

**MINUTES**  
**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL**  
Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 7:00PM

Officials Present

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

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

Joan Swaney gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Approval of Council Minutes**

The minutes from the March 2, 2010 Council meeting were before Council for approval. Mr. Hadlock moved to approve the minutes. MS. Swaney seconded the motion. Mayor Tygrett opened the floor for discussion. No discussion followed. **A vote was called and the motion carried.** (6/0).

**CITIZENS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Chris Busing voiced his concerns on America today and passed around a poster board showing what points he was referencing. We may not always be able to get through to our congressman, but we can at least start by becoming more active in our local affairs and working with the local government.

Rosemarie Nelson (president of the Business Assoc.) questioned the intent of the amended ordinance for business hours of operation as she has received a number of calls from businesses trying to understand intent of the ordinance. There was some confusion between hours of operation and hours for pouring. She suggested that the hours of operation be typed on the liquor license application. The Business Association appreciates you coming to their meetings giving them your support but we would also like to keep an open dialogue and we need both Clarkston citizens and businesses to work together to make this happen. An open invitation stands for Mayor Tygrett at all their meetings. The Business Association will also be meeting with Safebuilt and requests the Mayor's presence at this meeting.

Mr. Fish the owner of Shewit Eritrean Restaurant feels that with the new ordinance, that businesses are just waiting to be fined or have their licenses revoked because of the new ordinance. Please let us not destroy the good relationship that has been built between the City of Clarkston and its immigrants. Let's make Clarkston the small city with the big heart.

Graham Thomas, (Market Street) made an invitation to hear a big band, the band he plays in is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event scheduled at the First Baptist Church in Decatur on Friday night from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm outdoors weather permitting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Tygrett with the Councils permission requested the addition of two new items to our "New Business" agenda.

- 1) Emanuel Ransom made a motion concerning the disposal of two vehicles that we no longer need.
- 2) Mr. Hadlock had a resolution to present to the City Council.

Ms. Swaney made the motion to add the two "New Business" items and Ms. Leonetti seconded the motion. (6/0: all in favor).

**Disposal of two vehicles**

Mr. Ransom asked the Council to declare these vehicles surplus and to put them up for auction: 1997 Ford F150 and the 1994 Kodiak Chevrolet Dump Truck, the large gross weight 29,000. Mr. Moore has made the motion to declare these vehicles surplus and to put them up for auction. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. (6/0: all in favor).

### **Resolution by Warren Hadlock**

Mr. Hadlock read a resolution that at future council meetings a representative of each religion practiced in the City of Clarkston shall be invited by the city to offer the invocation at the beginning of our council meetings according to the prescripts of that faith, on the basis of a monthly rotation among the various faiths. It was brought to Mr. Hadlock's attention that the City Council already sends out invitations to the various faiths to give the invocation before our City Council meetings. Captain Hudson also stated that we have chaplains on our reserve units who represent all the different denominations and they can also ask someone from their church to give the invocation. Mr. Hadlock made the motion for the resolution to be voted on as read. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. **A vote was called and the motion did not pass.** (1/5, yes –Hadlock/ No- Ransom, Swaney, Leonetti, Moore/Abstain- White).

### **Livestock Ordinance – Presentation by Martha Brock**

Ms. Brock presented a rough draft of the livestock ordinance stating that the Council would still be able to make any necessary changes. This ordinance would apply only to residential properties less than one acre to state the maximum allowance of livestock that may be raised as pets and not a food source. This ordinance is missing a minimum lot size, standard of care and if the City of Clarkston should define this and not the Dept. of Agriculture. Mr. Moore asked if the Code Enforcement Officer would be our agriculture representative. Also, the City of Clarkston does not have the facilities or resources to handle livestock. Other topics being containment, slaughtering of animals, keeping/raising of livestock and how noisy the livestock may be for surrounding properties. Mr. Ransom feels this should be a non-binding referendum on the ballot with our state legislature so the voters can be more involved and not up to the City Council to decide on this matter. Mr. Moore made a motion to table this until the next Work Session. Mr. Ransom seconded the motion. **A vote was called and the motion carried.** (6/0)

### **Friendship Forest DVD and workday**

Vinh Glover presented a DVD showing the clean-up being done by the creek in Friendship Forest by volunteers. The DVD showed the before and after of the trash, tires and shopping carts that were removed from Peachtree Creek. Another clean-up day is scheduled for May 16, 2010. He also wanted to thank everyone for their help and would like to ask the City of Clarkston to help support (not in a monetary way) and preserve Friendship Forest.

### **Extension of Service Delivery Agreement with Dekalb County to February 28, 2011**

City Attorney Mr. Quinn advised the Council that the Resolution reflects the agreement between DeKalb County and the several Cities to extend the SDSA, conditioned on certain changes being made by the General Assembly. Mr. Moore made the motion for the extension of Service Delivery until February 28, 2011. Mr. Ransom seconded the motion. **A vote was called and the motion passed.** (6/0)

### **PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT:**

Tim Berkesch gave the report. One business license was approved. One request to re-zone property but the paperwork was incomplete and is deferred until next month's schedule. P&Z thanked the City Clerk and City Attorney for rulings on a couple of issues they requested to have clarified. The third Monday of the month will continue to be the scheduled monthly P&Z meeting at 7:00 pm.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None. Ms. White introduced the new receptionist Noreen Buschel to the citizens.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Status of the Charter Change**

Mr. Hadlock spoke with Representative Karla Drenner and asked that this item be put on a referendum to change our government from Mayor/Council to Council/City Manager (we would still have a mayor but the delegation of power would be different). This will be on our fall election so our citizens will have the opportunity to vote for or against the change.

### **CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT**

Capt. Hudson briefly reviewed the statistics report handed out to those in attendance. Grant money they have received has enabled the Police Dept to purchase two new lasers and fittings for new vests. Dekalb County is still dispatching for the City but Cpt Hudson looking at changing the system to have dispatched calls submitted to the patrol unit computer screen; they can run tags or inquires on people which will cut down on a lot of radio traffic.

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Community Activities**

Ms. Leonetti described the Fourth of July parade to be held on Sunday 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

For National Night Out, fliers and other tips how to set-up your block party will be provided to everyone who requests information. Please let's all get involved.

Milam Park will be the location of our third event to be held in September. This will be an all day event with art, music and food. More things are in the planning stage and any help we can receive would be appreciated. A talent show in August will supply some of the talent at the festival. ([clarkstonfestival.com](http://clarkstonfestival.com)) for information ([clarkstonganews.com](http://clarkstonganews.com)) Clarkston news

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

Mr. Moore, Dr. Chris Holiday and his asst. from Dekalb County Health Dept. and Officer Lockett visited a number of apartment complexes, but, the main one being English Oaks. Code enforcement has shown a remarkable improvement at English Oaks and we would like to congratulate Officer Lockett.

### **Police Affairs Committee Report**

Ms. Swaney reported the hire of two new officers, promotion of officers, police visibility at the Community Center and the library and Capt. Hudson received a new car (paid through drug seizure funds).

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Hadlock reported the reduction of the City's liability insurance for the same coverage we had previously.

### **Sanitation Committee Report**

Mr. Ransom reported that 49 tons of solid waste and 11 tons of recycling materials were picked up from the City of Clarkston last month. Citizens please do not contaminate your trash with recycling. Dekalb County has placed our request on next week's agenda (Tuesday the 11th) to give us two riding leaf vacuums.

### Parks Committee Report

Mr. White states that the public works crew is already prepping both sides of the railroad tracks so they can start broadcasting seeds next week. The Vice-Mayor is setting up a meeting with CSX railroad to ask them what right of way access they need if we plant any trees on the right of way.

The schedule for the summer athletic program with Dekalb YMCA is June 1, 2010 to July 31, 2010; Monday through Saturday. This is open to ages 5 to 13 for Clarkston youth.

We will also be trying to set up a “movies in the park” which everyone enjoyed last year.

We are looking for a forestry management plan to keep up Friendship Forest and are looking for grants from other agencies and the GA Forestry Commission and we are also checking into other divisions for wildlife enhancement as well. Mr. Hadlock discussed maybe establishing a Georgia native planting in Friendship Forest.

### City Attorney’s Report

Mr. Quinn has nothing to report.

### Mayor’s Report

The Twin Lake project was approved by Dekalb County and Mr. Shipman will send out R.F.P.’s (request for proposals) on that project.

We can have a farmer’s market and we just need someone to organize it. The ordinance is for outdoor goods displays on Saturday only. To find a location, we can check with the local churches for example.

Dekalb County is working on a contract to release some of the grant money for the pool project and the contract grant for Friendship Forest (should know my next Council meeting). We also need to keep a log of our volunteer hours to show the county that we are putting forth a good effort in Friendship Forest.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.