

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia
Mayor and Commission
Special Called Session
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
6:03 p.m.
City Hall

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. Commissioner Davenport came in at 6:04 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct two public hearings; consider two items of new business; enter into executive session; and consider any other item in proper order.

A motion was made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Parker, to amend the agenda in regard to Section F to enter into executive session for an attorney/client conference to discuss a document that is not releasable under the Georgia Open Records Act as is authorized by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(4). The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public hearing #2 was conducted on the proposed FY23 budget as required by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights passed by the Georgia General Assembly in 1999.

Citizen input

The following citizens spoke in support of additional funding for the library.

1. Rebecca Ballard
2. Valerie Bell
3. John Jefferson
4. Lindsay Josey
5. Janet Smillie
6. Sean Hribal
7. Nike' Shimobi-Obijuru
8. Jamie Mendenhall-Turner
9. L. Elizabeth Hood
10. Charlene Brickman, Phd
11. Jane Russell
12. Erika Massie
13. Heather Stangle
14. Theresa Cullen

The following citizens spoke regarding other budget-related items.

15. Teresa Friedlander – supported complete streets and Vision Zero position
16. Sam Rafal – supported funding for EMT training for firefighters
17. Essie Bell – reduce taxes
18. Danielle Bonanno – supported homeless/emergency housing
19. Allen Jones – supported millage rate reduction
20. Patrick Sheridan –supported reduction in sales tax
21. Cameron Harrelson – supported additional funding for police
22. Susan Monteverde - supported millage rate reduction
23. Benita Davenport – supported funding for Juneteenth and Leisure Services master plan

A public hearing was conducted to receive general comments on the proposed FY23 budget.

Citizen input

There was none.

New business – consider under suspension of Rules

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Link, to

- a) Accept the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) Grant, administered by State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), in the amount of \$750,000 to fund 8.8% of the Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement Project value as per Attachment #1 of agenda report dated April 27, 2022;
- b) Adopt the following ordinance (#22-05-44) which was presented by title only amending the TSPLOST 2018 Project 10 Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement Budget to provide grant funding for the construction of TSPLOST 2018 Project 10 Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement (Attachment #2); and,
- c) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to sign the GTIB Grant Agreement (Attachment #3) and all related documents.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX 2018 PROGRAM BUDGET SO AS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING, IF AWARDED, FROM THE STATE ROAD AND TOLLWAY AUTHORITY (SRTA) FOR PROJECT #08 TALLASSEE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT; 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 TSPLOST 2018 Capital Projects Fund to provide grant funding, if awarded, from the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) for the TSPLOST 2018 Project #08 Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement Project. Said Operating and Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

TSPLOST 2018 Capital Projects Fund:

REVENUES:
INCREASE:

Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) Grant	\$750,000
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EXPENDITURES:

INCREASE:

Project #08 Tallassee Road Bridge Replacement Project	\$750,000
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SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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

- a) Award ACCGov ARPA State and Local Recovery Funds (SLRF) funds to the Athens Housing Authority as per agenda report revised May 17, 2022 in the amount of \$3,466,666 for the North Athens Downtown Redevelopment Project from the following sources:
 - Up to \$1,733,333 of ARPA SLRF from the "Affordable Housing" allocation;
 - Up to \$1,733,333 of ARPA SLRF from the "Contingency" allocation;
- b) Direct the Attorney to develop the required subrecipient agreement for the above ARPA funding award for future M&C ratification;
- c) Approve an additional allocation of SPLOST 2020 Project #2 Affordable Housing Project fund for the North Downtown Athens Redevelopment Project in the amount of \$1,733,334;
- d) Direct the Attorney to develop the subsequent intergovernmental agreement for the above SPLOST 2020 Project #2 funding for future M&C ratification; and

- e) Authorize the Mayor, Manager, and appropriate staff to execute all necessary project-related documents.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Houle, to enter into executive session for an attorney/client conference to discuss a document that is not releasable under the Georgia Open Records Act as is authorized by O.C.,G.A. §50-14-3(b)(4). The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Myers, to pause this special meeting until after adjournment of the agenda setting session which immediately follows. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Mayor and Commission entered into executive session at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 9:30 p.m. for the purpose of adjournment.

No discussion was held. No votes were taken.

Mayor Girtz announced a tentative special called session Thursday, May 19, 2022, 5:00 p.m. for an attorney/client conference to discuss a document that is not releasable under the Georgia Open Records Act as is authorized by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(4).

A motion was made by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Davenport, to adjourn. The motion passed with nine YES votes. Commissioner Thornton had exited the executive session at 9:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Clerk of Commission