

**MINUTES**  
**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL**  
Tuesday, January 4, 2011, 7:00 PM

Officials Present

Mayor:	Emanuel Ransom
Council:	Warren Hadlock, Dianne Leonetti, Dean Moore, Joan Swaney, Adam White
City Clerk:	Tracy Ashby
City Attorney:	Stephen Quinn

Mayor Ransom called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

A moment of silence for former Mayor Tygrett.

Invocation given by Reverend Karl D. Moore.

The Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Council Minutes**

The minutes from the December 08, 2010 Council meeting were before Council for approval. Mr. Hadlock moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. Mayor Ransom opened the floor for discussion. No discussion followed. **A vote was called and the motion carried. (5/0)**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Mayor Ransom explained that there will be a two minute limit on comments now and then he will allow another two minute limit for comments before the Council votes on anything.

Ronnie Amin read a poem written by his wife Betty Hasan-Amin to be presented as a commemoration to former Mayor Howard Tygrett.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Declare Mayor Seat Vacant**

The Vice-Mayor Emanuel Ransom made a motion to declare the Mayor seat is vacant. Mr. Hadlock seconded the motion. **A vote was called and the motion carried. (5/0)**

**Swear in Emanuel Ransom to Mayor Seat**

Judge Nicholas swore in Vice-Mayor Seat to Mayor Seat Emanuel Ransom.

**Declare Council Seat Vacant**

Mr. Moore declared a Council seat vacant and will make a recommendation for that position.

**Declare Vice-Mayor Seat Vacant**

Mayor Ransom declared the Vice-Mayor seat is vacant and the City Council voted in agreement.

**Elect a Vice-Mayor to the Vacant Seat**

Mayor Ransom recommended our senior Councilmember Mr. Hadlock to the seat of Vice-Mayor. Ms. Leonetti made a motion that Councilman Mr. Hadlock be elected to the position of Vice-Mayor. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. **A vote was called and the motion carried. (3/2 Opposed).**

**Discussion/Fill Vacant Council Seat**

Mr. Moore read the resume for Ms. Jean Brown. Mr. Moore made a motion to elect Ms. Brown to the vacant Council seat. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mayor Ransom and Vice-Mayor Hadlock each have someone in mind for this Council seat. Mr. Quinn (City Attorney) referenced the charter and that it will take three votes to fill the seat or the option of not filling this vacant seat. Mr. White feels that what Ms. Brown would bring to the Council would benefit the City. Mr. Hadlock nominated Mr. Vinh Glover to fill the vacant Council seat. Mayor Ransom called for a vote for Ms. Brown. **A vote was called and the motion carried. (4/1 Mr. Hadlock Abstained).**

Ms. Jean Brown was sworn in to fill the vacant Council seat by Judge Nicholas.

**Public Hearing – 3742 Poplar Drive for Variance.**

This variance is for 15 feet from the required front setback for a single family detached residence located in the NR-1 District.

Ms. Alexander with Pond Co. read their report on the variance review transmittal.

**Mayor Ransom opened the Public Hearing**

Ms. Amerson being the property owner spoke in favor of this project. Mr. Glover with P&Z spoke in favor of the project (has a pleasing design). Mr. Moore made a motion accept this variance to allow the property owner to build the carport per conditions enclosed. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. Ms. Leonetti asked question of what would prevent the next owner from closing in the carport. Mr. Quinn stated that the conditions would still apply for future owners. Mr. White also asked if our ordinance specify a percent of reduction in the setback. **A vote was called and the motion carried. (6/0).**

**Proposed Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance, the Sign Ordinance and other portions of the City Code to Eliminate the Planning and Development Commission and to rename the “Zoning and Review Commission” the “Planning and Zoning Board”. (1<sup>st</sup> Read). Public Hearing will be held 2/1/2011 Council Meeting.**

Ms. Alexander with Pond Co. read their report and recommendations and suggested changes. Mr. Quinn (City Attorney) will have the ordinance ready before the next work session and to be ready for a vote at the next Council Meeting.

**Opened for Public Hearing on this proposed ordinance.**

Mr. Glover is in favor for combining the two committees because it makes more sense. No one came forward to speak against the change in the ordinance.

Public Hearing was closed.

**Sign Permit Fee – Pond & Co.**

Ms. Alexander explained this was a discussion item at the work session question about the management of sign permits and Pond & Co. is to just revise the application forms and the function will remain with the Planning and Zoning Committee.

**LDP (Stormwater, Soil & Erosion, Road Standards and Procedures) Pond & Co.**

Ms. Alexander explained Pond & Co's intent to bring to the attention of the City Council that the City staff would conduct locally issued authority for permitting, but, the City has not received this yet and the City will need an engineer for the stormwater and hydrology review. So there was discussion on services.

**Fill Vacated Planning & Zoning Committee Seat – Dean Moore**

Mr. Moore has a recommendation for the vacant seat, but, would like said person to come before the City Council before moving on with this approval.

**Planning and Zoning Report**

Nothing to report

**Correspondence**

Becky Porter sent a sympathy card and Mr. Joe Grogan wrote concerning damaged cable at Market Walk and contact numbers in case any resident may have to reach him concerning the cable placement.

**Old Business**

**City Property Maintenance Ordinance (2<sup>nd</sup> Read)**

Mayor Ransom requested to table this ordinance at this time because of discrepancies and the City Attorney agrees it would be better to return this to the work session. Mr. Moore made the motion to take the ordinance back to work session. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion.

**A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

**Outdoor Watering Restrictions Ordinance (2<sup>nd</sup> Read)**

Mr. Quinn did the 2<sup>nd</sup> read for this ordinance to all present. Mr. Hadlock made the motion to approve this ordinance as read. Ms. Leonetti seconded the motion. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

Mayor Ransom stepped outside of the agenda to speak with McEachern Dredging concerning a Change Order with additional costs (\$21,000.00) incurred on the upper lake. Mr. McEachern explained time span of when survey was first taken (2008) and when the project started (2010). When it comes to large projects involving water you don't see the whole thing until you start digging everything out as in this case. Mr. Moore asked how the total cubic yards of dirt were measured and if there was any way to verify each load on the trucks. Mr. Moore also questioned the original proposal amount in cubic yards to come out and what the total that you did take out is. Have you spoken to the County? Up to the Council to take part of that extra cost to our partners which is the Lake Association would be willing to give more volunteer hours to match

the discrepancy. Mr. Quinn said the contract we have with the Dekalb County to do this project authorized a total amount greater than what the contract came in as. Because we have to disperse this out now we will take out of the stormwater at this time. Mr. White also asked questions on an ongoing maintenance of the lakes. The maintenance will depend on what happens upstream. Council Members continued to discuss other anticipated unexpected costs. Mr. Hadlock made a motion to accept this discussion. Ms. Leonetti seconded the motion.

Chris Busing said a scope of work that is described in the contract (should be in front of you) which would constitute what is a Change Order and feels this discussion is misplaced.

Tracy Bishop watched what McEachern did and when the extra silt was obvious they talked to Mayor Tygrett and the option was with Mayor Tygrett. Commented on how the upper lake was like a faucet to the lower lake with the silt. The Lake Assoc. has been doing a lot of work out there to make things better for everybody. Mr. Bishop recommends we do this extra work.

Also a discussion on water leaking back from a spill way from the County that is old and leaking into the pipe that is leading into the park and also to a pipe by some of the homes. This will have to be repaired so that it doesn't leak back into the lower lake. McEachern gave a brief description of what will need to be done. This will be an extra cost as well.

**A vote was held and the motion carried. (5/1 Mr. Moore abstained)**

### **CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT**

None

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Community Activities**

Ms. Leonetti nothing to report.

#### **Buildings and Grounds Committee Report**

Mr. Moore stated we are still looking for people to fill out the Planning & Zoning Commission.

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee Report**

Mr. White nothing to report.

#### **Police Affairs Committee Report**

Ms. Swaney nothing to report.

#### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Hadlock nothing to report.

#### **Sanitation Committee Report**

None

### City Attorney's Report

Mr. Quinn nothing to report.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Ransom wanted to thank everyone for their wonderful support after this horrific tragedy to the City and would like to recognize our former Council Member Ms. Rosemarie Nelson and I appreciate you for coming and showing your support. Thank you. Mayor Ransom recognized all the people who showed their cooperation and support in this difficult time. Mayor Ransom is here as a servant and not a politician and an advocate for the citizens. Mayor Ransom appointed the city assignments for the Council: Finance Committee – Warren Hadlock and Dianne Leonetti; Public Works Committee – Dean Moore and Jean Brown; Police Committee – Joan Swaney and Adam White; Media- Dianne Leonetti and Joan Swaney; Parks Committee – Adam White and Warren Hadlock; Roads and Drainage – Chair/Jean Brown and Co-chair/Dean Moore. Every committee will have a Chair and Co-chair on each. I have moved employees; Code Enforcement Officer to the Police for their Officer for this year and took a retired fully certified Code Enforcement Officer from Dekalb County (Shelly Shephard) to work 3 days a week. I am also retiring an employee. Mayor Ransom also had a discussion with our Chief of Police and we (City Hall Building) do not meet the homeland security guidelines; our building is now secure and we have new locks (through Seizure Money). We are also in the process of putting in time clocks, palm readers, direct deposit and outsource our payroll to relieve my Finance Officer to do a lot more of the important things that she is bound up with right now. Got a call from Chris Morris with Community Development and one party present during our conversation heard her say not to second step this pool but to put it in properly. Mr. Moore is going over some of the applications/bids to have another perceptible. We are going to hold Town Hall Meetings so we can sit down and talk about what concerns you may have or to tell me what you want me to do to make your city the city people can be proud of.

Please give Amy Tygrett your prayers. She will be returning the 14<sup>th</sup> of January. The service will be on January 22, 2011 at the International Bible Church and a trust fund for the family in lieu of flowers.

Mr. Hadlock moved to adjourn the Council meeting and pay Council bills. Mr. White seconded the motion. No discussion followed. **A vote was held and the motion carried.** (6/0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.