

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, JULY 1, 2025

On the 1st day of July 2025, at 7:00 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 (virtual); Jamie Carroll (virtual); Susan Hood; and Mark Perkins. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: ChaQuias Miller-Thornton (City Manager); Tomika R. Mitchell (City Clerk); Christine Hudson (Police Chief); Xavier Todd (Assistant Police Chief); Dr. Dwight Baker (Director of Human Resources & Risk Management); Yolanda McGhee (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer); Michael Duncan (Parks and Recreation Director); 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.
3. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS/ PRESENTATION
 - A. Employee of the Month Recognition – June 2025

Dr. Dwight Baker, the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, recognized the Employee of the Month for June 2025, offering a brief explanation of the employees' outstanding contributions to the city. The recognition was awarded to the Communications Manager, Retonjah Burdette from the Administration Department, acknowledging her hard work and dedication to the City of Clarkston.

B. Business of the Month Recognition – June 2025

Economic Development Coordinator, Jacob Bouie stated the purpose of this item was to recognize and celebrate outstanding local businesses that contribute to the vitality, growth, and community spirit of the City of Clarkston. Recognized for business of the Month for the month of June was CrossFit Liminal.

As the Business of the Month, CrossFit Liminal will receive a certificate of recognition, be highlighted on the City's website and social media platforms and be eligible for nomination as the Business of the Year.

C. Presentation of Youth Displacement Project – Grant Proposal for Business Opportunity

Dr. Dwight Baker, the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management introduced the City's Summer Internship students from the DeKalb Youth Employment Program and provided a brief overview of the business opportunity they proposed, focusing on youth displacement through a targeted grant initiative. The students' presentation explored a potential Youth Displacement Project designed to create sustainable support structures and resources for displaced or at-risk youth within the community. The students decided on the development of "Urban Sprouts", a café for youth that focuses on the need for housing and employment and designed to offer a safe space for young people to go socialize and receive services as needed.

It was recommended that the City of Clarkston support the continued development of this grant proposal and evaluate its potential for inclusion in the City's strategic initiatives.

D. To approve the following meeting minutes:

1. 6/3/2025 – City Council Meeting
2. 6/18/2025 – Special Called City Council Meeting/ Public Hearing (10:00 AM)
3. 6/18/2025 – Special Called City Council Meeting/ Public Hearing (6:30 PM)
4. 6/26/2025 – Special Called City Council Meeting/ Public Hearing and Adoption
5. 6/26/2025 – City Council Work Session

Councilmember Perkins made a motion to approve the presented minutes. Vice Mayor Johnson seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

4. REPORTS

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton provided a brief report and update on the following: New Administrative and Police Building at 736 Park North Blvd.; 2025 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate; FY 2024 Audit Preparation; Administrative Reporting; Upcoming Events; Program and Software Updates; Previous Events; New Hires; and Purchasing and Procurement.

B. City Attorney's Report

- No report was given.

C. Council Remarks

- The Councilmembers briefly gave an overview of meetings and events they attended, and projects they are currently working on.

D. 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 provided public comments: Rev. C. O. Adams, Edwards Schaffer, and Martha Brown.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Public Hearing - To receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to amend the City Charter to be consistent with the State General Law concerning the minimum term of Municipal Court Judges.

The public hearing opened at 7:50 p.m.

There were no public comments.

The public hearing closed at 7:50 p.m.

- B. To consider the second adoption of an ordinance to amend the City Charter to be consistent with the State General Law concerning the minimum term of Municipal Court Judges.

City Attorney Stephen Quinn provided a brief overview of the item, explaining that two adoptions were required. He stated that adopting the ordinance would amend the City of Clarkston's Charter to align with State law.

Councilmember Hood made a motion to approve of an ordinance to amend the City Charter to be consistent with the State General Law concerning the minimum term of two (2) years for the Municipal Court Judge. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. To approve a proclamation designating July as "Park and Recreation Month".
B. To approve a resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for beautification of interchange at East Ponce de Leon off-ramp and Church Street on-ramp between Dekalb County and the City of Clarkston.
C. To approve a four-year lease with maintenance agreement with Toshiba for six copy machines in the amount of \$49,968.

Councilmember Perkins made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 7A through 7C. 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 a resolution awarding a consulting services agreement to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

City Engineer, Larry Kaiser from Collaborative Infrastructure provided a brief overview of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan requesting the City to select the highest ranked SS4A proposal and move forward with a contract to commence with SS4A

scope of work as outlined in the Request for Proposal prepared by staff and approved by the US Department of Transportation.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to a resolution awarding a consulting services agreement to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Councilmember Hood duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

Kristian Horn of Kimley-Horn expressed her appreciation for the awarding of the contract for the SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor