

## MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA

HELD IN PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO

IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM, 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: Mayor Burks and Councilmembers Sharifa Adde (via teleconference); Lynn Bayonne; Yterenickia Bell; Dean Moore; and Mark Perkins. Absent: Vice Mayor Debra Johnson. The following City staff were present: ChaQuias Miller-Thornton (City Manager); Cynthia Hanson (Interim City Clerk); Yolanda McGhee (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer); Xavier Todd (Assistant Police Chief); Richard Edwards (Planning and Economic Development Director); Lillian Triplett (Chief Court Clerk); Keisha Clark (Special Project Manager and Executive Assistant to the City Manager); Michael Duncan (Parks and Recreation Director); 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 at 7:02 p.m.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Vice Mayor Debra Johnson was absent, and Councilmember Adde attended by teleconference. All other members were present.

Councilmember Perkins made a motion to remove item 6D, to discuss the appointment of Marci Healy to the Downtown Development Authority for a term set to expire on December 31, 2026, from the agenda. Councilmember Bell duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called for the vote and declared the motion approved (4-0, Councilmember Moore abstained).

### **3. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- A.** Parks & Recreation — Context Analysis & Needs and Priorities Assessment, Perez Planning and Designing, Inc.

Nick Stevens of Perez Planning and Designing, Inc. delivered a presentation regarding

a study analyzing the service level of the City's parks and recreation facilities and programs. The study highlighted existing strengths within the system and identified areas of need to help guide future planning and improvements.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any member of the public may address the Council during the time allotted for public comment. Each attendee will be allowed 3 minutes for comments at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. The public comment period will be limited to 20 minutes, and it is not a time for dialogue. If your public comment contains a series of questions, please submit those to the City Clerk in writing. This will facilitate follow-up by the council or staff. The City Council desires to allow an opportunity for public comment; however, the business of the city must proceed in an orderly, timely manner.

The following citizens provided public comment: Julie Oinonen, Deborah Herberger, Scott Damon, Ganaro Makor, Jennifer Townes, Tiffany Pomares, Angela Kaylor.

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

There were no Old Business items to discuss.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** To discuss a resolution to deny the claims for damages asserted by claimants Charles Junior (a/k/a Zayin Bey) and Debra Hedgeman.

Stephen Quinn, City Attorney, gave a brief history of the claims and the circumstances of the traffic stop.

This matter was discussed by the Council.

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

- B.** To discuss a proclamation designating March as Women's History Month and recognize a Clarkston citizen.

- 1.** Women History Month

Yolanda McGee, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, read the proclamation to declare March as Women in History Month in the City of Clarkston. In recognition of Women in History Month, the city recognized citizen Krista Durant for her work with local housing and women in the community, and ChaQuias Miller-Thornton for her work with the City of Clarkston.

This matter was discussed by the Council.

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

- C.** To discuss the appointment of Ganaro Makor to the Downtown Development

Authority for a term that expires on December 31, 2030.

Richard Edwards, Planning and Zoning Director, presented the application and resume for Ganaro Makor as a nomination for appointment to the Downtown Development Authority. Mr. Makor briefly addressed the Council regarding his application.

This matter was discussed by the Council.

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

- D.** To discuss the appointment of Marci Healy to the Downtown Development Authority for a term set to expire on December 31, 2026.

Item removed during agenda approval.

- E.** To discuss a resolution establishing regulatory fees for sign permits.

Richard Edwards, Planning and Zoning Director, presented the proposed schedule for sign permits, adding a fee for sign refacing.

This matter was discussed by the Council.

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

- F.** To discuss a resolution establishing regulatory fees for land development permits.

Richard Edwards, Planning and Zoning Director, presented the fee schedule for land development permits, breaking each fee out into individual line items. Councilmember Moore noted a typo at the top of page 68 regarding stormwater vault inspections, which will be corrected.

This matter was discussed by the Council.

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

- G.** To discuss a resolution supporting a Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) application to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for a housing assessment in the amount of \$7,500.

Richard Edwards, Planning and Zoning Director, presented the CDAP application to Atlanta Regional Commission in the amount of \$7,500 to complete a full housing assessment. The \$7,500 would be the city's required contribution. Mr. McKinley Jeter will be leading the efforts as the Economic Mobility Manager.

Mr. Edwards also announced that the City of Clarkston has been accepted into the Enterprise World Housing Academy to work with cities across the country on ways to best develop housing within the city, and thanked Mr. Jeter for his efforts in leading the process.

The CDAP application was discussed by the Council.

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

- H. To discuss approval of a contract Yeargan and Kurt, LLC (Julie A. Kurt) to perform all functions and duties of the prosecuting attorney of the Clarkston Municipal Court (i.e., serve as City Solicitor) and to perform such other legally permissible and proper duties and functions as said position shall require.

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, City Manager, presented the contract with Yeargan and Kurt, LLC, addressing that the cost has increased from the present \$2,000 per month to \$2,500 per month. The increase has already been budgeted within the city's fiscal year 2026 budget.

This matter was discussed by the Council.

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

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Cynthia Hanson  
Interim City Clerk

---

Beverly H. Burks  
Mayor