MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA

HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO

IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

On the 27th day of February 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, 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); Lisa Cameron (Planning and Economic Development Director); Tomika R. Mitchell (City Clerk); Carmen West (Temp. Administrative Assistant); 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. To discuss a Proclamation designating March as "Women's History Month".

   Vice Mayor Johnson presided over the meeting, due to the Mayor placing this item on the agenda.

   Mayor Burks stated this proclamation was to recognize Women's History Month, which has been done in the past by Council. Them theme is "Women Who Advocates for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion". Mayor asked the Council to approve.

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

   Mayor Burks resumed presiding over the meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS
   No Old Business discussed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. To discuss a resolution authorizing an agreement with Penate Consulting, LLC for professional services for an Interim City Clerk position in the amount of $5,000 monthly.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this agreement is with Melissa Penate with Penate Consulting, LLC for professional services for an Interim City Clerk position in the amount of $5,000 monthly, while the current City Clerk is on maternity leave beginning March 11, 2024, through the end of June this year.

Ms. Penate gave a brief overview of her experience as a City Clerk.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

B. To discuss the City Services Agreement with Amani Women's Center to provide a Workforce Development Program beginning in 2023 – 2024, funded through the ARPA Grant in the amount $82,800.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this item along with the next four items are for city service agreements with specific non-profit organizations that the city approved in the FY 2024 budget to receive funding through the American Rescue Plan Act or through the General Fund (Community Action Budget).

The Amani Women's Center provided Workforce Development training to Clarkston residents in 2022. This proposed agreement is to expand this program into 2023 and 2024 funded through the ARPA Grant.

The Council briefly discussed this item and requested the center to provide information on whether there has been a change or decrease with the number of people that plan to service, prior to the next meeting.

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

C. To discuss the City Services Agreement with the Veterans & Community Outreach Foundation (VCOF) to provide services and programs to Clarkston veterans residents in 2024 funded through the ARPA Grant in the amount of $6,742.58.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this is the same explanation, the Council approved money for the VCOF and the Council needs to do a formal agreement to make sure the money is used for the purpose in which it was allocated.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

D. To discuss the City Services Agreement with Clarkston Community Center to provide ESL classes to Clarkston residents in 2024, funded through the ARPA Grant in the amount of $40,000.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this is a service agreement with Clarkston Community Center to provide ESL classes to Clarkston residents and staff is going through the process for a formal agreement to make sure the money is used for which it was allocated for.

Councilmember Perkins stated pursuant to Chapter 2, Article 3 under the Clarkston Code of Ethics, he would be recusing himself from this item because of a potential business dealing with the non-profits involved.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Amber McCorkle, Director of Education & Programs of the Clarkston Community Center clarified information regarding the ESL classes provided to Clarkston residents.

The Council requested Ms. McCorkle provide the following additional information to Council prior to the next meeting: a list of participants apart of the program, if the participants are residents of Clarkston and if there is a pre and post matrix. The Council would also like to know how the center is defining and measuring success and if there is data showing there is more of a need/ a big demand for the program.

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

E. To discuss an agreement with Clarkston Development Foundation, Inc. for the Tell Me A Story Program, funded through the General Fund (Community Action Budget FY 2024) in the amount of $7,000.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the Clarkston Tell Me A Story event is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th at Clarkston Community Center from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The Tell Me A Story Program is an annual celebration program, a gathering of storytellers, childcare programs, social service, literacy, and health agencies, families and children. The purpose of the Tell Me A Story Program is to promote the importance of reading and literacy activities for all children, birth to age 8, and to foster connection between the City of Clarkson's diverse residents and the broader community.

The Council discussed this item and requested a budget and deliverables to be included in the proposal.

Roberta Malavenda gave an overview of the budget stating $3,600 is for space rental at the Clarkston Community Center and the remainder is to contract for storytellers, interpreters, and printing. She stated the budget will be added to the MOU.

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

F. To discuss an agreement with Clarkston Development Foundation, Inc. for the Clarkston Early Learning Task Force, funded through the General Fund (Community Action Budget FY 2024) in the amount of $10,000.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the City of Clarkston Early Learning Task Force will continue to meet in 2024 to promote equitable early care and learning policies, procedures, and programs. The Task Force is not requesting funding for the Task Force operations in 2024. Rather, they are requesting funding for three activities that were developed by the Task Force. These activities are: The Story Walk at Friendship Forest, The City of Clarkston Early Learning Information Fair, and DECAL (Department of Early Care and Learning) & Partners Early Care & Learning Dialogue.

The Council briefly discussed this item and requested an expenditure analysis for the three activities.

Roberta Malavenda gave a brief overview and breakdown of the budget for the three activities.

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

G. To discuss an ordinance approving deannexation of parcel 18 095 09 008 at 1078 Nielsen Dr.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the city received in writing a request from the owners of 1078 Nielsen Dr. requesting to be deannexed out of the City of Clarkston, due to them not being able to vote in the previous City election in November.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

The City Clerk, Tomika Mitchell gave a brief overview of the communications with County Elections Division regarding this matter.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn provided clarity of the legal rules of boundaries pertaining to the residence and the legalities of deannexation of a residence.

Jeremy Compton and Katie Jones presented public comments on this item.

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

H. To discuss an ordinance approving deannexation of parcel 18 095 09 009 at 1086 Nielsen Dr.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this background is similar to the previous item. The City received in writing a request from the owners of 1086 Nielsen Dr. requesting to be deannexed out of the City of Clarkston, due to them not being able to vote in the previous City election in November.

Sara Zagami and Kim Ault presented public comments on this item.

I. To discuss SPLOST II - Mell Ave at CSX Operational & Safety Improvement Project.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated the City contracted with Volkert & Associates in late 2022 to develop design and construction plans that meet the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requirements to ensure eligibility for future construction funding. The concept layout is 90% complete. Refer to Exhibit A. Staff will officially release the concept layout to GDOT for potential construction funding consideration upon Council review and approval. The approved design contract amount is $484,959. The City Council released Task #1 of the design contract - Concept Plan Phase ($166,709).

Mayor Burks sent a letter to GDOT in 2023 introducing the project to state leadership (Exhibit B). Staff recently submitted an email to GDOT (Exhibit C) to re-introduce the project to state staff. No response to-date.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

City Engineer, Larry Kaiser of Collaborative Services presented information and clarification on the 12-month period to acquire right-of-way. Mr. Quinn provided additional clarification.

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

J. To discuss the resolution declaring results of the SPLOST II Election.

Finance Director, Dan Defnall stated when the City did the SPLOST II referendum, the city included an option to borrow bond against the future revenue of up to $12 million. This is the first process to come up with the process if the city wants to do a bond in 2024. The first step is to approve this resolution declaring results of the SPLOST II Election, and this will allow the City Attorney to proceed with the bond validation process, which must be completed by May 6th in order to preserve the City's ability to issue bonds later in 2024.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

K. To discuss the list of SPLOST II Projects to be considered over the next three years to consider the amount of a potential bond issue.

Finance Director, Dan Defnall stated the City discussed putting this list of projects in the bond referendum up to $12 million. If the City issues a bond in 2024, the city will have to spend the bond proceeds within 36 months of the bond issued. Staff has identified a little over $8 million of projects.

Staff recommended referral to the Transportation and Environment Standing Advisory Committee or the Housing and Infrastructure Standing Advisory Committee.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Perkins recommended this item should go to a committee for further discussion and have the committee bring a recommendation back to the Council.

This item will be placed on the next Consent Agenda to be deferred to a Special Called Meeting with the Transportation & Environment Committee and the Housing & Infrastructure Committee.

L. To discuss late night operation hours for certain restaurants.

Councilmember Eyasu stated in 2019 the Council heard from businesses and residents about the need for services for individuals who work late and would like to get something to eat or drink in the city. The Council then proposed and came up with a resolution and two additional hours with strict requirements. He also stated Ponce Sports Lounge applied and since the reversion of the extra two hours in 2021, the establishment reported they have experienced major losses of revenue, difficulty with employee retention and a decline in the federal, state, and excise tax amounts. He also stated this was a proposal to explore the possibility of extending the operations hours.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

The Planning and Economic Development Director, Lisa Cameron, gave a brief report of the history of complaints pertaining to the discussed establishment.

Jimmy Weguyelh, Michel Marcuse, and Ken Kautious presented public comments on this item.

Councilmember Eyasu recommended placing the previously adopted resolution back on the agenda with the current date for approval.

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

M. To discuss amending the COAM licenses distance requirement near a school, daycare, and/or afterschool location.

Vice Mayor Johnson stated there has been a concern from the city COAM license owners and she asked the City Attorney to do some research on the distance requirements near schools. She recommended modifying the distance requirements from 200 yards to 100 yards, door-to-door.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Hood recommended changing the word "church" to "place of worship" in the code.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn recommended adding the measuring distance methods from the alcohol license code to the COAM license code for the chapter regarding coin operated amusement machines. He also mentioned changing the word "church" to "place of worship" in the code.

Mr. Quinn recommended making part of the COAM license new applications a requirement to have the new applicant submit a survey that displays the measurements.

Kenny Patel presented public comments on this item.

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

N. To discuss the status and appointments to the City Council Task Forces.

Councilmember Perkins brought forth this item to discuss updating the resolution and determine which Task Force need to be dissolved, discuss appointment renewals, and determine what path the Council wants to take with these Tasks Forces.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Mayor Burks asked to be added to the Youth Advisory Council.

The Council recommended dissolving the Prevention Health Task Force, due to a coalition already established within the city.

Mayor Burks recommended each Task Force/Committee/Council liaison review the requirements for their respective Task Force/Committee/Council responsibilities to see if anything needs to be updated.

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

7. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Eyasu 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 adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk

Beverly H. Burks
Mayor