

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALLED JOINT WORK SESSION WITH DDA
THE CITY COUNCIL OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA
HELD IN PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE, ZOOM AUDIO/VIDEO
IN SAID CITY ON THURSDAY, JULY 23, 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 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Elected Officials present:

Mayor Beverly H. Burks

Vice Mayor Debra Johnson

Councilmembers Dean Moore, Sharifa Adde, YT Bell, Mark Perkins, and Lynn Bayonne

Downtown Development Authority Members present:

Vice Chairperson Adria Marshall

Secretary/Treasurer Michele Maserjian

Directors Sydney Jakes, Akber Lassi, Ganaro Makor, and Dean Moore

Staff present:

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton (City Manager)

Cynthia Hanson (City Clerk)

Keedra Jackson (Planning & Zoning Director)

Jacob Bouie (Economic Development Coordinator)

3. PRESENTATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Facilitation Agenda and Workshop Guide

Representatives from the Georgia Tech Center for Economic Development Research facilitated an interactive work session between the Downtown Development Authority and City Council. The purpose of the session was to strengthen collaboration, establish a shared understanding of the DDA's responsibilities and potential role as a strategic partner, and identify opportunities for the DDA to support existing City initiatives. Participants reviewed the DDA's mission, vision, responsibilities, and four priority areas: relationship building, placemaking, small business support, and housing. Through a facilitated mapping exercise, the group considered how current City initiatives aligned with these priority areas and identified initiatives where DDA involvement could be beneficial. Participants then engaged in small group discussions regarding the potential role of the DDA, the resources and partnerships needed to advance selected initiatives, and the possible local application of economic development funding mechanisms and tools. The session concluded with group reports, a review of key takeaways, and encouragement for continued coordination between the DDA and City Council. No

formal action was taken.

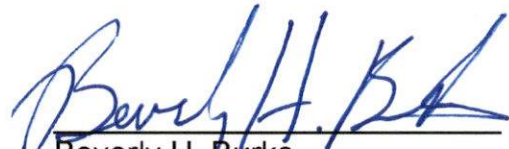
4. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:


Cynthia Hanson
City Clerk


Beverly H. Burks
Mayor