MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA HELD

BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO

IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

On the 7th day of February 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); 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
   The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL
   All members of Council were present.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS/ PRESENTATION
   i. To approve the 01/10/2023 City Council Meeting minutes and 01/31/2023 City Council Work Session minutes.

   Councilmember Hood made a motion to approve the 01/10/2023 City Council Meeting Minutes and the 01/31/2023 City Council Work Session Minutes. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

   Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to approve the agenda and move the Administrative Business except for the approval of the minutes after Public Comments. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

   PUBLIC COMMENTS
   Brian Medford spoke in favor of approving the park purchase.

4. REPORTS
   A. Planning/Economic and Development Report presented by Mollie Bogle.
      - Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study, Kickoff Meeting on February 22, 2023
      - Reviewing the Zoning Ordinance Amendments with Ponds
      - Crafting additional guidelines for the Small Business Development Program
      - Wrapping up engagement for the Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative Project, the Crosswalk Mural at Market and Vaughn St.

- Celebrating local businesses through Love Our Businesses
- Kicking Off "The Small Business of the Month" Campaign
- January 27 – February 2, Code Enforcement has responded to 76 phone calls and 118 emails and conducted three business license reviews.

B. City Manager's Report
- The City was chosen by GMA to participate in their Practicum Program, students will provide an outreach and communication plan for the city.
- Two Charging Stations are currently being installed
- City Offices are open to the public from 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday
- Staff and City Council Retreat will be held on Friday, February 10 at the GMA Offices

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS/ PRESENTATION

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

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated this item was approve the request of $10,000 from CDF Action for the Early Learning Task Force, Storywalk and Early Learning Information Fair. CDF Action on behalf of the Early Learning Task Force is requesting 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 Malvenda gave a brief overview of the Storywalk and Early Learning Information Fair.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to approve the request from CDF Action for $10,000 for the Early Learning Task Force. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

C. To approve a resolution to deactivate the Housing Authority of the City of Clarkston.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated this item was to approve the deactivation of the Housing Authority of the City of Clarkston. In 1983, Ordinance 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 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.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve a resolution to deactivate the Housing Authority of the City of Clarkston. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-1). Councilmember Hopkins voted "no".

D. To approve the appointments to the Board of Commissioners of the Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA) of the City of Clarkston.

Mayor Burks stated for the stated the Board of Commissioners of the Urban Redevelopment Agency, the Chairperson will be Councilmember Bell, the Vice-Chairperson: Councilmember Eyasu, and the Treasurer/Secretary will be Councilmember Carroll.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to approve the appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA) of the City of Clarkston, Chairperson Councilmember Bell, Vice-Chairperson Councilmember Eyasu, and Treasurer/Secretary Councilmember Carroll. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

Mayor Burks informed the citizens the Annual Board meeting of the URA was held at 6:00pm today and gave a brief overview of the meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This item was heard toward the beginning of the meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. To approve 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 of operation; and other purposes.

Councilmember Bell gave a brief overview of the history of the item stating the rational behind this item was to protect the public health, safety and welfare of residents, visitors, and employees of convenience stores.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Mr. Quinn gave a brief overview of the ordinance pertaining to voting on items.

Councilmember Bell made a motion 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 of operation; and other purposes. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion.

The Council presented additional questions pertaining to the language listed in the ordinance. Mr. Quinn presented information that was listed in the newly revised ordinance pertaining to this item.

Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (3-3). Councilmembers Eyasu, Hopkins and Hood voted “no”. Mayor Burks voted “yes” and declared the motion approved.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. To approve a resolution authorizing the renewal of the City Services Agreement with the Clarkston Community Center.
B. To approve Perkins+Will, Inc. to conduct the Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study.
C. To approve Construction 57, Inc. to perform the 2022 LMIG Church St. and Lovejoy St. Sidewalk Project.
D. To approve a resolution to deny the claim for damages asserted by claimant Jermarcus Wheeler.
E. To approve a resolution to deny the claim for damages asserted by claimant Jaque Wheeler.
F. To approve a resolution appointing Dekalb County Board of Registrations and Elections to conduct the City of Clarkston 2023 General Municipal Election.
G. To approve a request to allocate $82,800 in ARPA funds for the Amani Women Center Workforce Development Pilot Program.

Mr. Quinn interrupted the City Council at the end of the reading of the Consent Agenda to inform the Council there was not an effective date listed on the ordinance in the previously discussed item, 6A. Mr. Quinn recommended having a new motion with a proposed effective date or a motion to table this item to the next month.

Councilmember Bell made a motion to rescind the initial motion to approve 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 of operation; and other purposes. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Hood made a motion to defer this item to the March Work Session and the April City Council meeting. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

The Council returned to the Consent Agenda item.

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. 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 authorizing 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 (Parcel ID 18 118 03 029), Clarkston, GA 30021. The property owner has offered to sell the property to the city for $70,000.

   The Council briefly discussed this item.

   Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the city to purchase 3520 Montreal Creek Court for the amount of $70,000. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   The Council did not enter into Executive Session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tomika R. Mitchell
Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk

Beverly H. Burks
Beverly H. Burks
Mayor