

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia  
Mayor and Commission  
Special Called Session  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024  
6:00 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, Link, Taylor, Wright, Houle, Culpepper, Myers, and Hamby. Commissioners Fisher and Thornton were absent.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider scope of service and contract awards for Business Development and Workforce Support Funding Plan; resolution designating facilities for court business; and any other item in proper order.

Mayor Girtz read Georgia Reads Day proclamation.

#### Public input

There was none.

#### Old Business – Discussion

A motion was made by Commissioner Myers, seconded by Commissioner Wright, to approve with the removal of funding for OneBreath CNA for \$75,000; and

Accept staff recommendations regarding ARPA funding for agencies that submitted proposals in response to the Business Development & Workforce Support Commission Defined Option, as outlined in Attachment #1 as per agenda report revised September 13, 2024:

a. Contingent upon the agencies providing accepted proof of required insurance, and other required documents for ARPA contracting purposes (e.g., ARPA Risk Assessment, ARPA Equity Assessment, etc.); and

b. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to develop and execute the necessary documentation to affect the transfer of the allocation to the partnering agencies.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### New Business – Consider under suspension of Rules

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to suspend Rules of Commission for consideration of one item of new business. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

a. Approve and pass a resolution designating the Classic Center and the United States District Courthouse, located in Athens, Georgia, and the Oconee County Courthouse, located in Watkinsville, Georgia alternative venues for court business under O.C.G.A 15-6-18 (Attachment #1) as per agenda report dated September 11, 2024; and

b. Authorize the Court Administrator to pay from government funds such expenses as are incurred in connection with the use of said facilities of The Classic Center by the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County.

#### **RESOLUTION CONCERNING EXTRA COURTROOM SPACE FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Western Judicial Circuit is comprised of Athens-Clarke County and Oconee County, and;

WHEREAS, The Western Judicial Circuit has four Superior Court judges presiding in Athens Clarke and Oconee Counties; and

WHEREAS, there is only one functioning elevator in the Athens-Clarke County courthouse. The Sheriff's Office is unable escort the defendants safely to and from the courtroom, nor can the

deputies ensure that the inmates will not come into contact with members of the public, victims and jurors; and

WHEREAS, if the last functioning elevator in the Athens-Clarke County courthouse becomes non-functioning, a state of Judicial Emergency will exist, which will require expeditious relocation of all court operations not currently located on the first floor and accessible by the public in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Classic Center located at 300 North Thomas Street, Athens, Georgia; the United States District Courthouse, located at 115 East Hancock Avenue, Athens, Georgia; and the Oconee County Courthouse, located at 23 N Main Street, Watkinsville, Georgia are suitable places for holding trial;

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if necessary, the Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Western Judicial Circuit may arrange for proceedings of the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court to be held at said locations; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is adopted pursuant to Section 15-6-18 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Athens-Clarke County Court Administrator is hereby authorized to pay from government funds such expenses as are incurred in connection with the use of said facilities of The Classic Center by the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall terminate upon repair of the courthouse elevators.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Link, to adjourn the special called session. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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Deputy Clerk of Commission