

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

On the 28th day of February 2023, at 7:00 p.m., the City Council of Clarkston, Georgia met in a Work Session 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; Councilmembers Awet Eyasu; Jamie Carroll; Laura Hopkins; Yterenickia Bell, and Susan Hood. Absent: None. The following City staff were present: Shawanna Qawiy (City Manager); Dan Defnall (Finance 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.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated Councilmember Hopkins will be attending the meeting a little late.

Councilmember Eyasu stated he would like to make an amendment to the agenda, adding a new resolution to the agenda for Homeowners Association Assistance.

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to add a new resolution for Homeowners Association Assistance to the ARPA agenda item. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion failed (2-3). Councilmembers Eyasu and Carroll voted “yes”; Vice Mayor Johnson and Councilmembers Bell and Hood voted “no”.

3. WORK SESSION- RESIDENT COMMENT POLICY

Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- A. To discuss modifying or repealing the resolution to declare that emergency conditions concerning Covid-19 exist within the city necessitates meeting by zoom teleconference.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the share decision will determine if an emergency condition exist or does not exist in the city for modifying or repealing resolution No. 2022-01 that will allow the continuation of holding Work Sessions and regular City Council meetings by teleconference or to commence the meeting by attending in-person with conditions.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Ms. Qawiy stated the City will try to be precautionary with everyone's health.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn encouraged Council to not be too restrictive in limiting the number of attendees and maybe having a second location for viewing the meeting. The Council also discussed mask mandating.

Councilmember Hopkins entered the meeting.

The Council came to the consensus of having the meetings via zoom and hybrid, setting the capacity to 37, which will include Mayor, Council, staff, and citizens, and allowing masks to be optional to wear.

Mr. Quinn was asked if Council members could attend the Council meetings virtually due to underlying health conditions. Mr. Quinn stated he would research the state language regarding elected officials attending Council meetings remotely due to underlying health conditions under a doctor's note.

Effective March 28, 2023, City Council Work Session.

Brian Medford presented comments pertaining to holding Council Meetings in-person.

This item will be placed on the City Council Agenda.

- B. To discuss a resolution authorizing the renewal of the probation services contract between the City of Clarkston and Professional Probation Services, Inc.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the probation supervision and rehabilitation services contract between the City of Clarkston and Professional Probation Services, Incorporated (PPSI) is set to expire on March 31, 2023. In order to continue providing professional and effective programs and services for misdemeanor offenders placed on probation by the court, PPSI anticipates the renewal of its contract with an increase in the supervision fees. PPSI is requesting an increase in supervision fees from \$35 per month since 2017 for Pay Only, Basic, and Pre-Trial Fees to \$40.00 in 2023.

Keith Ward with Professional Probation Services, Inc. gave a brief overview of the program and the fee structure.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- C. To discuss a proclamation recognizing Pastor Karl Moore.

Vice Mayor Johnson presided over the meeting.

Mayor Burks stated Pastor Moore will be celebrating 22 years of pastoral services at Clarkston First Baptist and his 65th birthday. This proclamation will be presented on March 19, 2023, during church service.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- D. To discuss a proclamation recognizing Indian Creek Principal, Dr. Stephanie Brown-Bryant as DeKalb Principal of the Year.

Mayor Burks stated Principal BB was recognized by Dekalb County as being Principal of the Year. She is a true partner and has done so much including improving the scores of the students. This proclamation will be presented on March 24, 2023, during their Field Day.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

Mayor Burks presided over the meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. To discuss allocating ARPA funds for government services.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the purpose of this item was to discuss allocating ARPA funds for recommended government services. The Council discussed potential programs and services that the Mayor and City Council would like to allocate funds.

Vice Mayor Johnson stated the food distribution carryover allocation of \$80,000 for five food drives. The next food drive will be April 1, 2023. The Vice Mayor also requested an additional \$20,000 for the food drive.

Councilmember Eyasu stated there were programs in the past to assist citizens that would get billed individually for utilities, etc. However, the Homeowners Associations could not benefit from those programs. Councilmember Eyasu recommended to provide assistance towards Homeowner Associations payments, assisting citizens with their Homeowner Association dues, awarding on a case-by-case matter due to a COVID-19 financial hardship. Councilmember Eyasu recommended allocating up to \$100,000 towards this program.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Mr. Quinn stated this matter, association fees would be part of what the American Rescue Plan calls Homeowners Assistance Funding and gave a brief overview of assisting homeowners with Homeowner Association fees.

Ms. Qawiy gave a brief overview of how payment would be made for the homeowner assistance fee.

The Council reviewed the following projects:

- Weatherization Assistance: \$85,000 remaining
- Utility Assistance: reduce to \$0
- Mortgage Assistance: reallocate the funds to the unallocated ARPA Funds
- Rental Assistance: reduce to \$30,000 and reallocate \$50,000 the funds to the unallocated ARPA Funds
- Business Assistance: \$11,000 for the Façade Program
- Vaccine Incentive Gifts - \$10,000 reallocate the funds to the unallocated ARPA Funds
- Food Distribution: allocate an additional \$20,000
- ARPA Health Initiative: reallocate the funds to the unallocated ARPA Funds
- COVID-19 Rapid Test: reallocate the funds to the unallocated ARPA Funds

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Brian Medford presented comments pertaining to this item.

Councilmember Eyasu recommended adding the Homeowner Association Assistance resolution to the list of projects. Vice Mayor Johnson recommended adding it to the March Work Session to allow time for research and additional discussion.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to discuss a legal matter. Councilmember Carroll duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (6-0).

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

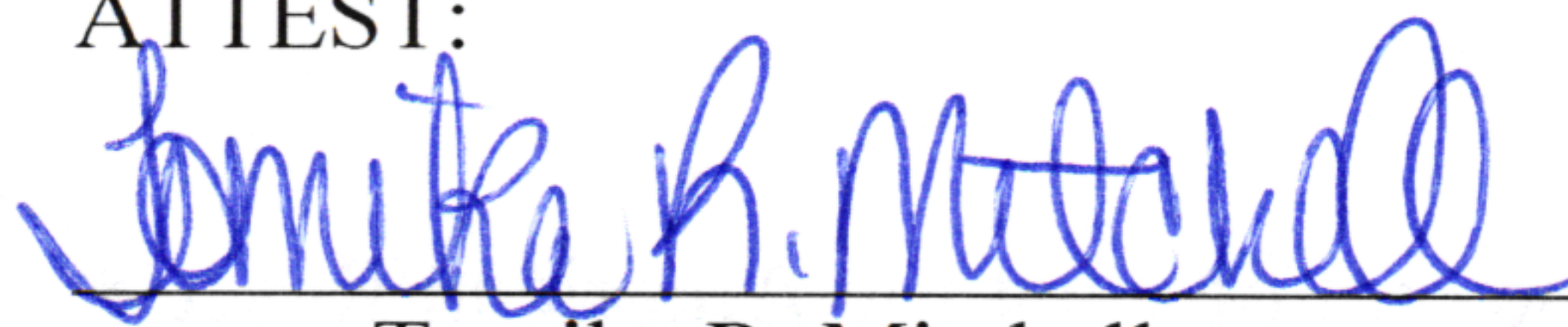
The Council discussed a legal matter.

8. ADJOURNMENT

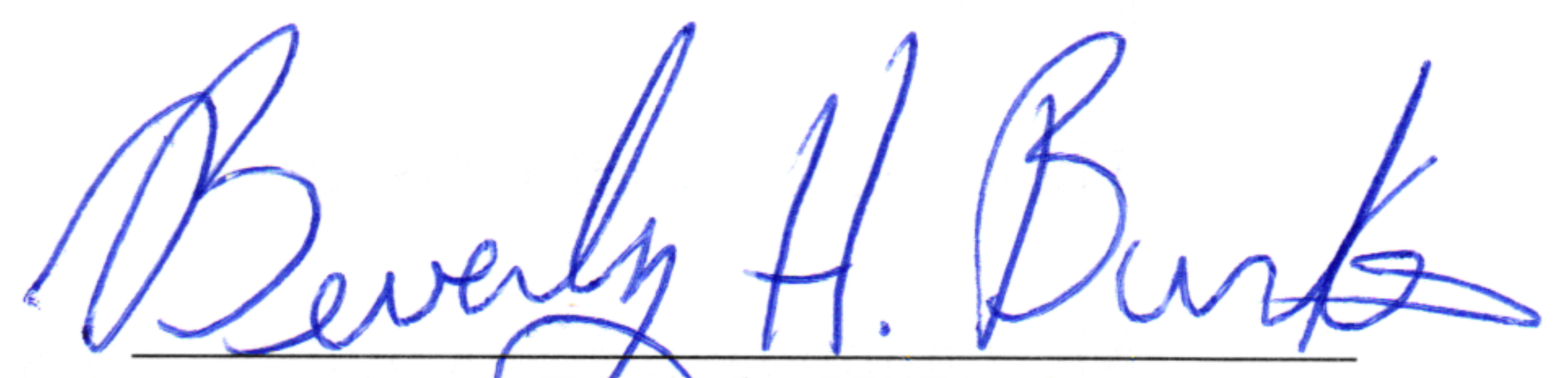
Councilmember Eyasu made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor