

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia
Mayor and Commission
Tuesday, March 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia met this date in regular session. Present: Mayor Pro tem Sims; Commissioners Dickerson, Link, Wright, Bailey, NeSmith, Bell, Girtz, and Hamby. Absent: Mayor Denson and Commissioner Herod. Mayor Pro tem Sims presided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Girtz, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve Minutes of meeting of Tuesday, February 2, 2016. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Written communications

Entered into the record, was notification from Transportation and Public Works Director David Clark of acceptance of McClung Road in the 29 North Commercial Subdivision.

Recognitions

Mayor Pro tem Sims recognized Mr. Vince Dauro, Regional Program Manager – Southeast and Caribbean regions – Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Mr. Dauro announced the Sheriff's Office has received its second CALEA re-accreditation award. He presented the certificate to Sheriff Ira Edwards, Chief Deputy Jimps Cole, Chief Jailer Tommy York, Captain Elizabeth Robinson, Captain Tony Goings, Captain Hayden Hodges, and Sergeant Patricia Marks who is also the Accreditation Manager.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB) recently received three awards from the statewide Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation. Mayor Pro tem Sims recognized Executive Director Stacey Farrell who accepted the following awards.

1. 1st Place "Affiliate of the Year" Award

For the third time, KACCB has won statewide acclaim for providing programs and outreach services that positively affect the community and engage citizen volunteers. On an annual basis, KACCB administers 11 litter prevention programs, seven recycling programs/events, and 12 community beautification programs, all with two and a half staff members. KACCB has come to be the model program for affiliates across the country. Last year, KACCB held 67 outreach events, engaged 10,582 volunteers into action, and educated 6,626 students in 29 schools.

2. 1st Place "Community Improvement and Greening" Award

This award honors KACCB for their "*School Garden Network*" program. As part of its mission to serve and educate Athens citizens, KACCB works with schools to provide environmental education programs on litter prevention and beautification. Several years ago, KACCB identified a need for more gardening programs to meet the needs of students with limited access to outdoor time and healthy food options. KACCB and partners worked to create the "*School Garden Network*" to bring local farmers, businesses, and non-profit organizations, together to support and maintain usable school gardens and outdoor teaching spaces to the schools in ACC.

3. 2nd Place "Litter Prevention" Award

This award highlights KACCB for their creative public education campaigns. With a little humor, and a positive underlying message, KACCB created the "Littervention - Your Dirty Secret is Out. - Get Clean for Athens." public education campaign. The message was meant to be a conversation starter for citizens and students to educate family and friends about undesirable littering behaviors. KACCB then partnered with the UGA Office of Sustainability to widen the scope and bring "Littervention" to the UGA campus.

Mayor Pro tem Sims recognized Solid Waste Superintendent Andrew Bielecki who accepted the following award on behalf of the department.

The 2015 Solid Waste Association of North America, Georgia Chapter, award for "Collection Systems Excellence" was presented to the Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department, Collections Division at their annual Fall Conference in November of 2015. The award is given to a selected public or private collection program that demonstrates a high level of proficiency, safety and professionalism by means of new technologies, efficient routing, creative marketing and by employing a team of dedicated staff with a commitment to providing their customers with the highest level of customer service. This award was given to the Solid Waste Department, Collection Division for the conversion to automated trucks encompassing planning, marketing, efficiencies and economies gained by the conversion.

Mayor Pro tem Sims stated the Athens Transit System received the Georgia Transit Association's Innovation Award at the 2015 Conference. The Georgia Transit Association is an association comprised of 14 urban transit agencies and 114 rural transit agencies, leaders in the transportation industry, as well as vendors who produce products which support Georgia's transportation agencies. Athens Transit System competed against the other transit systems and was selected for the Innovation award for its work in the marketing and deployment of its Sunday service. As a Department of the Unified Government of the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, Athens Transit System's mission is to exhibit excellence in all aspects of the transportation services provided to the Citizens of Athens-Clarke County. Athens Transit is at all times seeking ways to improve the transportation services offered to our Citizens, as well as methods to implement new transportation services. On August 16th, 2015, Athens Transit launched its Sunday bus service. This is the first time in the thirty-nine year history of Athens Transit is offering bus service on Sunday.

The award was accepted by Route Supervisors Victor Pope, El Harris, and Lillian Hemphill.

Executive Director Rick Parker of the Housing Authority of the City of Athens presented a check in the amount of \$116,699.73 for the annual PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). He expressed appreciation to Athens-Clarke County for supporting affordable housing.

Old business – Consent

Items under this section were discussed at prior public meetings and were presented for consideration as a single item. Only one vote was taken.

Citizen input

There was no citizen input.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Dickerson, to consent to action on the following six items. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

1. ADOPT: The following resolution authorizing the amended application for and acceptance of both the federal PL contract and proposed unfunded project grant amounts associated with the annual Metropolitan Transportation Planning Grant for FY 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017), if awarded, as per agenda report dated February 8, 2016; and authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute the resulting contracts between the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

Resolution authorizing the execution of contracts between the Department of Transportation, United States of America, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Unified

Government of Athens-Clarke County for the FY 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)
Planning (PL) Contract.

WHEREAS, the Federal Government requires that Urbanized Areas such as Athens have a formal planning process as it relates to the planning of transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government will not authorize the expenditure of funds for said transportation projects unless they come out of this formal transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the formal transportation planning process is organized around what is commonly known as the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS);

WHEREAS, the staff of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Planning Department provides support for MACORTS planning efforts;

WHEREAS, the Federal Government will provide up to an estimated amount of \$480,000 of the funding for the transportation planning (PL) contract expenses incurred by the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County subject to a 20% local match of the funded amount (estimated to be approximately \$120,000);

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

That the Mayor and appropriate staff are authorized to apply for a grant, accept such grant if awarded, and execute associated contracts with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the FY 2017 Transportation Planning (PL) Contract Funds.

2. APPROVE: An exception to Policy/Procedure Statement WS-011: Water and/or Sanitary Sewer Services to allow public sanitary sewer service to be provided to 225 Beech Creek Road, subject to the property owner meeting the following conditions: Submittal of properly executed utility easement conveyances in a form acceptable to the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Attorney and Chief Plumbing Inspector; and payment of the appropriate fees as identified under Facts and Issues No. 7 per agenda report dated January 27, 2016 for the property.

3. APPROVE: Establishment of neighborhood notification initiative boundaries for the Pulaski Heights Neighborhood as identified in agenda report dated December 18, 2015.

4. APPROVE: The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) program contract with the Clarke County School District for the 2016-2017 school year per Attachment #1 of agenda report dated January 4, 2016; and authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute the contract and all related documents.

5. APPROVE: Staff to commit HOME funds in the amount of \$310,000 for use by the Athens Land Trust for the development of affordable housing as per agenda report dated February 2, 2016; and authorize the Mayor and staff to execute contracts and all required documents with the Athens Land Trust for the use of HOME funds.

6. APPROVE: Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) staff to submit the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals grant application in the amount of \$800,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as per agenda report dated February 5, 2016; authorize acceptance of the grant, if awarded; authorize

appropriate amendments to the HCD budget based upon the amount of the actual grant award; and authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute the SAMHSA grant agreements and all related documents.

Old and new business – Discussion

Citizen input

The following citizen input was received.

1. Tyler Dewey, 149 Tracy Street, Bike Athens – supported bike master plan update.
2. Tony Eubanks, 785 North Pope Street – supported Dougherty Street changes and pedestrian safety.
3. Elliott Caldwell, 470 Pine Needle Road, Georgia Bike – supported Dougherty Street changes.
4. Tim Denson, 290 Midway Road – supported Dougherty Street changes and living wage.
5. Abigail West, 299 Boulevard - supported plastic bag fee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Link, seconded by Commissioner Girtz, to approve Government Operations Committee recommendation for staff to return to the committee recommended changes to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) threshold requirements and potential impacts with the intent of expanding traffic calming in more neighborhoods in Athens-Clarke County as per report of January 25, 2016. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Hamby, to designate the 200, 300 and 400 blocks of Dearing Street between South Milledge Avenue and South Pope Street as an on-street parking permit controlled street under the Residential Parking Permit Program as shown in Attachment #1 of agenda report dated February 4, 2016; and; and adopt the following ordinance (#16-03-12) which was presented by title only. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AN ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO ESTABLISHING THE DEARING STREET RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISTRICT BETWEEN SOUTH MILLEDGE AVENUE AND POPE STREET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-3-48 of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia entitled, "Privileges and restrictions on residential parking permits," the following Dearing Street Residential Parking District is hereby established:

"The Dearing Street Residential Parking District is that residential area that includes that portion of the north and south sides of Dearing Street from its intersection with South Milledge Avenue to its intersection with South Pope Street, as more fully delineated on the drawing attached hereto, labeled Attachment 1, entitled "Residential Parking Permit Program," and incorporated herein by reference."

Said Dearing Street Residential Parking District shall be subject to the privileges and restrictions concerning parking set forth in Section 3-3-48 of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Hamby, to approve Mayor and Commission FY17 Budget Goals and Strategies as per agenda report revised February 12, 2016. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Girtz, seconded by Commissioner NeSmith, to approve recommendation of the Legislative Review Committee dated January 27, 2016 that the Mayor and Commission take no action on amending Code Section 9-5-5 – Subdivision of a single lot in the AR (Agricultural Residential) District. The committee requests future consideration of the establishment of a zoning district less than 10 acres in size, but greater than 40,000 square feet, be reviewed as part of the comprehensive planning process. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Girtz, seconded by Commissioner NeSmith, with regard to the restriping of East and West Dougherty Street between Pulaski Street and Thomas Streets:

- a. Approve: Proposed installation of two sets of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs);
- b. Approve: Restriping of East and West Dougherty Street between Pulaski Street and Thomas Street as illustrated in Attachments #1a and 1b of agenda report dated February 4, 2016 with the exception of the area directly in front of the Athens Welcome Center. The striping for that area will be completed as illustrated in Attachment #2 dated March 1, 2016 to preserve the loading/unloading area for buses and motor coaches whose passengers are visiting the Athens Welcome Center;
- c. Approve: Relocation of the bus stop east of Jackson Street to the bus pull off area immediately west of Jackson Street;
- d. Approve: Creation of metered, on-street parking spaces along the north and south sides of East and West Dougherty Street as shown in Attachments #1a and 1b of said agenda report; the use of Downtown Enhancement Program capital funds for the purchase and installation of 72 parking meters along this street; and
- e. Adopt: The following ordinance (#16-03-13) which was presented by title only.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA WITH RESPECT TO ESTABLISHING A PARKING METER ZONE ON DOUGHERTY STREET BETWEEN PULASKI STREET AND THOMAS STREET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 3-3-50 of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, a parking meter zone encompassing 72 on-street parallel parking spaces is hereby established on both sides of Dougherty Street between its intersection with Pulaski Street and its intersection with Thomas Street, as further shown on Attachments 1a, 1b and 2, incorporated herein by reference.

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

New business – Consider under suspension of rules

There was no new business.

Public hearing and deliberation on a recommendation from the Athens-Clarke County Planning Commission.

A public hearing was held on text amendments to Chapters 9-2 and 9-15 reference accessory buildings and structures.

Planning Commission recommendation: Approve w/revision (unanimous)

Citizen input

There was no citizen input.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Link, to DENY the proposed amendments and return this item to the Planning Commission. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Citizen input on items other than those listed on this agenda

The following citizen input was received.

1. Tikica Platt, 117 East Surry Court, and Cheylon Bradford, 307 Jasmine Trail – presented a request to rename Flint Street to Jennie L. Mattox Street.
2. Gloria Moses, 185 Minor Street - Hancock Corridor community needs more police patrol and streetlights.
3. Linda Cunningham, 9 Broadacres – concerned about Hancock Corridor, Broadacres, and Parkview Homes.
4. Gwen O’Looney, 626 Cobb Street – supported renaming of Flint Street.
5. Alvin Sheats, Hancock Community Development Corporation – dissatisfied with recently approved lease agreement.
6. Tim Denson, 290 Midway Road – supported formation of a human relations commission.
7. Rouhollah Aghaseleh, 108 College Station Road – supported human relations commission.
8. Walter Swanson, 200 Springtree Road - supported human relations commission.
9. Jasmine Johnson, 272 Commerce Road – supported human relations commission.
10. Adam Veale, 173 Magnolia Bluff Drive - supported human relations commission.
11. Ken Dious – 1170 Timothy Road – supported human relations commission and review of Hancock Community Development Corporation lease agreement.
12. John Clarke, Elbert County – supported human relations commission.
13. Linda Lloyd, 205 Ambler Road – supported human relations commission.

FROM MAYOR PRO TEM SIMS:

1. Encouraged everyone to participate in the Athens Transit System feasibility study.

FROM ACTING MANGER WILLIAMS:

1. A report of contract awards in excess of \$10,000 for December 2015 and January 2016 was entered into the record.
2. A report of a budget amendment for the District Attorney’s office was entered into the record.

FROM COMMISSIONER DICKERSON:

1. Stated she and Commissioner Bell recently represented Athens-Clarke County at the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing.
2. Stated senior citizens should consider participation in the Athens Community Council on Aging Senior Leadership Academy.

FROM COMMISSIONER GIRTZ:

1. Stated work is progressing on development of an anti-discrimination ordinance.

FROM COMMISSIONER LINK:

1. Supported formation of a human relations commission.
2. Stated a Hancock Corridor/West Broad Street study jointly sponsored by the Athens Land Trust, Athens Housing Authority, Clarke County School District, and Athens-Clarke County is underway.
3. Stated she plans to attend a Hancock Corridor Development Committee board meeting.

FROM COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:

1. Stated March 7 is the deadline for participation in the Athens Transit feasibility survey.
2. Requested petition to rename Flint Street be forwarded to the Planning Department for processing.
3. Expressed condolences to family of Mr. John Edwards, consultant on the Five Points parking study, who passed away about 12 days ago.

FROM COMMISSIONER NESMITH:

1. Stated he recently attended a meeting of the University of Georgia Student Government Association and concerns were expressed regarding lighting around Martin Luther King Parkway and human relations issues.

FROM COMMISSIONER HAMBY:

1. Commended Tax Commissioner Mitch Schrader for a great job.
2. Requested petition to rename Flint Street be forwarded to the Planning Department for processing.

FROM COMMISSIONER BELL:

1. Expressed appreciation to management for assistance with setting of goals and strategies.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner NeSmith, to enter into executive session for an attorney/client conference to discuss threatened litigation. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.