

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

On the 27th day of September 2022, 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 Awet Eyasu; Councilmembers Jamie Carroll; Laura Hopkins; Debra Johnson; 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.

3. WORK SESSION – RESIDENT COMMENT POLICY

Mayor Burks read the Resident Comment Policy.

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. To discuss the cleaning contract for city facilities (City Hall, City Hall Annex, Public Works Bldg.)

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated all city facilities need a thorough and consistent cleaning, sanitizing, and deodorizing regime. With the increased number of patrons, visitors with staff at city facilities, (City Hall, City Hall Annex, Public Work building,) there is a need for a consistent cleaning routine that will assist with the maintenance and sanitizing of all city facilities. After an in-person interview and walk throughs with the respective companies. Three companies submitted information related to the request. Jani King, Vanguard, and Bright Touch Janitorial. Staff recommends approving the cleaning contract for Jani King and allocating \$20,000 from ARPA funds for the cleaning services of all city facilities.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- B. To discuss allocating additional funds to the calisthenic equipment, park maintenance/upgrade projects for the installation of a poured stone base and rubber surface with site security for \$17,275 plus up to \$6,000 for a proposed shade structure or canopy.

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated the purpose of this item was to produce and install calisthenics equipment at Milam Park for an allocation not to exceed \$25,000. To complete the project with materials that will ensure long term play and exercise time, staff reviewed ground covering options. After consultation with staff and other companies regarding ground covering options, the recommendation is to install an environmentally friendly/safe poured stone subbase and rubber surface. Materials will also be a resource for hinderance/prevention of puddling and flooding at the site.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

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

Vice Mayor Eyasu presided over the meeting.

- C. Proclamation for Energy Efficiency Day on October 5.

Mayor Beverly Burks stated this proclamation was to recognize Wednesday, October 5th as Energy Efficiency Day, especially since the city has programs put in place to make sure the city is energy efficient, and by having policies and programs in place to do so.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- D. Proclamation for National Hispanic Heritage Month; September 15 – October 15.

Mayor Beverly Burks stated this proclamation was to recognize the diversity of the Clarkston community. The Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15 – October 15 and there are more than 400 people in the city who identify themselves of the Hispanic origin.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- E. Proclamation for Congo Week; October 16-22.

Mayor Beverly Burks stated this proclamation recognizes October 16-22 as Congo Week. Recognition of this week has been occurring since 2008, where more than 70 countries and 500 university campuses recognize this week with various activities to commemorate the

millions of lives lost in the Congo conflict while celebrating. Georgia has a very high Congolese community.

Dede Ntumba and his advisor with the Congolese Community of Atlanta presented comments on this item.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

Mayor Burks resumed as the presided officer over the meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. A discussion of a resolution to authorize a Sign and Façade Refurbishment Program for business properties located in the City's Town Center District and to appropriate American Rescue Plan funds for said program.

Councilmember Bell stated the purpose for this item was for the Small Business Facade Matching Grant Program to provide matching grants to commercial property owners and business owners after being approved by property owner that are willing to renovate the street-front exteriors of their structures in the Clarkston Town Center, Residential Commercial, Neighborhood Commercial 1 and 2 Zoning Districts. Eligible improvements could include new signage, windows, painting, masonry, siding, doors, awnings, and/or structural or design changes. This grant program is structured as a rebate program where business and property owners receive reimbursement for up to 50% of the cost of the project in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for completed work. The requested amount to be allocated into this program is \$125,000 from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act to approved small business per their business licenses. If the business does not use funds for facade improvements or designated purposes, they will have to return the funds to the city. The City Manager or designee will execute this program.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A discussion to consider a variance request from Doug Steverson/Rajen Sheth of Boardwalk Development Group for the properties located at 795, 801 and 803 Glendale Road to eliminate (the) parking requirements and reduce the landscape buffer from 50' to 10' to construct a storage facility. *(Public Hearing October 4, 2022)*

City Manager, Shawanna Qawiy stated this item was to approve a variance request from Doug Steverson/Rajen Sheth of Boardwalk Development Group to eliminate (the) parking requirements and reduce the landscape buffer from 50' to 10' to construct a storage facility for the properties located at 795, 801 and 803 Glendale Road. A variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship upon a finding by the city council that all

of the following conditions exist: (1) There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property in question because of its size, shape, or topography; (2) Such conditions are peculiar to the particular piece of property involved; (3) Such conditions are not the result of the actions of the applicant; (4) A literal interpretation of the provisions of this ordinance would create an unnecessary hardship; (5) The variance requested will not cause substantial detriment to the public good nor impair the purposes or intent of the zoning ordinance; (6) The variance is not a request to permit a structure or use of land not authorized in the applicable district.

Rajen Sheth with Boardwalk Development Group gave a brief presentation on developing a 5th Generation, State-of-the-Art, Multi-Story, Climate Control Storage.

The Council briefly discussed this item and recommended a few changes which will be considered at the next City Council meeting.

Jeff Haymore presented comments on this item.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

Doug Steverson presented comments on this item on behalf of the current owner of the property.

Attorney Stephen Quinn presented information pertaining to the use of ARPA funds and the code.

There will be a follow up from the applicant to send a letter stating the update to the application.

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

- B. A discussion of reopening the Rental Assistance Program allocating \$250,000 for three months.

Councilmember Johnson requested approval from Council for an extension of the program for three additional months to assist Clarkston citizens. Councilmember Johnson agreed to decrease the allocation amount to \$150,000.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

- C. A discussion of reimaging Public Safety to include Social Workers in the Clarkston Police Department.

Police Chief Hudson briefly gave her thoughts on this item stating she would be meeting with surrounding Police Departments who just implemented adding this position and stated this was an excellent idea.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Brian Medford presented comments on this item.

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

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk



Beverly H. Burks
Mayor