

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD IN-PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023

On the 30th day of May 2023, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Clarkston, Georgia met in a Work 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; 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); Christine Hudson (Police Chief); Dorothy Jackson (Chief Court Clerk); 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 read the Public Comment Policies.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of the City Council were present.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to defer Item 4B to the June Work Session and remove Item 5B. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

3. WORK SESSION- RESIDENT COMMENT POLICY

Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. To discuss a Proclamation for Municipal Court Clerks Week.

Mayor Burks read the proclamation for Municipal Court Clerks Week, June 5-9, 2023, from the Governor's Office.

Municipal Chief Court Clerk, Dorothy Jackson recognized the Past and current President of the Municipal Court Clerk's Association awarded appreciation certificates to the Clarkston Municipal Court staff.

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

B. To discuss the Inflation Reduction Act.

This item was deferred to the June Work Session.

C. To discuss amending appointments to the Standing Advisory Committee and city committees.

Mayor Burks stated at the 2023 retreat the recommendation was to amend the Standing Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair appointments on the committees.

The Council briefly discussed and amended the below committees.

Public Safety and Legal Committee

Chair: Y'Terenickia Bell

Vice-Chair: Awet Eyasu

Members: Jamie Carroll

Transportation and Environment Committee

Chair: Awet Eyasu

Vice-Chair: Laura Hopkins

Members: Susan Hood

Housing and Infrastructure Committee

Chair: Jamie Carroll

Vice-Chair: Susan Hood

Members: Mayor Beverly Burks

Community Development and Civic Innovation Committee

Chair: Debra Johnson

Vice-Chair: Y'Terenickia Bell

Members: Awet Eyasu

Business and Economic Development Committee

Chair: Susan Hood

Vice-Chair: Y'Terenickia Bell

Members: Mayor Beverly Burks

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Committee

Chair: Debra Johnson

Vice-Chair: Laura Hopkins

Members: Mayor Beverly Burks

Early Learning Task Force

Liaison: Awet Eyasu and Jamie Carroll

Members:

Youth Advisory Council

Liaison: Awet Eyasu and Y'terenickia Bell

Members:

Senior Resident Advisory Committee

Liaison: Debra Johnson and Susan Hood

Members:

Police Community Task Force

Liaison:

Members:

Preventive Health Task Force

Liaison: Y'terenickia Bell and Debra Johnson

Members:

Public Art Advisory Committee

Liaison: Laura Hopkins

Members:

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

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

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. To discuss amending the Clarkston Zoning Ordinance and maps.

Ms. Rosie Mafie, consultant with POND, Inc. presented changes made at the May 23rd Zoning Rewrite Community meeting.

The Council discussed this item recommending amendments.

Amy Medford, Joshua Deaton and Ellie presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the next Council agenda.

B. To discuss the appointment of a Solicitor.

A motion was made at the beginning of the meeting to remove this item from the agenda.

C. To discuss the 40 Oaks Farmhouse/ Nature Preserve recommendations.

Councilmember Eyasu gave a brief overview of this item stating the committee met a few weeks ago and reviewed the report.

The following recommendations were made to create a timeline for next steps that are inclusive but are not limited to the following:

1. Contact a consultant team to assess the architectural value of the 40 Oaks Farmhouse
2. (Emergency) mothball the structure.
3. Fence the perimeter of the 40 Oaks Farmhouse.
4. Erect an entrance gate to be opened at dawn and closed at dusk.
5. Include the police department in patrolling the nature preserve area.
6. Inquire about the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Council discussed this item.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. To discuss a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the Solicitor, Christopher Diwan.

Ms. Qawiy stated this item was to reappoint the current Solicitor. The Solicitor will provide Prosecuting Attorney Services to the City of Clarkston Municipal Court.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

This item will be placed on the Consent Agenda.

- B. To discuss a name, change the petition request from the Smith Street Community (a.k.a. Legacy Subdivision) to change the name of Smith Street and Lincoln Street to Patricia Davis Drive.

Vice Mayor Johnson gave a brief overview of this item stating the community addressed and requested a street name change and provided a petition. The petition request was from the Smith Street Community (a.k.a. Legacy Village Subdivision) to change the name of Smith Street and Lincoln Street to Patricia Davis Drive. Vice Mayor Johnson presented brief information about Patricia Davis and her work in the community.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Carolyn Davis, sister of Patricia Davis presented comments on this item.

Amy Medford presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the Consent Agenda.

- C. To discuss allocating \$100,000 of ARPA funds to the Rental Assistance Program.

Councilmember Carroll gave a brief overview of this item and recommended additional allocation to the Rental Assistance Program.

The Council briefly discussed this item and recommended allocation of \$50,000 towards this program.

Brian Medford and Ellie presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the Consent Agenda.

- D. To discuss allocating \$100,000 of ARPA funds to the Utility Assistance Program.

Councilmember Eyasu gave a brief overview of this item and recommended additional allocation to the Utility Assistance Program.

The Council briefly discussed this item and recommended allocation of \$50,000 towards this program, giving the City Manager discretion of approval upon the review of applications received.

Brian Medford and Ellie presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the Consent Agenda.

- E. To discuss allocating \$100,000 of ARPA funds for Governmental/Administrative Services.

Vice Mayor Johnson gave an overview of this item recommending allocation of ARPA funds for a Human Resources Department and assessments to be conducted. Vice Mayor Johnson recommended increasing the amount to \$300,000.

The Council briefly discussed this item and recommended starting with \$100,000 and allocating additional funds as needed.

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

- F. To discuss allocating \$100,000 of ARPA funds for residential legal assistance and representation.

Councilmember Bell gave a brief overview of this item recommending ARPA funds to be allocated to provide renters/tenants in the City of Clarkston for legal assistance for housing related matters.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Annie Jordan presented comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the Consent Agenda.

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

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. To discuss litigation.
- B. To discuss real estate.

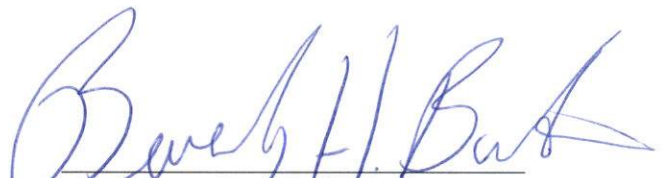
8. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Eyasu 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 was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk


Beyerly H. Burks
Mayor