MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA

HELD IN-PERSON IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

On the 19th day of December 2023, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Clarkston, Georgia met in special session in-person in said City. Mayor Beverly Burks called the meeting to order. The following member of the Council Members were present: Vice Mayor Debra Johnson; Councilmembers Awet Eyasu; Jamie Carroll (virtual); Laura Hopkins; Yterenickia Bell; and Susan Hood. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Tammi Saddler Jones (Interim City Manager); Dan Defnall (Finance Director); Christine Hudson (Police Chief); Rodney Beck (Public Works Director); Lisa Cameron (Planning & Economic Development 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

3. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS
   A. Recognition of Outgoing City Council Member Laura Hopkins

   Mayor Burks and the City Council members recognized Councilmember Hopkins as this was her last meeting during her term as a Councilmember. Councilmembers expressed a few words of thanks and appreciation to Councilmember Hopkins.

   Mayor Burks presented Councilmember Hopkins with an award recognizing her commitment to the City of Clarkston and the community.

   Councilmember Hopkins expressed her appreciation for serving on the City Council.

4. OLD BUSINESS
   A. To approve an ordinance to adopt the FY 2024 Operating & Enterprise Fund Budget.

   Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones presented the FY 2024 Operating & Enterprise Fund Budget for approval in the amount of $15,833,249.

   In the Community Action budget, it is recommended to increase the Early Learning Task Force budget by $5,000 and reduce the Business and Economic Development Task Force budget by $5,000.

   Councilmember Caroll made a motion to FY 2024 Operating & Enterprise Fund Budget for approval in the amount of $15,833,249. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

B. To approve a resolution activating the Clarkston Downtown Development Authority.

The Planning and Economic Development Manager, Lisa Cameron gave a brief overview of the names of the applicants who applied to be a part of the Clarkston Downtown Development Authority.

Stephen Quinn, the City Attorney provided the Clarkston Downtown Development Authority member qualifications.

The Council discussed three main decisions to make: (1.) Establish the geographic area that will be the "downtown redevelopment area"; (2) Appoint 7 directors that meet the qualifications; and (3) Choose which members will be appointed for 2, 4 or 6 year initial terms (the initial terms are staggered as listed in the resolution, subsequent terms are all four years).

Councilmember Hopkins recommended appointing Dean Moore. Councilmember Carroll stated Mr. Moore was currently on a city committee. Councilmember Bell recommended appointing Krista Durant.

The Council recommended appointing the following members to the Board of Directors:

NAMES	TERM OF OFFICE
MAYOR BEVERLY H. BURKS	TWO YEARS
KRISTA DURANT	TWO YEARS
JOHN GAGNE	FOUR YEARS
ADRIA MARSHALL	FOUR YEARS
DR. JOHNNY GARCIA	SIX YEARS
REZWAN SHAREEF AHMAD	SIX YEARS
AKBER LASSI	SIX YEARS

The Council recommended the following individuals to represent an economic interest in the redevelopment and revitalization of the downtown development area:

NAMES
JOHN GAGNE
ADRIA MARSHALL
DR. JOHNNY GARCIA
REZWAN SHAREEF AHMAD

The Council also discussed the downtown development area map.

Councilmember Hood made a motion to appoint the following members to the Downtown Development Authority: Mayor Beverly H. Burks to serve Two Years, Krista Durant to serve Two Years, John Gagne to serve Four Years, Adria Marshall to serve Four Years, Dr. Johnny Garcia to serve Six Years, Rezwan Shareef Ahmad to serve Six Years, and Akber Lassi to serve Six Years. The appointments that have an economic interest in the redevelopment and revitalization of the downtown development area are John Gagne, Rezwan Shafeef Ahmad, Adria Marshall, and Dr. Johnny Garcia, effective January 1, 2024. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-0-1). Councilmember Hopkins abstained.

5. NEW BUSINESS
   A. To approve purchasing new mounts/car dock stations to be installed in patrol vehicles in the amount of $17,600.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this item was to purchase new mounts/car dock stations to be installed in patrol vehicles to accommodate upgraded laptops for patrol officers in the amount of $17,600. The current laptops installed in our patrol staff vehicles have reached the end-of-life cycle and we have secured new laptops that need to be installed. The new laptops will not work with our existing mounts/car docks; therefore we need to install new laptop mounts in our patrol vehicles.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to purchase new mounts/car dock stations to be installed in patrol vehicles in the amount of $17,600. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

   B. To approve purchasing new network switches and firewalls for the City's computer network in the amount of $21,284.20.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this item is a result of a cybersecurity audit and analysis conducted in December 2022, which identified several pieces of computer equipment that had reached the end-of-life cycle and needed to be replaced. Our original equipment was either pre-existing or updated in our transition to VC3 in 2015. This quote has been provided by VC3 to upgrade network switches and firewalls identified for replacement for our computer systems.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to purchase new network switches and firewalls for the City's computer network in the amount of $21,284.20. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

   C. To approve a resolution authorizing an agreement with Integrated Science & Engineering, Inc. to conduct the 2023 – 2024 ArcGIS Hosting & Management.

Public Works Director, Rodney Beck stated this was the City's license agreement for the city's GIS program, for the stormwater maps. ArcGIS maintains the city's stormwater infrastructure on our technology devices. This is a renewal contract.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing an agreement with Integrated Science & Engineering, Inc. to conduct the 2023 – 2024 ArcGIS Hosting & Management in the amount of $16,750. The task will be for a period of one-year, from the date of notice and Task 2 will be completed by November 30, 2024. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

D. To approve a resolution renewing the Workers Compensation Insurance with Georgia Municipal Association Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Fund (GMA WCSIF) for calendar year 2024.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this item was for the renewal of Workers Compensation insurance with GMA Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Fund (GMA WCSIF) for calendar year 2024. This year is expected to see a reduction in the rate.

Finance Director, Dan Defnall gave a brief overview of this item.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to approve a resolution to renew the Workers Compensation Insurance with Georgia Municipal Association Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Fund (GMA WCSIF) for calendar year 2024 in an estimated amount for an annual premium rate of $94,733. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

E. To approve a resolution authorizing an agreement with LBJ Law Group, LLC for professional services for an Interim Chief Court Clerk in the amount of $7,000 monthly.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the resolution was in regard to the appointment of the Interim Chief Court Clerk position and is recommending approval of Ms. Ladawn Blackett, owner of LBJ Law Group, LLC. Ms. Blackett's contract would be for five months and could end May 30, 2024, or sooner.

Ladawn Blackett gave a brief introduction of herself.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing an agreement with LBJ Law Group, LLC for professional services for an Interim Chief Court Clerk, with edits "until replacement is found or no later than May 30, 2024" in the amount of $7,000 monthly. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tomika R. Mitchell

Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk

Beverly H Burks

Beverly H. Burks
Mayor