MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION

OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA

HELD IN-PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO

IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

On the 28th day of November 2023, 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: Councilmembers Awet Eyasu, Jamie Carroll, Susan Hood, Yterenickia Bell, and Laura Hopkins. Absent: Vice Mayor Debra Johnson. The following City staff were present: Tammi Saddler Jones (Interim City Manager); Dan Defnall (Finance Director); Christine Hudson (Police Chief); Rodney Beck (Public Works Director); Lisa Cameron (Planning and Economic Development 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
   Mayor Burks called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL
   Vice Mayor Debra Johnson was absent.

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

4. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS
   There were no items to discuss.

5. OLD BUSINESS
   A. To discuss a resolution approving a Supplemental Letter Agreement with Davenport & Company, LLC for financial advisory services.

   Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones gave a brief overview of the history of the agenda item stating the item was presented to Council at the last Work Session and Council had some questions about some past work the company had done for the city. The representatives from Davenport & Company, LLC were present at this meeting to give a presentation to the Council.

   Ricardo Cornejo and Douglas Gebhardt of Davenport & Company, LLC gave a brief presentation of their past and current services that had been done with the City of Clarkston and provided clarification on the proposed flat fee agreement.

   The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. To discuss a resolution approving the Master Services Agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for License Plate Readers (LPR).

Police Chief Hudson recommended the city enter into a five-year agreement with Flock Group, Inc. The City currently has 17 cameras and pays $2,500 monthly for each camera, which is $42,500 a year. The price of the cameras will increase at the first of the year to $3,000 or $3,500 and Flock Group, Inc. has come out with a five-year contract keeping the city locked in at the current price. Staff is recommending approval of the five-year contract to keep the current rate.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

The Council would like the flexibility of placing cameras in other locations throughout the city.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn stated he will review the contract for this item and report back to the City Council at the next City Council meeting.

Chris Busing and John Watson made public comments on this matter.

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

B. To discuss a resolution approving an agreement with Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) to provide promotional assessment center services to select an Assistant Police Chief.

Chief Hudson recommended the city use the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police assessment center to provide the city with a strong candidate for an Assistant Police Chief. Chief Hudson explained the process of the assessment center and stated it would cost $850, per candidate.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones explained staff conducted the hiring process in house with a couple rounds of interviews and assessments, an offer was extended to a candidate, which was declined. Ms. Saddler Jones also stated the purpose of the recommendation to contract with GACP was to cast a wider net of candidates for this position.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

C. To discuss a resolution approving a service agreement with Fusus for cameras.

Chief Hudson stated as Council is aware, the city was awarded a $400,00 Police Safety Grant and we have Jim Price from Fusus and Thomas Frey from Compass Security Solutions present to explain the process.

Mr. Price gave a presentation to the Council to give direction and explain what Fusus is and what they offer.

Mr. Frey stated the cameras provided through Compass Security Solutions in the package will provide additional assets to the city for areas that the city does not have cameras. Mr. Frey gave a brief overview of different locations of where the cameras will be placed and how the cameras will work. The total overall cost for the contracts with Fusus and Compass Security Solutions will be $386,500.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Chris Busing and John Watson presented comments on this item.

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

D. To discuss an ordinance amending Chapter 10.5 of the Code regarding the regulation of the production of motion pictures, television, and photograph productions.

City Clerk, Tomika Mitchell stated about a month or so ago, Dekalb County Film Production Management reached out to our Planning and Economic Development Manager, Lisa Cameron to discuss the city's film ordinance, film permit fees, and the permit application and process. The staff was unaware of the film permitting process due to the previous City Manager handling the responsibilities. Upon research of the film permit process and reviewing the ordinance, we learned the City Clerk was listed as the administrator. Ms. Cameron and I met to discuss the film permit process and agreed it was better suited to be processed by the Planning and Economic Development Department. It is our recommendation to amend the ordinance, removing the City Clerk as the administrator and adding the Planning and Economic Development Manager as the administrator.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

E. To discuss ordinance to adopt the new Chapter 23 of the Clarkston City Code to regulate litter.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated this item came before the Council a while back, it went to a committee, but no action was taken. She also stated this particular litter ordinance is necessary for EPD purposes.

Larry Kaiser, the City Engineer with Collaborative Infrastructure Services, Inc. stated this ordinance was part of the Municipal Storm Water Program and was one of the numerous ordinances the EPD requires. The City needs to have it completed and adopted by the end of the year.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Councilmember Eyasu recommended Code Enforcement handling citations for litter, not the Public Works Director. The Council agreed to remove the reference of Director of Public Works from Section 23-7(1) in the ordinance.

Mayor Burks stated with this ordinance, a warning will be given first before a citation is issued. There will also be marketing of this ordinance to inform the residents of the new litter ordinance.

Clarkston High School student, Fosia E. presented comments about student's littering.

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

F. To discuss amending the 2023 City Holiday Calendar adding Friday, December 22, 2023, and Friday December 29, 2023, as a City Holiday.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones recommended amending the 2023 City Holiday Calendar adding Friday, December 22, 2023 (Christmas Eve – Observed) and Friday, December 29, 2023 (New Year's Eve – Observed), as city holidays. Having these dates off will allow our city employees to have time to travel and/or prepare to celebrate the holiday seasons with their family and friends.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

G. To discuss the proposed 2024 City Council Regular and Work Session Meeting dates and 2024 City Holiday Calendar.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones recommended approval of the proposed 2024 City Council Regular and Work Session Meeting dates and City Holiday Calendar. Annually the City Council Work Session and Regular meetings and City Holiday Calendar are reviewed and discussed for approval.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

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

H. To discuss next steps with the Brockett Triangle Community Garden.

Interim City Manager, Tammi Saddler Jones stated she was informed of the Brockett Triangle Community Garden being overgrown and needed to be taken care of, so with the assistance of the Public Works Director and the City Engineer, the contractor has cleaned it up.

She also stated Council needed to talk about the gardening and the uses, and recommended a portion of the Brockett Triangle as a pocket park on that side of the City. She also stated the Council needed to discuss the plantings of the Triangle.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

The Council recommended sending this item to the Environment Committee to draft a plan, a proposed budget, and a design and bringing a recommendation to the February Council Work Session.

Chris Busing presented comments on this item.

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

I. To discuss a resolution activating the Clarkston Downtown Development Authority.

Planning and Economic Development Manager, Lisa Cameron gave a presentation on the Downtown Redevelopment and Revitalization Programs. The Council discussed establishing the geographic area that will be the "downtown redevelopment area", appointing seven directors that meet the qualifications, and choosing which members will be appointed for 2, 4 or 6 year initial terms (the initial terms are staggered as listed in the resolution, subsequent terms are all four years).

The Council briefly discussed this item.

City Attorney, Stephen Quinn offered further clarification on the appointment of the board members.

Ms. Cameron explained the map and Council recommended including Brockett Rd., and E. Ponce & Church St. to what's already designated on 285.

The Council recommended having a Special Called City Council meeting later to discuss applicants.

Chris Busing presented comments on this item.

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

J. To discuss a resolution authorizing proposed changes to the City Council policies and procedures.

Mayor Burks stated this was an item Vice Mayor Johnson was charged with and was a collaborative effort with Councilmember Hood. Vice Mayor Johnson could not attend this meeting, so Councilmember Hood will present as the co-sponsor.

Councilmember Hood stated this agenda item was Vice Mayor Johnson's item with her support. She also stated there is a lot of information listed and Council could discuss some of it or all of it tonight but recommended discussing it at the Mayor, Council, and Staff Retreat.

The Council briefly discussed this item.

Chris Busing presented comments on this item.

This item will be discussed at the Mayor, Council, and Staff Retreat in February 2024.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. Councilmember Eyasu duly seconded the motion. Mayor Burks called for the vote and declared the motion approved (5-0).

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   A. To discuss a real estate matter.

   The Council discussed a real estate matter.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

   The meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tomika R. Mitchell
City Clerk

Beverly H. Burks
Mayor