the City of Clarkston received four bids for the Church Street and Lovejoy Street sidewalk project. Prior to advertising the project management team prepared a cost estimate in July 2022 of \$140,000 to \$160,000 for the project to ensure that the received bids were within a comparable amount.

In November 2022, the evaluation team reviewed each submitted proposal based on the Invitation to Bid requirements. Based on the bid requirements, Construction 57, Incorporated presented the lowest bid at \$160,710.

The 2022 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) funding allocation of \$ 91,600.45 with the 30% local match of \$27,480.14 along with an additional \$41, 629.41 will be used to complete this project. The total cost of this project is \$160,710.00.

Staff recommended Construction 57 to perform the Church Street and Lovejoy Sidewalk project at a project cost of \$160,710.00.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- E. To discuss a resolution to deactivate the Housing Authority of the City of Clarkston.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated in 1983, Ordinance No. 114 was adopted authorizing the proceeds of the Single-Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds to be used in part to purchase mortgage loans for single family residential units located within the city limits of Clarkston.

In 1984, Resolution No.121a was adopted and approved by Mayor and Council of the City of Clarkston due to a need to provide additional housing in the City of Clarkston due to a shortage of safe or sanitary dwelling accommodations available to persons of low income and affordable rentals.

The "Local Government Authorities Registration Act" requires that all local government authorities operating in the State to annually register and submit financial report via the Department of Community Affairs (DCA's) Annual Authority Registration and Financial Report (AARF) system. Authorities that fail to meet this requirement are prohibited by the Act from incurring any debt until completing the mandated filings. In order for the Authority to remain eligible to participate in a variety of state administered financial assistance programs, the local authority must be compliant with the filings required for the three most recently completed fiscal years. The failure to comply with the requirements impairs the authority to legally finance its operations.

After research and review of the inactive Authority it has been determined that the City can deactivate its housing authority by adopting a resolution providing for its deactivation. The Housing Authority of the City of Clarkston has no assets or liabilities.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn gave a brief explanation for deactivating the Housing Authority.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Brian Medford presents comments on this item.

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

- F. To discuss the appointments to the Board of Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA) of the City of Clarkston.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated each member of the Board of Commissioners of the Agency shall serve in such capacity only during the period that such person is also a member of the Governing Body and any person who succeeds a member of the Governing Body in office shall become a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Agency.

Finance Director, Dan Defnall gave a brief explanation of how the reporting process.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Mr. Quinn presented clarification on the appointment process of the board members to the Board URA.

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

- G. To discuss a resolution to deny the claim for damages asserted by claimant Jermarcus Wheeler.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn stated the City received a claim from Mr. Wheeler's attorney, alleging he was involved in an automobile accident during a police pursuit with DeKalb County. Chief Hudson looked into this matter and determined for certain that nobody in Clarkston was involved. Mr. Quinn stated he believed the attorney sent this notice to all the municipalities in the county within a certain number of miles. The City's insurer has requested that when we receive claims to deny them in a Council meeting to starts the statue of limitations running and there is normally only two years to file a lawsuit.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- H. To discuss a resolution to deny the claim for damages asserted by claimant Jaque Wheeler.

City Attorney, Stephen stated the City this claim was regarding a traffic accident involving a city vehicle, but not any official city business. A claim was made by Mr. Wheeler and the insurance adjuster has been in touch with the claimant and asked the City to deny this to start the process.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. To discuss amending Chapters 9.5 of the City Code Regarding Service Stations and Chapter 11 of the Code regarding Businesses; To Limit Hours of Operation for Convenience Stores; To Allow Convenience Stores that Maintain Video Surveillance Systems to Acquire a Permit for Expanded Hours or Operation; and Other Purposes.

Councilmember Bell stated in March 2022, there were concerns about the code and compliance of the convenience stores, as the current code does not allow any of the convenience stores in Clarkston to stay open for 24 hours. However, the convenience stores were not abiding by the ordinance.

The ordinance today has two major components; an annual late-night permit to operate and maintain a video surveillance system.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Mr. Quinn presented an overview of the ordinance and regulations pertaining to the convenience stores.

The Council also discussed the definition of convenience stores and service stations, with an explanation from Mr. Quinn.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. To discuss a resolution to authorize the city to purchase 3520 Montreal Creek Court.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the city has determined that it is in the public interest to acquire the +/-2.0 acres of property known as 3520 Montreal Creek Court, Clarkston, GA 30021. The property owner has offered to sell the property to the city for \$70,000.

Mayor Burks stated the City is planning to have a park at the purchased property.

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.

- B. To discuss a resolution appointing Dekalb County Board of Registrations and Elections to conduct the City of Clarkston 2023 General Municipal Election.

City Clerk, Tomika Mitchell stated this item was to approve Dekalb County to conduct the City of Clarkston's 2023 General Municipal Election, under the standing interlocal agreement from October 2013.

Mayor Burks stated there will be three seats up for election in November 2023.

Ms. Mitchell also stated the qualifying fee has been published in the legal organ, Champion New. The qualifying fee is 3% of the Councilmember salary, which is \$360.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- C. To discuss a request to allocate \$82,800 in ARPA funds for the Amani Women Center Workforce Development Pilot Program.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated The Amani Women Center Workforce Development Pilot Program anticipates to train over 40 participants. The Center proposes a workforce development pilot initiative to assist newcomers who are residents of Clarkston. The purpose of the workforce development pilot program is to assist participants in gaining life skills that translate to livable wages, improvement of economic well-being and additional fundamental opportunities that meet their needs.

Doris Mukangu and Reggie from the Amani Women's Center presented detailed information about the Workforce Development Pilot Program.

Khatera, a citizen of Clarkston presented comments on this item.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- D. To discuss allocating ARPA funds for government services.

This item was deferred to the February Work Session.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

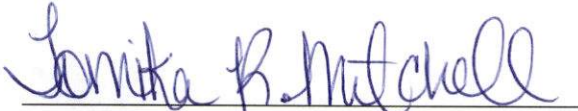
The Council did not enter Executive Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

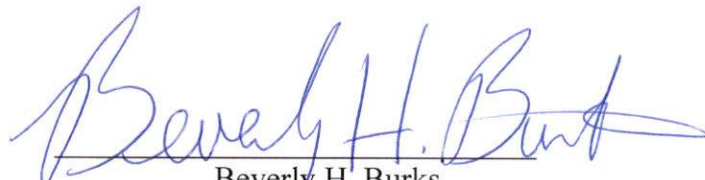
Councilmember Hopkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor