MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

On the 2nd day of January 2024, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Clarkston, Georgia met in a Work Session in-person and by teleconference, Zoom Audio/Video in said City. Mayor Burks called the meeting to order. Mayor Beverly Burks and the following members of the City Council were present: Vice Mayor Debra Johnson; Councilmembers Awet Eyasu, Jamie Carroll (virtual), Susan Hood, Yterenickia Bell, and Mark Perkins. 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 and 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

2. ROLL CALL
   All members of the City Council were present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS
   Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

   A. Administering the Oath of Office to the re-elected and newly elected Councilmembers.

   Judge David Will administered the Oath of Office to the re-elected Councilmembers Awet Eyasu and Debra Johnson and newly elected Councilmember Mark Perkins.

   Each re-elected and newly elected Councilmember expressed their appreciation to the community.

5. OLD BUSINESS
   There was no old business discussed.

6. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Mayor To discuss selecting a Vice-Mayor.

   Burks gave a brief overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Mayor position stating the Council is to recommend a Vice-Mayor every year. The Vice-Mayor is selected for a term of one year. The Vice-Mayor shall perform the duties of the Mayor during his/her absence.

Councilmember Hood nominated Councilmember Johnson for the 2024 Vice Mayor position.

Councilmember Carroll nominated Councilmember Bell for the 2024 Vice Mayor position.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council meeting agenda.

B. To discuss a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the Auditor.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the recommendation from staff is to reappoint Mauldin & Jenkins as the City Auditor, however, there may be an opportunity to go out for bid, it has been a few years for the auditing firm, since the city has gone out for bid. The auditor will complete the 2022 and 2023 audit, so stay may be coming back to the Council after that for a recommendation to go for bid.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Eyasu recommended reappointment but also recommended every 3-4 years go through a bid process.

Ms. Saddler Jones recommended at least a 6-month proposal.

Amina Osman presented public comments expressing thanks to the re-elected and newly elected Councilmembers.

This item will be placed on the next City Council meeting agenda.

C. To discuss reappointing the City Attorney.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated our City Attorney, Stephen Quinn's reappointment is for an indefinite term.

Mr. Quinn stated he has been working with the City of Clarkston for 15-17 years.

Councilmember Eyasu expressed the same sentiments from the previous item about reappointing the current individual to the position and recommended a bid process at some point.

City Attorney Stephen Quinn gave a brief explanation of the City appointments, per the City Charter. He stated for the City Attorney, there is no annual aspect to the appointment. The reappointment of the City Attorney has often been included on the agenda for the first meeting of the year, but there is no requirement to do so. There is not a contract with the City, it is at the

City's pleasure. No action is needed and the city can go out for bid or go with someone else at the pleasure of the Council.

For the Municipal Court Judge and Municipal Court Solicitor, both are mandated by state law to be done on an annual contract, approving them at the first meeting of the year.

The City Auditor just needed to be appointed, there is no state law about the appointment.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council meeting agenda.

D. To discuss a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the Municipal Court Judge.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated it is staff's recommendation that Council reappoints David Will as the Municipal Court Judge. He has served as the judge for six years.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Eyasu expressed the same sentiments from the previous item about reappointing the current individual to the position and recommended a bid process at some point. Councilmember Eyasu recommended a term of 6 months.

Mr. Quinn stated the state law recommends a one-year term contract. The Council recommended a request for proposal in October, to give the state ample time to comply with the state.

Ms. Saddler Jones stated the compensation is listed incorrectly at $2,000 and should be corrected to $2,300.

This item will be placed on the next Consent Agenda.

E. To discuss a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the Solicitor.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated it is staff's recommendation to reappoint the current Solicitor, Christopher Diwan. Mr. Diwan has been the Solicitor for six years.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Eyasu expressed the same sentiments from the previous item about reappointing the current individual to the position and recommended a bid process at some point.

This item will be placed on the next City Council meeting agenda.

F. To discuss payment to Ikon Filmworks, LLC. for audio-visual services for the council work sessions, council meetings, and special called meetings for the months of November and December 2023 in the amount of $9,010 and for any future services in 2024.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this item is before Council because the current audio-visual services the city is using are being brought to Council by Ikon Filmworks, LLC. Ms. Saddler Jones stated she reached out to them after it was brought to her attention about the current AV system, BIS Digital in the Council Chambers was not working properly. Ms. Saddler Jones gave a brief overview of the history of the purchase and the importance of having the AV system. Ikon Filmworks, LLC has also provided a proposal for 2024. The recommendation from staff is to pay the invoices.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

City Clerk, Tomika R. Mitchell gave a brief explanation about the functionality of the current equipment from BIS Digital and the issues staff has been facing with the equipment.

Councilmember Johnson stated she liked the services Ikon Filmworks, LLC provides and if the system is not up to par and does not allow the Clerk to dictate, she would like to further the services until the situation is figured out.

This item will be placed on the next City Council meeting agenda.

G. To discuss the date(s) for the Mayor, Council, and Staff Retreat.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the last retreat was in February and would like to know when the Council would like to have this year's retreat.

The Council discussed the month of March and chose two dates, March 1st and March 15th for staff to check availability of locations to have the retreat.

H. To discuss the Proposed Projects for the 2023 and 2024 LMIG Funding.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated The Office of Local Grants forwarded the FY 2024 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) award letters to the mayors and the chairpersons of all the local governments within the state. The FY 2024 LMIG award letter contains information on how to apply for the LMIG funds, and the total award amount. The formula amount for the Fiscal Year 2024 program is $110,910.68 with a local match of $33,273.20 (30%). The total project budget will be $144,183.88.

The Council will need to decide with you want to rollover the FY 2024 LMIG allotment or if they want to put the two years of funding into action by determining what specific projects you would like to do 2024.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Larry Kaiser with Collaborative Services responded to questions from the Council regarding some of the projects listed on the LMIG list.

Dean Moore presented public comments on this item.

This item will be placed on the next City Council meeting agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tomika R. Mitchell
Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk

Beverly H. Burks
Beverly H. Burks
Mayor