



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor  
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner  
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner  
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Member Absent: Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager  
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager  
Ellen Powell, Communications Manager  
Gina Hill, City Clerk  
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney  
Marcel Jackson, Public Works Dir.  
Lori Leland, Permitting Coordinator  
Marcella Shaw, Court Clerk  
Helen Menefee, Admin. Coordinator  
Harry Hess, Police Chief

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda  
Commissioner Shortell moved to adopt. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **Clarendon Avenue July 4<sup>th</sup> Street Painting**  
Mayor Elmore took an informal poll of the people in the audience – who is in favor of the street painting and who is against it. He explained that Commissioners Laratte and Fisher support the tradition while Commissioners Shortell and Merriam oppose it. Mr. Elmore said the issue for him is that the practice has gotten out of control. He proposed using only chalk paint and stencils as well as having the painting supervised by members of the BOMC. Ms. Merriam preferred sidewalk chalk because spray chalk looks no different than cans of spray paint. She thinks flags or banners placed along the road would be a better tradition. Ms. Shortell said she's leaning towards the Mayor's proposal but has concerns and reservations that permanent painting will happen again. Mr. Laratte urged a compromise. He supported residents putting together events like this one. It's a unique Avondale tradition and wants it to stay. Mr. Laratte added what the organizers told him about the measures they

offer to take to make the painting more palatable, including using spray chalk and stencils. City Manager Bryant listed the options for removing spray paint if it is used on the new pavement. Ms. Shortell also noted that if this is a true community event then all should be invited. Mr. Laratte wanted to clarify that a flag painted on the ground is not a flag in the true sense. There was consensus to try the Mayor's plan. Ms. Merriam thanked everyone who sent emails.

Item #4

#### **Sanitation Services Update**

The level of services balanced with budgetary needs has been discussed in several previous work sessions, with options outlined in a presentation given by the city manager at the April 26<sup>th</sup> work session.

City Manager Bryant described a recent meeting with county officials about the fee for using the county's landfill. The officials agreed not to raise the fee this year. But they will be raised in the future, hopefully using a phased approach. Commissioner Merriam asked that staff add dates and links to previous meetings where this has been discussed to the online presentation that Mr. Bryant gave at the end of April.

Item #5

#### **Historic Preservation Commission Opening**

City Manager Bryant said there was an opening and one applicant who was in attendance and available to interview should the board wish. The group discussed the option of advertising the opening for a longer period of time. That was Commissioner Merriam's preference. There was talk of delaying an interview since the Mayor Pro Tem was absent. The consensus was to leave advertising open and interview the sole applicant at the next meeting.

Item #6

#### **Land Disturbance Process Review and Discussion**

The land disturbance regulations need to be updated to clarify the code and address flooding on neighboring properties and the city's infrastructure that results from new construction.

Assistant City Manager Powell explained the issues with the current system. The group discussed what is considered land disturbance. City Attorney Quinn weighed in that city ordinances are not clear. There was talk about stormwater issues, a driving factor in adjusting this process. Other points were brought up as discussion continued. The city attorney will draft an ordinance to bring before the BOMC.

Item #7

#### **Dekalb County Lease of City Hall for November Election**

Approval for the county to use city hall as a polling location requires action by the BOMC.

City Manager Bryant gave a brief explanation about this action. This will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Item #8

Public Comment

Lyda Steadman listed issues she had with the recent changes proposed for the sanitation program. The resident who initially brought up the street painting issue years ago felt the organizers of the street painting cannot be trusted. He felt there needed to be consequences to defying the BOMC's wishes. Mayor Elmore felt the event should take place the Sunday before the fourth this year at about 8:00am. Bill Hover suggested moving the painting to a different area but was told it was done to line the parade route so that was not an option. Mel Hatfield described his experience with the painting as a resident of Clarendon Avenue. He applauded the BOMC for trying to get this under control. He also complimented the new pickleball courts.

- Item #9      Executive Session – Real Estate  
Commissioner Shortell moved to enter executive session. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.  
Commissioner Laratte moved to exit executive session. Commissioner Merriam seconded. All ayes.
- Item #10     Adjournment  
Commissioner Shortell motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

APPROVED JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



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Gina Hill, City Clerk

