

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD IN PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026

NOTE: Items appearing in these minutes are in the order they were discussed, not necessarily in the order they appeared on the agenda.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairperson Rezwan Ahmad called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The following board members were present: Chairperson Rezwan Ahmad, Secretary/Treasurer Michele Maserjian, Director Sydney Jakes, Director Dean Moore, and Director Ganaro Makor.

The following board members were absent: Vice Chairperson Adria Marshall and Director Akber Lassi.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 5/11/2026, AGENDA

Motion made by Secretary/Treasurer Michele M. to approve the 05/11/2026 meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Director Sydney J. The aye votes were: 5, with the nay votes: 0. Motion passed.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE 4/13/2026, MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Secretary/Treasurer Michele M. to approve the 04/13/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Director Sydney J. The aye votes were: 5, with the nay votes: 0. Motion passed.

- a) April 13, 2026, Downtown Development Authority Meeting Minutes

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address the Board 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 40 minutes, and it is not a time for dialogue. If your public comment contains a series of questions, please submit those to the Planning & Economic Development Director in writing. This will facilitate follow-up by the council or staff. The DDA desires to allow an opportunity for public comment; however, the business of the DDA must proceed in an orderly, timely manner.

No public comments were made.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Representatives from the Georgia Tech Center for Economic Development Research

facilitated a workshop focused on the development of tactical goals and implementation strategies for the DDA Strategic Plan. Discussion centered on the core work areas of Community Relationship Building, Infrastructure, Housing, Small Business Creation and Support, and Placemaking.

Board members were guided through exercises related to establishing goals, objectives, and tactical strategies for each focus area. DDA Directors were instructed to complete a Strategy Mapping exercise and submit their responses to Georgia Tech within one week.

City Manager ChaQuias Miller Thornton noted that the City is currently coordinating with the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding placemaking signage opportunities near Interstate 285.

a) City of Clarkston DDA Strategic Plan Workshop — Georgia Tech CEDR

1. Welcome & Agenda Review
2. Framing the Vision
3. Interview Insights
4. Priority Setting Exercises
5. Tactical Goal Setting
6. Wrap Up & Next Steps

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a) Approval of final DDA logo

Motion made by Secretary/Treasurer Michele M. to approve the revised Option 1 logo, incorporating the updated bold text modifications, as presented in the May 11, 2026 agenda packet. Motion seconded by Director Sydney J. The aye votes were: 5, with the nay votes: 0. Motion passed.

b) DDA Recruitment update

Staff reported that at the May 5, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting, City Council appointed Councilmember Dean Moore to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Director Beverly Burks.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a) Economic Development Week Outcome Discussion

Staff provided an overview of activities conducted during Economic Development Week, held May 4 through May 8, 2026. Mr. Bouie noted that Economic Development Week is an annual initiative sponsored by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and that 2026 marks the tenth anniversary of the program.

Mr. Bouie reported that all planned activities were successful and well attended.

Activities included a Shop Local promotional campaign, a Business Appreciation Day outreach initiative during which staff visited local businesses and distributed appreciation materials, and a Planning and Economic Development Ice Cream Social that attracted both local participants and visitors from neighboring communities. Mr. Bouie stated that outreach efforts provided opportunities to update business owners and managers on ongoing long range planning initiatives within the City. He also expressed interest in developing future events that encourage stronger relationships among Clarkston business owners and stakeholders.

Secretary/Treasurer Michele M. expressed interest in DDA participation and support for future Economic Development Week activities.

- b) Treasurer Report: current balance; budget; additional funds from City for DDA programs.

Secretary/Treasurer Michele M. presented the DDA financial report and noted that available funds totaled \$17,516.01 as of January 23, 2026. Discussion included the potential benefits of additional funding support from the City to assist with implementation of future DDA initiatives, including facade improvement programs and lighting and security grant opportunities.

- c) Economic Development Staff Update: Upcoming Business Retention, Grant, and Promotional Initiatives

Staff stated that requests for formal reports or extensive research support from staff must be submitted through the City Manager's Office for approval.

Mr. Bouie reported that there were no major updates to provide at this meeting and noted that no current City grant programs are available to support DDA-specific initiatives.

Director Dean Moore discussed the importance of attracting business headquarters and employment-generating businesses to Clarkston as a means of strengthening the local economy and workforce development opportunities.

Chairperson Rezwan Ahmad noted that future business recruitment efforts should consider existing infrastructure capacity and available development opportunities within the City.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made at 2:35 p.m. by Secretary/Treasurer Michele M. to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Chairperson Rezwan A. The aye votes were: 5, with the nay votes: 0. Motion passed.