

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD IN-PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

On the 5th day of March 2024, at 7:01 p.m., the City Council of Clarkston, Georgia met in regular session in-person and 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 and Councilmembers Awet Eyasu; Jamie Carroll; Susan Hood; Yterenickia Bell; and Mark Perkins. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Tammi Saddler Jones (Interim City Manager); Dan Defnall (Finance Director); Christine Hudson (Police Chief); Rodney Beck (Public Works 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 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All Councilmembers were present.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS/ PRESENTATION

A. To approve minutes the following meetings:

- 02/06/2024 – City Council Meeting
- 02/27/2024 – City Council Work Session

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to approve the following meeting minutes: 02/06/2024 – City Council Meeting and 02/27/2024 - City Council Work Session. Councilmember Hood 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.

- No report.

B. City Manager's Report

- Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones gave an update on the following:
 - Introduced Melissa Penate, as being recommended to serve as the Interim City Clerk until permanent City Clerk, Tomika R. Mitchell returns from maternity.
 - Seeking volunteers for the March 9th Rivers Alive Cleanup, 9:00AM – 12:00PM, event weather permitting; Make-up date will be March 16.
 - The City of Clarkston has ARPA Funding available for Clarkston residents who need legal assistance regarding tenants' rights.

- City YouTube Channel now working
- Friday, March 29th is a City Holiday, Spring Day.

C. City Attorney's Report

- No report.

D. Council Remarks

- The Councilmembers 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

The following citizens presented comments to the Mayor and Council: Amy Medford, Ira Jenkins, Debbie Gathman, Asgedom Temelso, Michel Marcuse, Omar Shekhey, Nolan Evans, Robyn Sands, T. Weguyell, Mary Abera, Alem Getohw, Amino Osman, Kim Ault, and Kasheef Hutchinson.

6. OLD BUSINESS

No items discussed.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- To approve a Proclamation designating March as "Women's History Month".
- To approve a resolution authorizing an agreement with Penate Consulting, LLC for professional services for an Interim City Clerk position in the amount of \$5,000 monthly.
- To approve the City Services Agreement with Amani Women's Center to provide a Workforce Development Program beginning in 2023 – 2024, funded through the ARPA Grant in the amount \$82,800.
- To approve the City Services Agreement with the Veterans & Community Outreach Foundation (VCOF) to provide services and programs to Clarkston veterans residents in 2024 funded through the ARPA Grant in the amount of \$6,742.58.
- To approve an agreement with Clarkston Development Foundation, Inc. for the Tell Me A Story Program, funded through the General Fund (Community Action Budget FY 2024) in the amount of \$7,000.
- To approve an agreement with Clarkston Development Foundation, Inc. for the Clarkston Early Learning Task Force, funded through the General Fund (Community Action Budget FY 2024) in the amount of \$10,000.
- To approve an ordinance approving deannexation of parcel 18 095 09 008 at 1078 Nielsen Dr.
- To approve an ordinance approving deannexation of parcel 18 095 09 009 at 1086 Nielsen Dr.
- To approve SPLOST II - Mell Ave at CSX Operational & Safety Improvement Project.
- To approve the resolution declaring results of the SPLOST II Election.
- To defer the list of SPLOST II Projects to be considered over the next three years to a Special Called Meeting with the Transportation and Environment Committee and the Housing and Infrastructure Committee to consider the amount for a potential bond issue.

- L. To approve an ordinance amending Article IV of Chapter 11 of the City Code regarding regulation of bona fide coin-operated amusement machines; to reduce distance restrictions for licensed establishments; to require that applicants for new coin-operated amusement machine licenses provide a survey with their application; and for other purposes.

Councilmember Hood 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 the City Services Agreement with Clarkston Community Center to provide ESL classes to Clarkston residents in 2024, funded through the ARPA Grant in the amount of \$40,000.

Councilmember Perkins recused himself of this item due to a conflict of interest with the Clarkston Community Center and exited the meeting before the discussion of this item.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to approve the City Services Agreement with Clarkston Community Center to provide ESL classes to Clarkston residents in 2024, funded through the ARPA Grant in the amount of \$40,000. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-0). Councilmember Perkins was absent.

Councilmember Perkins entered the meeting.

- B. To approve an ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Code, regarding alcoholic beverages, to allow “late night sales” for consumption on the premises subject to certain conditions.

Councilmember Eyasu recommended tabling this item to include additional provisions to the ordinance such as requiring interested businesses to apply for the “late night sales” within a certain time frame. Should a business with “late night sales” violate the ordinance, the following penalties would occur: a warning would be issued for the first offense, a fine of \$1,000 issued for the second offense, lose late night hours privilege for the third offense, and the final violation would be to lose the alcohol license.

Councilmember Eyasu recommended deferring this item to the next Council meeting.

The Council discussed this item with City Attorney, Stephen Quinn providing clarification on the recommended provisions to the ordinance.

Councilmember Eyasu amended his motion to defer an ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Code, regarding alcoholic beverages, to allow “late night sales” for consumption on the premises subject to certain conditions until the April Work Session and the May City Council Meeting. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

C. To approve the status and appointments to the City Council Task Forces.

Mayor Burks stated this item was being deferred to the next meeting, but there was a component where the Council discussed eliminating the Preventative Health Task Force.

Councilmember Perkins stated he was happy to make a motion to dissolve the Preventative Health Task Force and defer the discussion of the other task forces along with the appointments to the March and April meeting.

Councilmember Perkins made a motion to dissolve the Clarkston Preventative Health Task Force and defer discussion of the other Task Forces, Committees and Councils along with the respective appointments to the March Work Session and April Council Meeting. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

D. To consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the City Charter to authorize the City Manager to purchase certain goods and services and to enter into certain contracts on behalf of the City. **(First of two adoptions considered to be effective)**

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated in researching the City Charter and Code of Ordinances, currently the City Manager has zero spending authority. She stated in order for the City Manager to run the daily operations of the city and to purchase goods and services, and contract for professional services, she requested the Council to establish a spending authority for the City Manager. Ms. Saddler Jones presented spending authority amounts for City Manager's in surrounding cities.

The City Attorney, Stephen Quinn provided additional information regarding the multiple steps in the process to establish the City Manager's spending limit, to amend the City Charter and adopt an ordinance including the details of the amendments to take action. Mr. Quinn also stated the ordinance would have to be adopted twice in two consecutive regular meetings.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

The next step is that staff will need to post a notice of charter change, and this item will come back to the regular meeting in April for the second adoption. He also stated a procurement process will be brought back to the City Council.


Councilmember Bell made a motion to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the City Charter to authorize the City Manager to purchase certain goods and services and to enter into certain contracts on behalf of the City. Councilmember Perkins duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-0-1). Councilmember Eyasu abstained.


9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Johnson 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 8:43 p.m.

ATTEST:


Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk


Beverly H. Burks
Mayor