

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD IN PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026**

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 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Beverly H. Burks

Vice Mayor Debra Johnson

Councilmembers Dean Moore, Sharifa Adde (via teleconference), YT Bell, Mark Perkins, Lynn Bayonne

Absent:

None

Staff Present:

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton (City Manager)

Cynthia Hanson (City Clerk)

Mayor Burks called for any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, she declared the agenda approved by common consent.

3. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Josh Carroll, Maudlin & Jenkins, presented the FY 2024 Audit including a brief introduction of Maudlin & Jenkins and the role the company plays as the auditor for the city. The audit had a single finding from the audit stating that the city has failed to submit the audit in a timely fashion.

Ms. Miller-Thornton went over changes to be made in order to be better equipped to submit audits by the yearly deadline to include adhering to year-end deadlines, purchasing new financial software and hiring a new financial director.

B. Presentation of the Clarkston Housing Assessment Initiative - Kristin Allin (Atlanta Regional Commission), Presenter.

Kristin Allin, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) presented the Clarkston Housing Assessment Initiative and the two-year timeline for the project ending in May 2027. The project includes completing CDAP applications and developing a Housing Task Force of

18-24 members. The Task Force will meet four or five times, facilitated by ARC completing certain tasks to assist with completing the assessment.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address questions or comments to the City Council referencing only agenda items after the Mayor and City Council have had the opportunity to discuss the agenda item. Each attendee will be allowed 3 minutes for comments.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** Discussion of Resolution No. 2026-017 to ratify the contract for Skyline Engineering and Construction for civil engineering services for Milam Park Football Field Multi-Purpose Conversion proposal.

City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton stated the contract was formally approved at the July Council Meeting. However, a resolution was not presented at that time. In order to follow procedure, the resolution needs to be approved and recorded in the minutes. Item will be on the Consent Agenda for the August 6, 2026 Council Meeting.

Public Comment: Michele Maserjian

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Proclamation of the City of Clarkston honoring Rupert Fike as 2026 Author of the Year.

Mayor Burks gave a brief summary of why the proclamation is being given. The item will be considered and presented to Mr. Fike at the August 6, 2026 Council Meeting.

- B.** Presentation and Discussion of Final Draft Form of the City of Clarkston Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Council Consideration of Adoption - Perez Planning + Design, Presenter.

Mick Stevens of Perez Planning and Design gave an overview of the implementation strategy for the project and the phasing of capital projects over the next ten (10) years. Funding options include SPLOST, bonds, and possible grants, as well as the general fund. A draft list of prioritized capital projects was presented.

Parks and Recreation Director Michael Duncan spoke about the design of placing a baseball field in the open area at Milam Park and how it could be used for multiple events, sports and festivals.

Mr. Stevens stated that comments could be received over the next couple of weeks with a final plan being available toward the end of August.

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton stated the item will be brought to the Council at the August Work Session for consideration in September.

Public Comment: Michele Maserjian, Martha Brown

- C.** Discussion and presentation to select either Option A1 or Option B for implementation of the Greenway Phase I Trail Project.

City Engineer Larry Kaiser presented two options to install Phase 1 of the Greenway Trail. Both options will require replacement of an existing box culvert under Montreal Road in order to mitigate flooding. Mr. Kaiser reviewed how the project could be funded. Option A1 includes two (2) creek crossings and connects with trails into Friendship Park. Option B stays mostly on one side of the creek with one crossing, does not tie into Friendship Park, and includes a large retaining wall.

The item will be on the regular agenda for the August 6, 2026 Council Meeting.

Public Comment: Martha Brown, William Cunningham

- D.** Discussion and presentation of a draft list of new policies and ordinances derived from the SS4A technical analysis and public input.

City Engineer Larry Kaiser presented a list of policy recommendations that align with the goal of safety as determined by the SS4A analysis. He suggested looking at a few that can be easily implemented and taking action to approve them.

Item was for information purposes only and will not appear on the Council agenda.

Public Comment: None

- E.** Discussion of Ordinance No. 544 to amend Chapter 10 of the City Code related to the Return of Custody of Animals that have been impounded.

City Attorney Stephen Quinn reviewed the changes that will match the city ordinance to the state and county laws regarding the determination of whether an impounded animal is returned to the owner.

Item will be on the Consent agenda for the August 6, 2026 Council Meeting.

Public Comment: None

- F.** Discussion of Resolution No. 2026-018 Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Supplement Under the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Direct Leasing Program for the Lease Purchase of Vehicles for Public Works and Administration - \$106,700.

City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton presented the adopted budget appropriation of \$65,000 for Georgia Municipal Association Lease Proceeds and an equivalent/offsetting \$65,000 expense purchase for a vehicle for the Administration Department and a quote of \$63,590 for the vehicle. The Public Works Department is also requesting Council consideration of a lease/purchase for a vehicle in the amount of \$43,110. Ms. Miller-

Thornton went over funding from the City's Debt Service Fund and the amortization schedule. Staff recommends approval of the Lease Purchase as presented.

Item will be on the Consent agenda for the August 6, 2026 Council meeting.

Public Comment: None

- G.** Discussion of Resolution No. 2026-019 to enter a Master Service Agreement with Lexipol.

Police Chief James Bullock explained how Lexipol reviews and sets policy that aligns with state laws. The process will assist with state certification of the Clarkston Police Department, provide transparency to citizens, and training for officers. Costs for the first year will be \$19,011.40 with continuing cost of \$17,493.30 annually.

The item will be on the regular agenda for the August 9, 2026 Council Meeting.

Public Comment: William Cunningham

- H.** Discussion of Resolution No. 2026-020 Requesting Clarkston Roadways to be Approved for use of Speed Detection Devices.

Police Chief James Bullock explained the requirement for Council approval of roadways during the renewal process for the City's permit from the Georgia Department of Public Safety to use speed detection devices for enforcing speed limits. The only change is removing Norman Road from the list due to the 15 mile per hour speed limit. Speed detection devices cannot be used on roads with a speed limit less than 25 miles per hour.

The item will be on the Consent agenda for the August 6, 2026 Council Meeting.

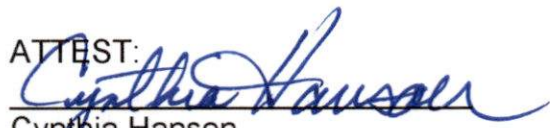
Public Comment: Martha Brown

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

ATTEST:


Cynthia Hanson
City Clerk


Beverly H. Burks
Mayor