



Agenda
City of Clarkesville
Regular Meeting
6:00 PM February 3, 2025

1. *Call to Order*
2. *Invocation and Pledge*
 - 2a. *Reverend Michelle Fritch With Grace Calvary Episcopal Church Will Lead the Meeting in Prayer*
3. *Consent Agenda*
 - 3a. *Discuss and Vote to Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:*

January 6, 2025 Work Session
January 6, 2025 Council Meeting
January 22, 2025 Called Meeting
4. *Committee Reports*
 - 4a. *Finance, Main Street, Fire, ESG, Police, Planning and Zoning*
5. *Unfinished Business*
 - 5a. *Discuss City Charter Change Regarding Millage Rate*
6. *New Business*
 - 6a. *Discuss and Vote to Approve Hush Clarkesville, LLC to Sell Beer, Wine and Liquor for Consumption at 1456 Washington Street*
 - 6b. *Update on Hardman Water Tank Maintenance*
 - 6c. *Public Hearing for Georgia House Bill 581 Opt Out*
7. *Public Comment*
8. *Consider Going Into Executive Session*
9. *Adjournment*

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION

January 6, 2025
Minutes
City of Clarkesville
Council Work Session

The Council Work Session was held on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 5:00 PM at City Hall. Those present were Council Member Don Nix, Council Member Rick Wood, Council Member Angelia Kiker, Council Member Brad Coppedge, Council Member Franklin Brown, Mayor Barrie Aycock.

Agenda Item #1: *Call to Order*

Mayor Aycock called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2: *Unfinished Business*

Sub-Item #2a.: *Keith Dickerson Will Provide Updates on ARPA, Mary Street Bathrooms and the Waterline Extension Project*

Mr. Dickerson arranged to prepay for the new public safety radio system and all ARPA funds have been fully expended. These funds were originally planned for utility relocations for the round about, however that expenditure will now come from SPLOST VII.

The water line extension is in process and many new taps have been purchased. Mr. Dickerson has received requests to extend the line further, however he does not believe that is feasible at this time.

Mary Street bathrooms are currently being constructed. Foundation is poured and framing will begin in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Dickerson also provided an update of the Fire Station. A tree fell on the station during a down burst, causing major damage. The insurance company is covering the repairs, which have begun. A trailer will be brought in for temporary sleeping arrangements.

Sub-Item #2b.: *Discuss the Old Courthouse Property*

Mayor and Council discussed and publicly expressed their thoughts regarding the Courthouse property. Mrs. Kiker would like the City to make a public offer at the next County Commissioners meeting to purchase the property. Others would like to wait and give new Commissioners the opportunity to vote to tear the building down. Mr. Coppedge suggested having a one on one conversation with each Commissioner to determine where they stand and, if the City did make another purchase offer, if they would accept it.

Council Member Angelia Kiker made a motion to vote to submit a letter of intent to the County Commissioners by Monday, January 13, 2025, to purchase the old courthouse property for \$250,000.00 plus the lowest bid the County received for demolition.

Seconded: Council Member Franklin Brown

Passed (3 - 2)

Sub-Item #2c.: *Discuss House Bill 581*

Mr. Dickerson would like to work with Habersham County, and all municipalities within the County, to hold a public meeting. Each municipality would need to have a quorum and vote or commit to opt into HB 581, which requires a floating homestead exemption each year for property taxes. If all municipalities opt in, residents of the County will have the opportunity to vote on FLOST, a 1 percent sales tax that goes back to local governments to directly lower

property taxes. If one municipality opts out of HB 581, the County becomes ineligible for FLOST, making it non-beneficial to opt in. Mayor and Council agreed to the public meeting.

Agenda Item #3: New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item #4: Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

Agenda Item #5: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #6: Consider Going Into Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Agenda Item #7: Adjournment

Council Member Rick Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Council Member Brad Coppedge

Passed (5 - 0)

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Poole, City Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

January 6, 2025
Minutes
City of Clarkesville
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting was held on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM at City Hall. Those present were Council Member Don Nix, Council Member Rick Wood, Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin Brown, Council Member Angelia Kiker, Council Member Brad Coppedge, Mayor Barrie Aycock.

Agenda Item #1: *Call to Order*

Mayor Aycock called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2: *Invocation and Pledge*

Mayor Aycock led the meeting in prayer.

Agenda Item #3: *Consent Agenda*

Sub-Item #3a.: *Discuss and Consider Approval of the Following Minutes*

December 3, 2024 Called Meeting

December 9, 2024 Work Session, Council Meeting and Executive Session

Council Member Brad Coppedge made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded: Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin

Passed (5 - 0)

Brown

Agenda Item #4: *Committee Reports*

Sub-Item #4a.: *Finance, MainStreet, Fire, ESG, Police and Planning and Zoning Will Present Monthly Reports*

Department heads presented their monthly reports.

Agenda Item #5: *Unfinished Business*

There was no unfinished business.

Agenda Item #6: *New Business*

Sub-Item #6a.: *Discuss and Vote to Approve Appointment of the Following Positions for 2025:*

City Manager Keith Dickerson

City Clerk Julie Poole

City Attorney Firm Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C.

City Judge Robert A. Sneed

Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin Brown made a motion to approve the 2025 appointments.

Seconded: Council Member Rick Wood

Passed (5 - 0)

Sub-Item #6b.: *Discuss and Elect Mayor Pro Tempore for 2025*

Council Member Rick Wood made a motion to vote to elect Franklin Brown as Mayor Pro Tempore for 2025.

Seconded: Council Member Brad Coppedge

Passed (4 - 0)

Sub-Item #6c.: Discuss and Vote to Set Qualifying Fees of \$18.00 (Eighteen Dollars) for the Regular Election Held on November 4, 2025 for Mayor and Council Member Posts 1, 4 and 5
Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin Brown made a motion to vote to set qualifying fees of \$18.00.

Seconded: Council Member Angelia Kiker

Passed (5 - 0)

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #8: Consider Going Into Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Agenda Item #9: Adjournment

Council Member Brad Coppedge made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin Brown

Passed (5 - 0)

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Poole, City Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COUNCIL CALLED MEETING

January 22, 2025
Minutes
City of Clarkesville
Council Called Meeting

The Council Called Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 5:30 PM at Cornelia Community House. Those present were Council Member Don Nix, Council Member Brad Coppedge, Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin Brown, Mayor Barrie Aycock. Council Member Rick Wood, Council Member Angelia Kiker were absent.

Agenda Item #1: *Call to Order*

Mayor Aycock called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2: *Discuss House Bill 581, Property Tax Reform, and Consider Adoption of Resolution 2025-1 Showing Intent to Opt In*

Phil Sutton presented information on HB 581. All municipalities present had open discussion. Council Member Brad Coppedge made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-1, showing intent to Opt In to HB 581.

Seconded: Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin Brown

Passed (3 - 0)

Agenda Item #3: *Adjournment*

Mayor Pro - Tempore Franklin Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Council Member Brad Coppedge

Passed (3 - 0)

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Poole, City Clerk

City of Clarkesville
(UNAUDITED)

Financial Report - As of December 31, 2024					2023
	Budget	Actual	Difference	%Budget	Actual
General Fund					
Administrative Revenue	2,726,726	2,866,831	140,105	105%	2,361,972
Main Street	18,500	19,539	1,039	106%	20,197
Fire Revenue	24,000	14,370	(9,630)	60%	19,775
Planning Revenue	28,000	24,432	(3,568)	87%	39,806
Police Revenue	94,000	82,392	(11,608)	88%	104,280
Streets Revenue	29,226	40,423	11,197	138%	61,148
Hotel/Motel	3,500	3,199	(301)	91%	3,196
ARPA	0	0	0	0%	0
Total General Fund Revenues	2,923,952	3,051,186	127,234	104%	2,610,374
Expenses					
Administration	1,118,034	1,075,948	(42,086)	96%	976,794
Main Street	185,922	205,651	19,729	111%	188,176
Fire	516,801	439,283	(77,518)	85%	383,112
Parks	10,300	100,964	90,664	980%	55,543
Planning & Zoning	91,901	84,474	(7,427)	92%	82,295
Police	828,184	831,150	2,966	100%	840,647
Streets	175,311	260,840	85,529	149%	182,475
Total General Fund Expenses	2,926,453	2,998,310	71,857	102%	2,709,042
General Fund Revenues over Expenses	0	52,876	199,091		(98,668)
Water/Sewer Fund					
Water Revenues	1,399,292	1,661,748	262,456	119%	1,440,657
Sewer Revenues	565,500	671,180	105,680	119%	562,300
Sanitation Revenues	206,000	208,397	2,397	101%	200,540
Total Water/Sanitation/Sewer Revenues	2,170,792	2,541,325	370,533	117%	2,203,497
Administration Expense	1,449,153	1,284,408	164,745	89%	1,368,941
Water Plant Expense	351,200	361,788	(10,588)	103%	406,476
Water Distribution Expense	34,839	198,561	(163,722)	570%	41,140
Waste Water Plant Expense	82,000	89,929	(7,929)	110%	103,789
Waste Water Collection	47,600	50,038	(2,438)	105%	63,712
Sanitation	206,000	200,559	5,441	97%	223,853
Total Water/Sanitation/Sewer Expenses	2,170,792	2,185,283	(14,491)	101%	2,207,911
W/S/S Revenues over Expenses	0	356,042	356,042		(4,414)
Total City Fund Revenues over Expenses	0	408,918	555,133		(103,082)

Fire Department Council Report February 2025

Total 119

Fires 4

EMS 67

MVA 4

Hazardous Condition 4

Service 13

Canceled/False 27

City 62

County 54

Demorest 3

ESG Operations Inc.

City Hall Meeting 2-3-2025

- Plant of the Year preparation and inspection
- Sanitary Survey preparation and inspection
- Mary Street update
- Water Main extension

Clarkesville Police Department Monthly Report

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council.

January, 2025 Police Department Activity (Basic Open Records Version)
(Redacted Incidents Not Included.)

462 Total dispatched calls for service

12 Motor vehicle accidents
20 Domestic cases
10 Medical assists
3 Fire Department assists
1 Theft cases
5 Suspicious Person calls
11 Suspicious Vehicle calls
1 Road Hazard
2 Juvenile related calls (unruly/runaway/etc.)
0 Burglary
16 Alarm calls (residential/commercial)
8 Welfare checks
2 Motorist assists
0 Animal complaint
120 Extra patrols requested
44 Home or business checks

The following list is an overview but not all of what we have been working on the past month

- We did have a few extra personnel on duty for the inclement weather. Thankfully the city did not have much damage unlike the earlier wind event in December.
- We would like to publicly Thank Wolf Creek BBQ and its staff for providing free hot meals for all personnel working during the winter weather.
- Officer Gibson has received his advanced instructor certification through Truett McConnell College and will be assigned as full-time training officer bringing us one step closer to obtaining our "Excellence in Police Services" certification for the department.
- We have recently welcomed Officer William Simmons to the force, making us fully staffed!!!
- We have ordered a handheld LIDAR (laser speed detection device). This will allow us to enforce traffic safety within the congested areas and especially the school zones.
- An order has been placed with Aiken Ford for the new patrol vehicle

Clarkesville Police Department Monthly Report

- The transfer of our rifles from the federal surplus has been completed and registration with ATF has been done.
- I have been told that the new server has arrived for future reporting system install.
- I have attached the list of mutual aid requests from other agencies. Note that calls designated as ZONE are Habersham County Sheriff Department zone requests.

As always if you have questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Cloutier".

Chief of Police

Create Date.Calendar	January 2025
Canceled	All
ORI	GA0680200

Row Labels	Call Count
Baldwin PD	
Assist - Officer/Responder	1
Ordinance Violations	1
Cornelia PD	
TS	1
Unlock	1
Demorest PD	
Action	1
Alarm - Panic or Hold Up	1
Bomb Threat	1
Escort	2
Medical - Patient Eval	1
Suspicious Vehicle	1
TS	2
Mt Airy PD	
Admin	1
Flagged Down	1
Zone 1	
Alarm - Commercial	3
Bolo	1
Dispute	2
Extra Patrol	8
Follow Up Investigation	1
Loud Music/Noise Complaint	1
Suspicious Person	1
TS	8
Welfare Check	1
Zone 2	
Accident - No Injuries	1
Accident - W/Injuries	1
Bolo	3
Domestic - Physical	2
Follow Up Investigation	1
Medical - Hemorrhage	1
Premises Check	1
Runaway Juvenile	1
Suspicious Person	1
TS	4
Warrant	1
Zone 3	
Welfare Check	1
Grand Total	59

Departmental Activity Report for the Month of January

The following permits were issued for the month of January:

1 Permanent Sign

1 Temporary Sign

0 Plan Review

3 Building

4 Plumbing

4 Electrical

3 Mechanical

0 Tree Removal

0 Code Enforcement Actions

2 Construction inspections

COs Issued: None

Planning Activities: The Planning Commission will be considering a sign variance for the new Traditions Bank at their February meeting. Speaking of which, the bank is on track to be completed hopefully in March.