

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia  
Mayor and Commission  
Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
5:33 p.m.  
City Hall

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia met this date in special called session.

Roll call was conducted. Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Thornton; Commissioners Davenport, Taylor, Wright, Houle, Culpepper, Myers, and Hamby. Mayor Girtz, Commissioner Link, and Commissioner Fisher were absent.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the nomination from Mayor for extension of appointment for Interim Municipal Court Judge and nomination from Mayor for extension of appointment for Interim Administrative Hearing Officer to fill vacancies created by Judge Hope's appointment as a State Court Judge; a budget ordinance to provide funding for economic development site infrastructure improvements; and any other item in proper order.

Commissioner Link entered the Chamber at 5:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Davenport, seconded by Commissioner Myers, to suspend Rules of Commission for consideration of two new business items. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### New business - Discussion

A motion was made by Commissioner Myers, seconded by Commissioner Davenport, to adopt the following resolution, presented by title only, to receive the nomination from Mayor for extension of appointment for Interim Municipal Court Judge pursuant to Athens-Clarke County Code of Ordinances Section 1-4-17(f) and nomination from Mayor for extension of appointment for Interim Administrative Hearing Officer pursuant to Athens-Clarke County Code of Ordinances Section 1-5-1(6) to fill vacancies created by Judge Ryan S. Hope's appointment as a State Court Judge. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA:

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the office of the Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County occurred on March 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the office of Administrative Hearing Officer occurred on March 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 1-4-17 (f) of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, Mayor Kelly Girtz previously nominated State Court Judge Ryan S. Hope to serve as both the Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County and Administrative Hearing Officer in an interim capacity from March 8, 2023, through April 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commission passed a resolution on March 7, 2023, appointing State Court Judge Ryan S. Hope to serve as both the Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County and Administrative Hearing Officer in an interim capacity from March 8, 2023, through April 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a new full-time Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County and Administrative Hearing Officer has not yet been appointed and there still exists a need to fill both positions in an interim capacity until a new Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County and Administrative Hearing Officer can be appointed and sworn in; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 1-4-17 (f) of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, Mayor Kelly Girtz has nominated State Court Judge Ryan S. Hope to serve as Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County for an extended term from March 8, 2023, through June 30, 2023, or until such time as a new Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County is appointed and sworn in, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 1-5-1 (6) of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, Mayor Kelly Girtz has nominated State Court Judge Ryan S. Hope to serve as Administrative Hearing Officer for an extended term from March 8, 2023, through June 30, 2023, or until such

time as a new Administrative Hearing Officer is appointed and sworn in, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, desire to appoint said nominee pursuant to the office of Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, for such term; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, desire to appoint said nominee pursuant to the office of Administrative Hearing Officer of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, for such term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia:

Section 1. Ryan S. Hope, a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia, is hereby confirmed and appointed as Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, to serve for an extended term beginning on March 8, 2023, and concluding on June 30, 2023, at midnight, or until such time as a new Judge of the Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County is appointed and sworn in, whichever occurs first.

Section 2. The Judge so appointed shall have the authority under § 1-4-18 of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, to appoint standby associate judges as they deem necessary.

Section 3. Ryan S. Hope, a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia, is hereby confirmed and appointed as Administrative Hearing Officer, to serve for an extended term beginning on March 8, 2023, and concluding on June 30, 2023, at midnight, or until such time as a new Administrative Hearing Officer is appointed and sworn in, whichever occurs first.

Section 4. The Administrative Hearing Officer so appointed shall have the authority under § 1-5-1 (5) of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, to appoint hearing officers pro hac vice as they deem necessary.

Section 5. Ryan S. Hope has agreed that he shall be compensated for his services as Judge and Administrative Hearing Officer solely through his salary as a State Court Judge.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamby, seconded by Commissioner Link, to adopt the following budget ordinance (#23-04-20), presented by title only, to provide funding for economic development site infrastructure improvements. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2023 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SITE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS; 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 Economic Development Capital Projects Fund to add for economic development site infrastructure improvements. Said Operating and Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Economic Development Capital Projects Fund:**

EXPENDITURES:

Decrease:

Fund Balance (\$96,120)

Increase:

Economic Development Capital Program \$96,120

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamby, seconded by Commissioner Myers, to adjourn from Special Called Session. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Special Called Session adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

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Acting Clerk of Commission