



3921 CHURCH STREET ♦ CLARKSTON, GEORGIA 30021
(404) 296-6489 ♦ WWW.CLARKSTONGA.GOV

Mayor Beverly H. Burks

Councilmembers:

Jamie Carroll

Laura Hopkins

Awet Eyasu

Yterenickia Bell

Debra Johnson

Susan Hood

Shawanna Qawiy, Interim City Manager

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:00PM
ZOOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:01 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Councilmember Bell was absent.

3. WORK SESSION – RESIDENT COMMENT POLICY

Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

There were no presentations or administrative business discussed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** Discussion of an ordinance to amend rules of procedures for Mayor and Council to add items to the City Council meeting agenda.

Vice-Mayor Eyasu gave a brief overview of his proposal to keep the current process in place and place a cap on the number of items a Councilmember can place on the agenda.

Councilmember Bell entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The Council briefly discussed this item with several suggestions for adding items to the agenda and recommended discussing this item at the Council Retreat.

Amy Medford and Brian Medford presented their comments pertaining to this item.

The Mayor stated this item will be moved to the Council Retreat for discussion.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Discussion of a resolution to adopt the approved Clarkston Comprehensive Plan Update.

Interim City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the City of Clarkston's Comprehensive Plan known as the Clarkston 2040 was mandated to be updated before the deadline date of October 31, 2021. Recommendation was made to extend the transmittal date to ARC/DCA to September 17th, 2021.

After an extensive review, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Atlanta Regional Commission has determined that the revised Clarkston 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update complies with all applicable requirements.



Local adoption of the approved Plan Update is required. Once adopted, the city will forward the adoption notice to DCA to renew the city's Qualified Local Government (QLG) status.

Ms. Qawiy presented additional clarification pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan update, stating this item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda. Once approved, the resolution and meeting minutes will be sent to Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Mayor Burks stated this item will be placed on Consent Agenda at the next Council Meeting agenda.

B. Discussion of a resolution for SPLOST 04 B & C Pedestrian Enhancements Trailhead and Rowland Street change order #41.

Ms. Qawiy stated this item was to discuss change order #41 for the SPLOST 04 B & C Pedestrian Enhancements Trailhead and Rowland Street project to repair an eight (8) inch water line and pavement improvements in the amount of \$20,488.00. The change order will enhance the level of water service along the project for the current and future development enhancements.

Staff recommends approving change order # 41 to perform the work to repair the 8-inch water line, to perform the work to the utility trench and pavement repairs for durability.

Larry Kaiser presented clarification stating this was not a repair to the 8-inch water line, Dekalb Co. did the water line installation work. He stated the change order was to repair the trench above the water line, to fill in on top of the water line concrete and to do the paving work, as well over the excavation.

Councilmember Hood recommended changing the wording of the agenda item to not cause confusion.

C. Discussion of a resolution for SPLOST 08 Market Street Resurfacing and Sidewalks Project change order #2.

Ms. Qawiy stated the Collaborative Services, (City Engineering) requested Ohmshiv Construction, LLC (Project Contractor) to address work not included in the executed contract. Work includes grading, install 12" plastic pipe, install yard inlet, driveway concrete, concrete curb and gutter, removal of trees, concrete retaining wall, concrete header curb, reset granite curb, and adjust catch basin. The proposed total cost of the work to be completed is up to \$64,805.00.

Mr. Kaiser presented a brief overview of the scope of work for this project.



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

D. Discussion of the Housing First Initiative.

Councilmember Yterenickia Bell briefly stated she recently was notified of an influx of unhoused individuals and we would like to proactively address this matter by working with the county government programs and community service providers to transition unhoused individuals residing on the streets of Clarkston to housing for up to 12 months. This initiative would require funds/rapid response emergency assistance from DeKalb County and the City of Clarkston. This collaborative initiative would provide a rapid response to the need for housing and work with community service providers to provide mental health treatment for individuals willing to be assessed and receive supportive services.

The DeKalb Dept of Community Services has been invited to provide an overview of all the current rapid rehousing programs with the hopes of embarking on an agreement that the city, local community service provider, and city police will contact the rapid rehousing team and coordinate assistance with unhoused individuals in Clarkston. The city of Clarkston would work alongside DeKalb County and follow their process to transition individuals to permanent housing and stabilizing services, as we would like to ensure that these individuals can remain in the communities within DeKalb County. This collaboration would require the City of Clarkston to allocate at least \$100,000 of ARPA funds with funds available from DeKalb County to ensure that necessary services are rendered by community service provider, transportation, purchase of medication (for mental health or medical conditions) and food for stability while working with the DeKalb County to ensure that they're housed safely.

The Council discussed this item with several suggestions, with Councilmember Bell recommended sending this item to the Community Development Committee for discussion.

E. Discussion of a petition requesting the installation of speed tables on Waggoner Street.

Ms. Qawiy stated the properties with access driveways located on Waggoner Street addressed as 3757 Church Street and 3769 Church Street are owned by Mr. Steve Goff and Ms. Kathleen Andres.

The property owners conclude that excessive cut through traffic and increased rates of speeding is hindering the quality of life and is requesting that speed tables be installed to curb drivers from speeding. The requestors represent 51% of the property owners. The estimated cost of a speed table with signs is \$7,500.



The Council briefly discussed this item and using a speed device to track the speeding in the area.

The Mayor stated this item would not be placed on the next City Council agenda due to further discussion and information needed.

- F.** Discussion of a resolution to encourage DeKalb County Commissioners to provide additional translations for voting information and materials.

Councilmember Bell presented a brief discussion pertaining to the resolution urging the DeKalb County Board of Voter Registration and Elections to act and expand language access to the ballots and voting information, again. In 2020, DeKalb County voluntarily offered voting information in Spanish and Korean, which is commendable, but doesn't meet the need in the most diverse 1.75 sq miles in the country, Clarkston, GA. Clarkston's increasingly diverse ethnic make-up is distinct, and data indicates that the top languages outside of English are Somali, Burmese, and Arabic. As a result, voting materials, signage, and ballots should be translated to ensure those voters are able to review and understand the voting process and their ballot in their native language. Additionally, we need to provide equal access to voting information and materials for individuals who use American Sign language, closed captioning.

Vice-Mayor Eyasu recommended amending the language in Section 4 to remove the language stating the City is a Sanctuary City.

Councilmember Bell agreed to revise the language on the resolution and further discuss the resolution language with Attorney Quinn.

- G.** Discussion to use \$100,000 of ARPA Funds to provide supplemental financial aid with provisions to residents tested positive for COVID-19 by a Medical Test Provider.

Vice-Mayor Eyasu gave a brief overview of this item requesting supplemental financial aid with provisions to residents who test positive for COVID-19 by a Medical Test Provider. The Council recommended suggestions and inquired about the amount each family would receive as a supplement.

Mayor Burks recommended discussing this matter in detail and appropriate allocation of ARPA funds at the Council Retreat.

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



7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

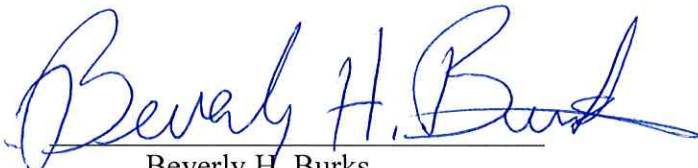
A. To discuss a personnel matter.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 p.m.

ATTEST:


Beverly H. Burks
Mayor


Tomika R. Lewis
City Clerk