

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

On the 29th day of April 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; Jamie Carroll; Susan Hood; and Mark Perkins. Absent: Yterenickia Bell. The following City staff were present: ChaQuias Miller-Thornton (City Manager); Tomika R. Mitchell (City Clerk); Yolanda McGhee (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer); Dr. Dwight Baker (Director of Human Resources and Risk Management); Christine Hudson (Police Chief); Jacob Bouie (Economic Development Coordinator); Richard Edwards (Planning and Economic Development Director); Larry Kaiser (City Engineer); and Shelly Momo (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

Councilmember Bell was absent.

Vice Mayor Johnson made a motion to discuss the City's insurance with Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency. Councilmember Perkins duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (5-0).

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. To discuss a proclamation designating May as "Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month".

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Yolanda McGhee presented for approval a proclamation designating May as "Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month".

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

B. To discuss a proclamation designating May as "Jewish American Heritage Month".

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Yolanda McGhee presented for approval a proclamation designating May as "Jewish American Heritage Month".

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

C. Presentation by benefits broker, Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. on Employee Benefits.

Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, Dr. Dwight Baker stated the city issued a bid last January for employee benefits consulting broker services, the staff selected Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.

Tammy Starkey with Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. presented information about the company and the employee benefits services that will be provided to the City of Clarkston.

Dr. Baker stated this item was under the City Manager's spending authority and does not need approval from the City Council.

D. Presentation by Collaborative Infrastructure Services, Inc. on the March 2025 Waterway Cleanup Event.

Colton Wheeler with Collaborative Infrastructure presented the results of the Waterway Cleanup Event that was held on March 29, 2025 at Friendship Forest Wildlife Sanctuary.

This item was for informational purposes only.

E. To discuss the findings of the survey conducted with businesses affected by the City of Clarkston holding events in downtown Clarkston.

Economic Development Coordinator, Jacob Bouie presented the findings from data collected for a business impact survey conducted with businesses affected by the City of Clarkston holding events in downtown Clarkston.

This item was for informational purposes only.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. To discuss requiring the city to have an option to receive all payments electronically, and to have an option to make all payments electronically by July 1, 2025.

Councilmember Carroll stated that since the initial discussion of this item, he has talked to the new City Manager and they reached an agreement that January 1, 2026, was an appropriate date, due to it starting the new fiscal year and the new software will hopefully be online.

The Council discussed this matter.

Ms. Miller-Thornton recommended the title of the agenda be amended to state "to receive all payments electronically by January 1, 2026, based on departmental protocol 1.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. To discuss issuing the Call for Election for the November 4, 2025, General Election.

The City Clerk, Tomika Mitchell stated this item was to call the November 4th Mayor and City Council election to elect a Mayor and three (3) Council Members with a term of office of four (4) years, and the elected officials will be sworn in at the January 2026 Council meeting.

This year the Dekalb County made revisions to the polling locations; however, Clarkston will continue to have two precincts which will be Clarkston First Baptist Church Family Life Center located at 4007 Church Street, and the Clarkston Library located at 951 N. Indian Creek Dr.

The qualifying period for the General Election is for five (5) days from Monday, August 18, 2025, until Friday, August 22, 2025, starting at 8:30am to 4:30pm (daily).

This information will be published in the city's legal organ, the Champions Newspaper, as well as the city website and the City Hall Annex.

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

B. To discuss an ordinance to amend Chapter 3 of the City Code concerning alcohol to allow beer or malt beverages to contain up to fourteen percent (14%) alcohol by volume.

City Clerk, Ms. Mitchell stated the State of Georgia amended its regulations in 2004 to increase the allowable alcohol by volume (ABV) for malt beverages from six percent (6%) to fourteen percent (14%). This change enabled a wider variety of craft beers to enter the market, better aligning state laws with the evolving beer industry and shifting consumer preferences.

Staff have reviewed the ABV limits of surrounding jurisdictions and found the following: DeKalb County remains at 6%, while the cities of Tucker, Avondale Estates, Stone Mountain, Brookhaven, and Decatur have adopted the 14% limit.

The City of Clarkston's Code of Ordinances current defines *beer* or *malt beverage* as any alcoholic beverage obtained by the fermentation of any infusion or decoction of barley, malt, hops, or any other product, or any combination of such products in water, containing not more than six percent (6%) alcohol by volume, and including ale, porter, brown, stout, lager beer, small beer, and strong beer. The term "malt beverage" does not include sake, known as Japanese rice wine.

To remain consistent with state regulations and neighboring municipalities, staff recommend increasing the allowable ABV for beer and malt beverages from six percent (6%) to a maximum of fourteen percent (14%).

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

C. To discuss the Georgia Department of Transportation 2025 Local Road Assistance Project selection and grant application submittal.

City Engineer, Larry Kaiser of Collaborative Infrastructure gave an overview stating the city received funding in the amount of \$137,876.46 about two months ago with no local match. Mr. Kaiser stated he looked at all the resurfacing work that has been completed and mentioned most of the fair-to-poor roads have been completed but there are a few remaining roads to be resurfaced, which will be addressed at a later date for various reasons.

Mr. Kaiser recommended the following roads for resurfacing using the LRA funds: DeBelle Street, Ridgeland Trail, Vaughan Street, Mell Place, and Casa Court.

Staff recommends that the approved LRA roads be considered by Council as CO #2 to Magnum Pavings existing contract. This will allow the city to take advantage of the unit prices in Magnums contract with the city as occurred with CO #1. If Council concurs, work on CO #1 and CO #2 will be performed at the same time.

The next steps will be to upload the selected roads to GDOT's portal prior to June 1, 2025, obtain a quote from Magnum Paving to perform the milling and asphalt resurfacing as change order #2 to the LMIG 25/SPLOST II Resurfacing contract approved by Council in January 2025, and if Magnum Paving chooses not to provide a quote, staff will develop specifications and work scope and forward to Procurement for advertising to-bid this summer.

Mr. Kaiser also noted that the punch list has been prepared for the recently resurfaced roads and work will begin on April 28 and staff was able to perform alternate forms of road repair resulting in the final invoice from Magnum Paving to be \$100,000 under the contract amount.

The Council briefly discussed this matter including the dumpsters that are located on Vaughn, that goes from Market St. to Montreal. Council recommended Mr. Kaiser taking a look into this and having it on the list and if it needs to come off, to update the Council.

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

- D. To discuss an ordinance to amend Article V of Chapter 19 of the City Code concerning Stormwater Utility Services to amend and clarify certain definitions; to create "sub-classes" for attached residential dwellings for the purpose of fairly assessing the Stormwater Utility Service Fee.

City Engineer, Larry Kaiser of Collaborative Infrastructure stated the city has an outdated ordinance and staff have made a number of revisions to update the definitions, sub-classes, stormwater credit and exemptions. Amendments to the stormwater utility service fee ordinance will create "sub-classes" for attached residential dwellings including modifications to stormwater service charges to address credits and exemptions.

The Council briefly discussed this matter.

Mr. Kaiser gave a brief overview of the property types, apartments, commercial, institutional, industrial, detached residences, condos, and townhomes.

Ms. Miller-Thornton recommended Mr. Kaiser create a form with detailed information and individual letters to the owners to notify them of the increase.

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

- E. To discuss an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Budget appropriating the amounts in the expenditures/expenses as amended, adopting the items or revenue anticipations as amended and prohibiting expenditures or expenses from exceeding the actual funding available, and for other purposes - 736 Park North, Security First Protective Services.

City Manager Miller-Thornton stated this was an initial expectation in the project cost for 736 Park North, which is the cost for security services systems and installation. It has been determined that the installation needs complete rewiring and installation of new equipment, and the cost is \$23,000. An initial estimation of \$25,000 was calculated at the beginning of the project and the change over from years the budget allocation approved in 2024 was not included in the 2025 year.

The Council briefly discussed this matter.

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

- F. To discuss a resolution declaring support for the preservation of the Federal Tax Exempt of Municipal Bonds.

City Manager Miller-Thornton stated there was a talk in the legislature about federal government taking away tax exempt status for municipal bonds. So, the Federal Policy Council of GMA and other municipal organizations encouraged cities to provide a resolution to its delegation asking the delegation to protect the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

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

- G. To discuss the City's insurance with Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency.

City Manager Miller-Thornton stated the City's property and liability insurance policy is set for renewal on May 1. Staff are a little behind on getting the renewal terms for the upcoming term, as presented the total cost for renewal is \$185,994, which includes a renewal credit of \$10,858 that is provided to the cities through the GIRMA plan. The city budgeted \$171,000 towards insurance and after approval of the proposal, along with any other budget amendments that need to be presented to the Council will come before the Council at the May Work Session. Ms. Miller-Thornton requested consent of this item and recommended ratifying the item at the following Council meeting, which would allow her to inform GIRMA of the Council's consent. The Council consented to this item and will ratify it at the next City Council meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

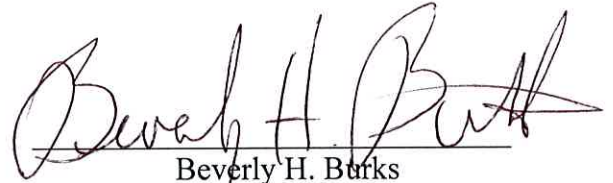
Councilmember Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Johnson duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the meeting adjourned (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor