

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the January 11 Mayor and Commission session was remote. The meeting could be viewed live at www.accgov.com/videos, on YouTube at www.youtube.com/accgov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/accgov, and on ACTV Cable Channel 180 or the live ACTV stream at www.accgov.com/actvlive

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia
Mayor and Commission
Special Called Session
Tuesday, January 11, 2022
5:30 p.m.
City Hall/WebEx

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia met this date in a special called session. Present: Mayor Girtz; Commissioners Davenport, Parker, Link, Wright, Denson, Houle, Edwards, Myers, Thornton, and Hamby. No one was absent.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider judiciary request for American Rescue Plan Act funds through the State of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and other item in proper order.

Public input

There was no public input.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamby, seconded by Commissioner Myers, to

- a. Approve the Superior Court's application for, and if awarded, acceptance of funds from the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in the amount of up to \$2 M to address the backlog of court cases caused by COVID-19 pandemic. Grant funds would be for grant period 03/01/2022-12/31/2022 as per agenda report revised January 5, 2022; and direct Manager to review public defender needs for consideration during February/March agenda cycle.
 - i. To include the authorization and creation of eight full-time positions in the District Attorney's Office (4 Assistant District Attorneys, 2 Investigators, and 2 Victim Advocates) to be funded from the grant;
 - ii. The authorization and creation of one full-time Staff Attorney position for the Juvenile Court to be funded from the grant; and
 - iii. The authorization and creation of one full-time Staff Attorney position for the Probate Court to be funded from the grant;
 - iv. The authorization and creation of four full-time Court Clerk positions in the Clerk of Courts office to be funded by the grant;
 - v. The authorization and creation of two part-time positions in the IT department to be funded by the grant;
 - vi. The authorization and creation of two full-time positions in Probation Services (Probation Officer and Lab Tech) to be funded from the grant;
 - vii. The authorization and creation of one full-time Compliance Analyst position to be funded by the grant;
 - viii. The authorization and creation of one full-time Judicial Case Manager to be funded by the grant; and
 - ix. The authorization and creation of one full-time judge position in the Juvenile Court (currently the part-time judge position).
- b. Authorize staff to accept the grant funds;
- c. Adopt the following ordinance (#22-01-09) which was presented by title only amending the FY22 Operating Budget for Superior Court (and others) and District Attorney for grant period starting March 1, 2022; and
- d. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all related documents and to allocate the budget based on the final grant award.

The motion passed by roll call vote with Commissioners Davenport, Parker, Link, Wright, Denson, Edwards, Myers, and Thornton and Hamby voting YES; and Commissioner Houle opting NO. (9 YES; 1 NO).

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2022 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING, IF AWARDED, FROM THE GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS (AOC) TO ADDRESS COURT BACKLOG DUE TO PANDEMIC, INCLUDING TWENTY-ONE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS FOR THE JUDICIARY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the Grants Funds Operating Budget to provide funding from Georgia AOC to address court backlog due to the pandemic, including twenty-one additional positions for the judiciary.

Said Operating & Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

Grants Fund:

REVENUES:

Increase:

State Grants:

Georgia AOC up to \$1,713,242

EXPENDITURES

Increase:

Superior Court (and Others)

up to \$1,093,299

District Attorney's

up to \$619,943

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Clerk of Commission