

MINUTES
CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 4, 2009, 7:00PM

Officials Present

Mayor:	Lee Swaney
Council:	Pat Davis-Morris, Karen Feltz, Warren Hadlock, Rosemarie Nelson, Emanuel Ransom Wayne Foster- arrived late
City Clerk:	Tracy Ashby
City Attorney:	Stephen Quinn

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the July 7, 2009 regular meeting and July 29, 2009 Special Call meeting were before Council for approval. Ms. Nelson moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ransom seconded the motion. Mayor Swaney opened the floor for discussion. No discussion followed. **A vote was called and the motion carried.** (6/0)

PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION AWARDS

Ms. Nelson presented appreciation awards to MLT Creative, Positive Growth, Inc. and Clarkston Thriftown on behalf of the City. Representatives from MLT Creative and Positive Growth were on hand to receive the awards. Ms. Nelson spoke on behalf of the City thanking these organizations for long-time support of the City. Representatives of MLT Creative, which has been located in the City for 25 years, and Positive Growth, which has been located in the City for 11 years, both thanked the City and the Clarkston community for their strong support of both organizations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Job Description/Pay Scale Survey

Ms. Nelson reported on the results of the ARC survey of City of Clarkston employees' job descriptions and pay scales. Ms. Nelson explained briefly the criteria of the study and explained results printed in a handout that was distributed to those in attendance. Ms. Nelson stated that the City now has data as evidence of where the City ranks in terms of market salaries for its employees. She stated that the police officers and municipal court clerks are currently below market norms in compensation. All other positions on the City staff are within market range for compensation purposes. ARC will continue to work with the City on a process to implement pay-scale changes to ensure the City is within market rate for all City employees' compensation. The findings suggest that in order to bring all City employees' compensation to within 2.5% below market norms \$50,000 annually would need to be added to the City's salaries budget. Ms. Nelson reported that the ARC performed the study at a dramatically discounted rate.

CITIZENS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Chris Busing (Mauck Street) distributed a flyer he had received that called for National Guard recruitment for the position of "corrections officer, internment resettlement specialist" and voiced his

concern about the government setting up camps for forced inoculations against the H1N1 virus. He reported that the Georgia State Senate has passed a Sovereignty Resolution. Mr. Busing reported that State Rep. Karla Drenner communicated to him that she would be happy to introduce S.R. 632 to the House for the 2010 session. Mr. Busing reported that this resolution had bipartisan support in the Senate.

Planning and Zoning Commission Report

Dean Moore reported that the Commission now has the responsibility of making recommendations to the City Clerk regarding the approval/denial of business license applications. He stated that one business license application was reviewed by the Commission and it was approved. The application was for a furniture and mattress store located at 4238 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Ms. Feltz asked Mr. Moore if the Commission has reviewed the updated sign ordinance. Mr. Moore reported that each member of the Commission individually reviewed the ordinance and submitted comments to the City Clerk. Ms. Ashby reported that the comments were forwarded to Dir. Shipman who reported the comments to Council at the work session. Ms. Ashby reported that a public hearing will be held at the Planning and Zoning Commission's August 17th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Display of Goods for Sale

Mr. Ransom reported that at the work session he suggested a change in the City Ordinance to forbid public display of goods for sale by businesses in Clarkston. He further reported that the current ordinance is being reviewed and revised by Pond and Company.

Proposal to be Purchasing Partner with DeKalb County, Georgia by Resolution

Ms. Ashby read for the record a resolution enabling the City to become a Cooperative Purchasing Agent of DeKalb County, Georgia. Mr. Ransom explained that the Cooperative Purchasing Agent designation would authorize the City to purchase goods from vendors who sell to DeKalb County at the discounted prices that the County receives. Mr. Ransom moved to adopt the resolution as read. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Mayor Swaney opened the floor for discussion. No discussion followed. **A vote was called and the motion carried.** (6/0)

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief Scipio apologized to Council and the public for expressing frustration at the last Council meeting.

Chief Scipio reported that there were two rapes in the City last month but there was a previous relationship between both victims and their assailants. Warrants have been secured and the perpetrators will be taken into custody as soon as possible.

Chief Scipio reported that the Clarkston Police Department responds to Priority 3 calls, life and death situations, at locations outside the City limits in support of DeKalb County Police. In those situations, Clarkston police will control the scene until DeKalb County police officers can respond. Several businesses near Mell Avenue and along Brockett Road are interested in being annexed into the City in order to receive quicker police response times.

Lt. Hudson reviewed the crime statistics report that was distributed to those in attendance. She highlighted the success of the safety check operation conducted in partnership with DeKalb County HEAT Unit for an hour on Thursday, July 23rd. The Clarkston Police Department will continue to conduct safety checks on a monthly basis.

Mr. Ransom commented on the success of the operation and complimented the Clarkston police officers on their courtesy toward the citizens. He stated his surprise at how many children were in cars without proper seat belt or restraint use.

Chris Busing questioned Chief Scipio on the procedures the City uses when illegal immigrants are stopped for driving without a license. Chief Scipio explained that all DeKalb County municipalities release all individuals in that situation to DeKalb County Jail and the Immigration and Naturalization Service makes decisions on how to prosecute such individuals.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sanitation Report

Mr. Ransom reported that the City's average tonnage is holding at 44 tons for solid waste and 13.9 tons for recycling. This means that the City is saving about \$2,600 on landfill expense every month.

Streets Committee Report

Ms. Nelson reported that the staff of the Public Works Department is now working from 7:30am till 3:30pm in order to work during cooler hours in the summer months.

Ms. Nelson reported that the department is under-budget for year-to-date and she thanked Dir. Shipman for his efforts in that area.

Ms. Nelson reported that street sweeping services were discontinued in the City and she encouraged Council to support reinstatement of that service so that Public Works personnel are free to do other work.

Mr. Nelson is anticipating representatives from DeKalb County to make a presentation to Council regarding the stormwater infrastructure.

Ms. Nelson thanked Mayor Swaney and Mr. Ransom for their efforts to obtain heavy equipment for stormwater utility maintenance and stated that the City will need other types of equipment as well to keep the infrastructure maintained.

Ms. Nelson reported that the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) has grant money available to weatherize homes for low-income applicants. Interested parties should contact Partnership for Community Action at 404-929-2500.

Ms. Nelson announced that Rep. Hank Johnson is holding a Town Hall meeting on Healthcare Reform on Monday, August 10th from 7pm-9pm at Georgia Perimeter College's Cole Auditorium.

Ms. Nelson announced that the new business Ponce Furniture and Mattress is offering 10% off purchases.

Ms. Nelson announced a class on legal concepts and implications on planning and redevelopment in College Park and requested that a member of the City's Planning and Zoning Commission attend.

Ms. Nelson read the full inscription that was on each of the Appreciation Awards: The City of Clarkston in appreciation of [organization name] for years of commitment to and unwavering support of the community of Clarkston, 2009. Small Town, Big Heart.

Mr. Ransom announced that at the August 11th DeKalb County Board of Commissioners meeting the decision will be made about the donation of two pieces of heavy equipment to the City. Mr. Ransom asked citizens and Council members to attend the meeting if possible to show the City's appreciation of such donations. The meeting will be held at the Maloof Building Auditorium beginning at 9:00am.

Police Committee Report

Ms. Davis-Morris requested that neighborhood association presidents and members attend meetings being held on a monthly basis regarding grant opportunities for improvements in the neighborhood. She reported that information regarding the September meeting will be put on the City's website.

Ms. Davis-Morris announced that Staples is selling notebook paper for \$.01 per package. Individuals with a teacher ID can get a box of notebook paper for \$.01.

Properties and Community Affairs Report

Ms. Feltz reported that projects her committee has been working on are in the pipeline and are waiting on various approvals and reviews. The Women's Club sign has been ordered and should be delivered any day.

Parks Committee Report

Mr. Hadlock reported that the recreational sports clinics on Thursday nights at Milam Park have been very successful. The last one will be held this week at 5:30pm at the Clarkston Community Center and will be about the game of Cricket. The City has been working with the YMCA on this program. Mr. Hadlock thanked Ms. Davis-Morris for her help with the program.

Mr. Hadlock reported that the City is continuing the pursuit of additional funding sources for the renovation of the pool and pool house. He reported that \$500,000 is available from grants and an additional \$350,000 is needed to fund the project that has already been designed. He reported that he has been asked by citizens why the City doesn't go ahead and spend the available funds on a less ambitious project to go ahead and get the pool project under construction. Mr. Hadlock responded that the project can't really be done for less than what is currently estimated as the entire pool and pool house site must be reconfigured. Mr. Hadlock added that consultants must be used to design projects in order for them to be acceptable to grant providers and the project can't really be down-sized. He offered to discuss details of the project with anyone who wants more information.

Ms. Davis-Morris interjected that State regulations will not allow a pool to operate without a pool house available. The County has refused to contribute to any further repairs of the 50+ year-old pool complex so the City has to build a new complex.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Foster reported on revenues and expenses of the Women's Club, which had been requested by Council at the work session. On the year-to-date report prepared for Council the Women's Club does has a separate line to break out revenues/expenses from the rest of the Buildings and Grounds budget.

Ms. Ashby reported that expenses for July 2009 were just over \$2,000 and revenue was \$475. Mr. Foster reported that revenue is almost 10% higher than projected on an annual basis. Ms. Feltz reported that the expenses for July were skewed because of a special event that required additional maintenance on the floors and \$1,100 was for the sign which will come out of the improvement budget rather than the operating budget. Mr. Foster stated that he would like revenues and expenses for the Women's Club be broken out of the rest of the Buildings and Grounds budget.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Contract with Information Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Quinn reported that the Police Department wishes to enter into a contract with Information Technologies, Inc. (ITI) which would provide hardware/software for a document management system that will enable officers to spend more time patrolling and increase efficiency in report processing. The cost is about \$10.00 per ticket. Mr. Quinn marked six points for Council to consider before approving the contract. Lt. Hudson elaborated on how the system will benefit the Police Department.

First Read of Stormwater Management Model Ordinances

Mr. Quinn reported that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has contacted Dir. Shipman regarding outdated ordinances for stormwater management and has sent the City model ordinances, the adoption of which would bring the City into compliance with State regulations. The ordinances relate to Flood Plain Management/Flood Damage Prevention and Illicit Discharge into and Illegal Connection to the stormwater infrastructure. Mr. Quinn summarized the key points of the ordinances for the record and reported that full texts of the ordinances will be available through the City Clerk's office. He stated that he is tailoring the model ordinances for the City and will present the second reading of the proposed ordinances at the next Council meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Swaney reiterated the proper procedure for reporting code violations. Code complaints should be written in person or reported by phone to the receptionist who would make a written complaint. Written complaints are to be delivered to the Code Enforcement officer to be addressed. He urged all in attendance to adhere to this procedure. He urged all citizens to keep curbs around their property clean to prevent damage to stormwater infrastructure and work with the Code Enforcement Officer to keep the City clean and looking good.

Presentation of Conceptual Drawings by DeKalb Technical College

The students of DeKalb Technical College Drafting Department presented conceptual drawings of the City's Town Center district that they have been working on as a class project for school credit. The presentation was made through software titled Google Sketch Up. The project began last semester and the students have worked very hard on it. The presentation highlighted mixed-use development as well as two large park areas. A large fountain marks the center of the development which is pedestrian friendly with buildings for restaurants, retail, office space and residential uses.

Ms. Feltz moved to pay Council bills and adjourn the meeting. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion. No discussion followed. **A vote was called and the motion carried.** (6/0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.