

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA HELD  
BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO  
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 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 Debra Johnson; Councilmembers Awet Eyasu; Jamie Carroll; Yterenickia Bell, Laura Hopkins, and Susan Hood. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Shawanna Qawiy (City Manager); 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 02/07/2023 City Council Meeting minutes and 02/28/2023 City Council Work Session minutes.

Councilmember Hopkins made a motion to approve the 02/07/2023 City Council Meeting Minutes and the 02/28/2023 City Council Work Session Minutes with the noted changes. Vice Mayor 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.

- Zoning Rewrite Review has been made available for review with upcoming discussion at the next Work Session and City Council meetings.
- The Economic Development Round-Up Quarterly meeting took place in February and was a collaboration with citizens and business owners.
- The Waterway Clean-Up Event will be held on March 25, 2023, at 9:00am at Friendship Forest, volunteers are needed.
- Recognition of International Women's Day on March 8, 2023.

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

There were no public comments.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. To approve allocating ARPA funds for government services.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated this was a review of allocation of ARPA funds that are available for governmental services or future projects. There is a list of projects to be initiated. Ms. Qawiy stated the Code Compliance item will be removed and Council can move forward with the other items.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Hood made a motion to approve zeroing out and any remaining balance goes to unallocated ARPA Funds, the Quarantine, the Rapid Test, the Health Initiative, the Vaccine Incentive Gifts, the Mortgage Assistance, Utility Assistance, Business Assistance; increasing Food Distribution by \$20,000; and reducing \$50,000 from the Rental Assistance, leaving \$30,000 behind. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

Ms. Qawiy stated the bottom line on the ARPA Fund sheet will change once the items are updated on the sheet.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. To approve a resolution authorizing the renewal of the probation services contract between the City of Clarkston and Professional Probation Services, Inc.
- B. To approve a proclamation recognizing Pastor Karl Moore.
- C. To approve a proclamation recognizing Indian Creek Principal, Dr. Stephanie Brown-Bryant as DeKalb Principal of the Year.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. To approve a resolution declaring that emergency conditions concerning COVID-19 no longer exist within the City such that the City Council may resume meeting in person at City Hall with certain precautions.

Mayor Burks gave a brief review of what was discussed at the previous Work Session, reminding Council they previously stated the City would continue to use Zoom for citizens to watch online, wearing a mask will be optional, the capacity will be at 37 people, and anyone who would want to speak in-person or via Zoom would need to send their information to the Clerk. This would be effective at the March 28, 2023, Work Session.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion starting with the Work Session on March 28<sup>th</sup> that the City declares that the emergency conditions concerning COVID-19 no longer exist within the City, the City Council may resume meeting in person at City Hall with a maximum capacity of 37, without masks required, with requirements still in place for both in-person and Zoom commenters and they reach out to the City Clerk, prior to the meeting in order to make a comment. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn informed the Council they adopted a public comment policy some years back and the policy is consistent with the motion Councilmember Carroll made. He then recommended further discussion of this item at another meeting with a resolution.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Carroll withdrew his previous motion.

Councilmember Carroll made a new motion to approve to declare that the COVID-19 emergency conditions concerning City Council is now over and Council will go back in-person beginning with the Work Session on March 28, 2023, without masks being required, the maximum capacity being 37 people, and the in-person comments and Zoom comments be treated the same in regard to registration, however Council ultimately determines it. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (4-2). Councilmembers Eyasu and Hopkins voted "no".

#### 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION


The Council did not enter Executive Session.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Carroll 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 was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell  
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks  
Mayor