MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA

HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO

IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

On the 25th day of February 2025, 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 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; Susan Hood; and Mark Perkins. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Tammi Saddler Jones (Interim City Manager); Lolita Grant (Finance Director); June Davis (Admin. Assistant); Larry Kaiser (City Engineer); 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 Council were present during roll call.

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

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS
   A. Presentation by Brian Rowsom highlighting the events from the 2024 Summer Youth Basketball Camp.

   Parks and Recreations Director, Micheal Duncan introduced Brian Rowsom to highlight the events from the 2024 Summer Youth Basketball Camp and introduce the 2025 camp.

   Brian Rowsom of Brian Rowsom Sports gave a brief overview of the previous youth basketball camps over the last couple of years and stated he would like to host the youth basketball summer camp in June 2025 at Clarkston First Baptist Church gymnasium for 1-2 weeks during the summer. The camp will be for ages 5-12 years old, boys and girls.

5. OLD BUSINESS
   A. To discuss the proposed dates of April 25–26, 2025 for the 2025 Mayor, Council, and Staff Retreat.

   Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated at the request of the City Council, staff sent out a poll with various retreat date options. The dates of Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, 2025, received the most responses. If this is the preferred date, staff will continue to seek out viable venue options where the retreat can be held.

Dean Moore presented public comments.

B. To discuss the reappointment of Ashton Walker to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Planning and Economic Development Director, Richard Edwards stated Ashton Walker was seeking reappointment to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term, which is the Mayor's appointment. If reappointed, this would be his last term based on the current bylaws.

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

C. To discuss the reappointment of Birendra Dhakal to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Planning and Economic Development Director, Richard Edwards stated Birendra Dhakal was seeking reappointment to the Planning and Zoning Board for a four-year term.

Mr. Dhakal introduced himself to the City Council and requested reappointment.

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

D. To discuss the reappointment of Lisa Williams to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Planning and Economic Development Director, Richard Edwards stated Lisa Williams was seeking reappointment to the Planning and Zoning Board for a four-year term.

Ms. Williams introduced herself to the City Council and the training she has taken in relation to this board.

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

E. To discuss the reappointment of Felicia Weinert to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Planning and Economic Development Director, Richard Edwards stated Felicia Weinert was seeking reappointment to the Planning and Zoning Board for a four-year term and has already served for eight years thus far.

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

F. To discuss an ordinance to amend the text of the Zoning Ordinance to designate drive-in and drive-thru restaurants as Conditional Uses in the NC-2 Zoning District.

Planning and Economic Development Director, Richard Edwards stated this was a proposed text amendment to Sec. 403. – Use Table to allow conditional use application submittals for "Eating and drinking establishments, including drive-thru/drive-in establishments" in the NC-2 zoning district. There are approximately 29 properties designated as NC-2 that would become eligible to apply for the Conditional Use Permit. The city's zoning ordinance does not allow drive-thru/drive in establishments in any zoning district. This text amendment would allow property owners and business owners to submit a conditional use permit in the NC-2 zoning district that would have to be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Board and City Council via three (3) public meetings. Staff recommend approval of this text amendment.

Dean Moore presented public comments.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda with a public hearing.

6. NEW BUSINESS
   A. To discuss a resolution pledging to practice and promote civility in the City of Clarkston.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the City of Civility designation for the City of Clarkston is up for renewal and will expire in the coming months. The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) would like to continue recognizing the City's commitment to fostering civility within the community. The renewal process is identical to the original certification process which is the adoption of the resolution by the city council confirming its commitment to civility and then submission of the resolution to GMA.

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

   B. To discuss a resolution authorizing a contract to the most responsive and responsible bidder, Aquatic Management, Inc. for the Milam Park Pool Management for the 2025 Swim Season in the amount of $78,740 to be funded out of the General Fund.

Parks & Recreation Director, Michael N. Duncan, this agreement with Aquatic Management for the Milan Park Pool is to provide opening and closing services, swimming pool chemical supply, pool cleaning services, and lifeguard management services. The swim season is May 24th to September 1st. This contract will start April 1st with five monthly payments, totaling $78,740 for the 2025 swim season.

The Council briefly discussed this matter.

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

   C. To discuss a resolution approving a variance request to allow a dumpster enclosure in the front yard of property located at 3643 Market St., Parcel ID No. 18 096 05 004 at Clarkston Plaza.

Planning and Economic Development Director, Richard Edwards stated the applicant is requesting variances from Sec. 607. – Off-street parking requirements and Sec. 412(b)(3) – Accessory structures and uses, to accommodate a dumpster enclosure in the front yard. The Clarkston Plaza Shopping Center has their existing dumpster and dumpster enclosure in the side yard towards the rear of the building along Vaughn Street. The trash truck has been backing onto the curb cut for Christ Community AME Church and causing damage to that curb cut.

The applicant is proposing to install the dumpsters and enclosure in the front yard along the center row of parking spaces. This proposal would remove three (3) parking spaces and allow the trash truck to access the dumpsters via Vaughan Street. Staff recommended approval based on the updated cite plan with conditions.

The Council briefly discussed this matter.

Anstey Bates, Dean Moore, and Lisa Williams presented public comments.

This item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting agenda under Consent Agenda with a public hearing.

D. To discuss a resolution to request the Georgia General Assembly adjust the Clarkston municipal boundaries to facilitate the delivery of municipal services.

Councilmember Perkins stated that this issue has been over a year in the making and provided a brief overview of the resident voting issue that occurred during the last municipal election. As a result, a few property owners requested to deannex from the city after discovering they were not within the city limits and were unable to vote in the municipal election. Councilmember Perkins explained the issue that was researched and found that at some point their land was reviewed and realized that part of the property was in the city and part was in the unincorporated county. He also stated there had been issues with receiving municipal services. Staff researched this matter to see if there were any other parcels on the border, of which 27 parcels were identified and then reduced to 23. This change will not have an impact on taxes paid by any residents, or taxes received by the city or county, and will resolve these issues moving forward. This resolution just makes sure that the boundary lines are drawn around the whole property, if that property is already paying taxes to the city.

The Council briefly discussed this matter.

Dean Moore and Lisa Williams presented public comments.

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

E. To discuss the findings and accept the 2024 Stormwater Audit and corrections to the 2025 tax year Stormwater Enterprise Fund utility billing.

Larry Kaiser of Collaborative Infrastructure stated the intent was to discuss and correct incorrect stormwater billings that have existed for many years with the Stormwater Enterprise Fund program. Mr. Kaiser stated identifying the discrepancies was the big issue to discuss and what it means to the stormwater billings and what is needed to be submitted to the tax assessor in April.

In 2022, city staff identified potential discrepancies with stormwater billing of several commercial accounts. In 2023, the City commissioned a Stormwater Audit to address this issue. The 2024 Stormwater Audit identified 1427 developed parcels for stormwater billing.

Staff recommend accepting the Stormwater Audit, following the necessary steps that would need to take. It should be noted that no discrepancies were identified with the single-family property billing account; as such, no changes occurred.

The Council briefly discussed this matter.

Dean Moore presented public comments.

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

F. To discuss a resolution to deny the claim for damages asserted by claimant Robel Kuma.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn stated under the Georgia State law, the statue of limitations for a claim against the city does not begin to run until the governing body rejects the claim. Mr. Quinn stated the City received an ante litem notice and gave a brief overview to the Council of the issue in relation to this claim.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Dean Moore presented public comments.

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

7. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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 8:49 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk

Beverly H. Burks
Mayor