

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, AUGUST 3, 2023

On the 3rd day of August 2023, 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 Council Members were present: Vice Mayor Debra Johnson; Councilmembers Awet Eyasu; Jamie Carroll; Laura Hopkins (virtual); Susan Hood (virtual); and Yterenickia Bell. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Shawanna Qawiy (City Manager); 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 7:13 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

All Councilmembers were present.

Councilmember Hood made an announcement pertaining to her remaining on the City Council and not resigning.

Attorney Stephen Quinn gave a brief overview of the official process and steps from the City Charter and Georgia Law pertaining to a Councilmember resigning. Mr. Quinn then stated since the official steps were not taken, Councilmember Hood remains a Councilmember.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to add Executive Session to the agenda to discuss a personnel matter. Councilmember Carroll 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:

- 06/06/2023 - City Council Meeting
- 07/06/2023 - City Council Meeting

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve the 06/06/2023 and 07/06/2023 City Council Meeting minutes. Vice Mayor Johnson 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 and the City Manager's Report.

- City Manager Qawiy deferred this report to after the Mayor's report.

B. City Manager's Report

- City Manager Qawiy deferred this report to after the Mayor's report.

C. City Attorney's Report

- City Attorney, Stephen Quinn informed the City Council the collective city attorney's and Dekalb County attorney's made good progress with the SPLOST II intergovernmental agreement. Ms. Quinn gave a brief overview of the agreement.

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.
- City Manager Qawiy presented a report on current and ongoing projects and programs and expressed her appreciation to Mayor, Council, and staff for support while working at the City.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following citizens presented public comments: Brian Medford, Debbie Gathmann, Glory Kilanko, Kim Ault, Pastor C. O. Adams, Ashrakat Hassan, and Brady.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Consent Agenda items.

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (4-0).

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. To approve increasing police force compensation.

Councilmember Carroll gave a brief overview of the Police Department staffing issues including the recommendation to increase the salary for the police officers to \$60,000.

The Council discussed this item.

Finance Director, Dan Defnall presented comments regarding the city receiving the final Tax Digest report today, stating the commercial digest increased by over \$14 million, adding an approximate \$200,000 to the City's revenue this year.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn informed the City Council of the budget amendment process. Councilmember Carroll recommended a special called meeting next week for a budget amendment.

The Council further discussed this item with majority of Council agreeing to increase the budget by \$188,472 to increase the police officer salaries to \$60,000.

The Council discussed having a special called meeting on August 7, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Clarkton Women's Club.

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council discussed a personnel matter.

10. ADJOURNMENT

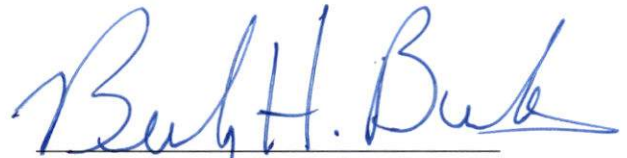
Councilmember Carroll made a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (6-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor