

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, JANUARY 14, 2025

On the 14th day of January 2025, at 7:15 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 Sharifa Adde, Yterenickia Bell; Jamie Carroll; Susan Hood; and Mark Perkins. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Tammi Saddler Jones (Interim City Manager); Lolita Grant (Finance Director); Christine Hudson (Police Chief); Dr. Dwight Baker (Director of Human Resources & Risk Management); 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 Councilmembers were present.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to defer Item 8B to the January 28th Work Session. Councilmember Perkins duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS/ PRESENTATION

A. To approve minutes the following meetings:

- 11/13/2024 – Special Called City Council Meeting
- 12/03/2024 – City Council Meeting
- 12/14/2024 – Special Called City Council Meeting
- 12/18/2024 – Special Called City Council Meeting
- 12/30/2024 – Special Called City Council Meeting

Councilmember Hood made a motion to approve the following sets of minutes: 11/13/2024, 2/03/2024, 12/14/2024, 12/18/2024, and 12/30/2024. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

4. REPORTS

A. Municipal Court Report.

- Lillian Tripplet gave a brief report on the Municipal Court Department.

B. City Manager's Report

- The Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones gave a brief report on the following: Closing of city administrative offices on Monday, January 20th for the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday; the Clarkston CARES Community Grant Program; Boards, Commissions and Committees vacancies; Standing Advisory Committees update on revisions, and recognition of herself and Interim Public Works Director, Marcus Seaton on completing the Local Administered Project (LAP) Certification.

C. City Attorney's Report

- Stephen Quinn did not have a 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

There were no public comments.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- To approve the PTSD Diagnosis Benefits for all First Responders in compliance with House Bill 451 in the amount of \$1,632.00 to be funded out of the General Fund.
- To approve authorizing city staff to publish notices for scheduled public hearings to opt out of House Bill 581.
- To approve a resolution authorizing a contract with David Will, Attorney at Law, for Municipal Court Judge Services and to reappoint him as Judge of Municipal Court for years 2025 and 2026.
- To approve a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the City Auditor, Mauldin & Jenkins for the FY 2024 Audited Financial Statement audited during FY 2025 and consider the Engagement Letter.
- To approve a resolution authorizing an agreement with CPL Architecture, Engineering, and Planning for professional services for an Interim Planning/Economic Development Director position in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for a term of (3) three months to be funded out of the General Fund.
- To approve a resolution authorizing the Clarkston City Council to designate Richard Edwards as City Planner.
- To approve a resolution denying the ante litem claim for damages asserted by claimants Daniel Buttrum, Clareyna Clark, and Daniel Buttrum and Clareyna Clark on behalf of Danela Buttrum (a minor child).
- To approve a resolution authorizing a contract to the most responsive and responsible bidder, Construction 57, Inc., for the SPLOST II 2024 Pedestrian Improvement Project on

Church Steet and Brockett Road in the amount of \$233,457 to be funded out of SPLOST II Fund.

- I. To approve a resolution authorizing a contract to the most responsive and responsible bidder, Magnum Paving, for the SPLOST II 2024 LMIG Street Resurfacing Project Citywide in the amount of \$1,071,903.48 to be funded out of SPLOST II Fund.

Councilmember Perkins made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 7A through I. 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 consider selecting a Vice-Mayor.

Mayor Burks stated at the beginning of January the Council selects a Vice Mayor. At the last Work Session, current Vice Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Bell were nominated for the Vice Mayor seat for 2025. Mayor Burks opened the floor again for nominations and there were no additional nominations from the City Council.

Current Vice Mayor Johnson presented brief comments regarding why she would like to be Vice Mayor again.

Councilmember Bell presented brief comments regarding why she would like to be Vice Mayor.

The Council voted on both nominations. Vice Mayor Johnson, Hood and Adde voted in favor of the selection of Councilmember Johnson as Vice Mayor.

Attorney Stephen Quinn provided clarification on the process of the selection for the Vice Mayor seat and recommended a Councilmember to make a motion for one of the two candidates selected for Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Perkins made a motion to select Councilmember Bell as the Vice Mayor. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (3-3). Vice Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Adde and Hood voted "no". Mayor Burks cast the deciding vote, voting against Councilmember Bell's selection as Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Hood made a motion to select Vice Mayor Johnson as the Vice Mayor for 2025. Councilmember Adde duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (3-3). Councilmembers Bell, Carroll, and Perkins voted "no". Mayor Burks vetoed the tie vote, supporting Councilmember Johnson's continuation as Vice Mayor.

- B. To consider a resolution authorizing a contract renewal for the Use of Meeting Space Agreement with the Clarkston Community Center (Venue Rentals) in the amount of \$15,000 to be funded out of the General Fund.

At the beginning of this meeting, this item was deferred to the January 28th Work Session.

- C. To consider a resolution approving the qualifying fees for the 2025 Municipal General Election in the City of Clarkston.

City Clerk, Tomika Mitchell stated the City of Clarkston is required by State law (O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131) to set a qualifying fee for candidates wishing to qualify for these municipal elections no later than February 1st of the election year. The qualifying fee shall be three percent (3%) of the annual compensation (total gross salary) for the office. The qualifying fee for the Mayor seat will be \$450.00 and the qualifying fee for each City Council seat will be \$360.00. Staff recommend setting a qualifying fee for the Mayor and City Council candidates wishing to qualify for the municipal elections.

The Council discussed this matter.

- D. Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to the qualifying fees for the 2025 Municipal General Election in the City of Clarkston in the amount of \$450.00 for the mayoral seat and \$360.00 for the City Council seat. Councilmember Hood duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

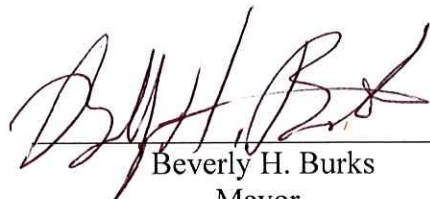
9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST:


Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk


Beverly H. Burks
Mayor