



City of Clarksville

Neighborhood and Community Services Committee

July 8, 2024 at 4:30 PM
City Hall in the 4th Floor conference room

Please silence all cell phones.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Attendance**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. April 15, 2024
- 4. Department Report**
 - A. CNCS Department Report 24-07
- 5. Committee Action Required**
 - A. RESOLUTION 55-2023-24 A Resolution to support homeowners against squatters in Clarksville, Tennessee *Councilperson DaJuan Little*
- 6. New Business (none)**
- 7. Public Comment**

(allows 3 persons; 5 minutes each)
- 8. Adjournment**



NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 15, 2024

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Clarksville Neighborhood and Community Services Committee was called to order by Chairperson Shakeenab on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. in the Neighborhood and Community Services Conference Room, 1 Public Square, Suite 201, Clarksville, Tennessee

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Councilmembers Shakeenab, McLaughlin, and Streetman

ABSENT: Councilmembers Little and Marquis

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairperson Shakeenab entertained a motion and second to adopt the March 11, 2024 minutes. Councilperson Streetman made a motion. The motion was seconded by Councilperson McLaughlin. A voice vote was taken: the motion passed without objection.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director Michelle Austin, provided the following updates:

- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) – 27 families are currently in the program, there is one pending, and some are up for renewal. During the first year of enrollment in the program, the City pays 70% of the rent and the tenant pays 30%. In the second year of the program, it's 50/50. This is a 2-year program to help families by giving them some assistance so they can be on their own by the third year. Applications were briefly suspended to manage the existing load, however, it will re-open May 1, 2024.
- Michelle Austin was in Washington, D.C. to receive a National Award for Excellence for Administrative Innovation from National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). This award was for the partnership between CNCS and Common Ground Café program operated by Progressive Directions.
- Tornado Long-Term Recovery – The Mayor placed an all-call on April 9, 2024 (the 4-month anniversary of the December 9, 2023 tornado) to our citizens affected by the tornado. The call provided options for the citizens to select based on their need for assistance in areas for which they are continuing to try to navigate. City employees will be doing follow-up calls to get everyone who still needs assistance into the casework system.
- The department's Program Manager position has been filled.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding awarded to subrecipients Operation Stand Down Tennessee and Clarksville Area Urban Ministries. Next year the department plans to do more training workshops to prepare nonprofits for the applications process.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Chairperson Shakeenab entertained a motion to combine the regular monthly committee meeting (May 20, 2024) with the upcoming budget review committee meeting for CNCS (May 9, 2024) and to change the time from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Councilperson Streetman. The motion was seconded by Councilperson McLaughlin. A voice vote was taken: the motion passed without objection.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS *(five minutes each)*

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Shakeenab entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Streetman. The motion was seconded by Councilperson McLaughlin. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:51 p.m.



Council Report

July 2024

- The July meeting of the Community and Neighborhood Services Committee will be held on July 8, 2024 at 4:30 PM in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of City Hall
- The CNCS Department currently has:
 - 11 Home Rehab Projects in Various phases of development.
 - 2 Homes are under full reconstruction, scheduled to be completed July 9.
 - 6 Home Reconstructions in the pre-construction and underwriting phase.
- The CNCS team can be found all summer at Mayor's Summer Night Lights, National Night Out, Women's Expo and the Aug 3 Emancipation Day Event. The team will be sharing with residents the home rehabilitation and first-time home buyer programs. Both programs target our community's low to moderate-income residents in an effort to provide housing opportunities and protect our housing stock. Please encourage your constituents to visit the team at these events.
 - July 2, MSNL @ Byrns Darden, 5:30-7:30PM
 - July 9, MSNL @ Dixon Park, 5:30-7:30PM
 - July 16, MSNL @ Mason Rudolph, 5:30-7:30PM
 - July 23, MSNL @ Barbara Johnson Park, 5:30-7:30PM
 - July 30, MSNL @ Sherwood Forest Park, 5:30-7:30PM
 - Aug 3, Emancipation Day Event @ Dixon Park, 5-7PM
 - Aug 6, National Night Out @ APSU 5-7PM
 - Aug 24, Women's Expo @ The Emerald
- Follow Clarksville Neighborhood and Community Services on Facebook for more information on these topics and our other programs.

RESOLUTION 55-2023-24

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HOMEOWNERS AGAINST SQUATTERS IN CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

WHEREAS, the City of Clarksville recognizes the fundamental right of individuals to secure and peacefully enjoy their private property;

WHEREAS, squatting - the act of occupying vacant or unutilized land or buildings without the lawful permission of the owner - poses significant challenges to property owners, including but not limited to financial loss, property damage, and legal expenses;

WHEREAS, current state and local laws provide certain protections against unauthorized occupancy, but may lack the necessary enforcement mechanisms or clarity to offer timely and effective relief to property owners facing squatting issues;

WHEREAS, the process for removing squatters under existing laws can be lengthy and complicated, thereby exacerbating the challenges faced by property owners and diminishing the sense of security within our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Clarksville City Council that:

1. The City of Clarksville formally recognizes the need for stronger protections and more efficient legal processes for homeowners and property owners against squatters.
2. The City of Clarksville calls upon the Tennessee State Legislature to consider and adopt legislation that provides clear, expedient, and fair mechanisms for property owners to reclaim possession of their property from squatters, ensuring due process for all parties involved.
3. The City Council commits to engaging with local stakeholders, including homeowners, tenants, legal experts, and law enforcement agencies, to gather input and support for the proposed legal changes.
4. This resolution shall be communicated to the Governor of Tennessee, the Tennessee General Assembly, and other relevant state and local officials to express the City of Clarksville's support for legislative changes to protect homeowners against squatters.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 912 ROMAN STREET TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Community Development Block Grants help communities provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, expanded economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income; and

WHEREAS, Housing and Urban Development awards grants to entitlement community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development and providing improved community facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the City proposes to have the city donate the property located at 912 Roman Street (Map, Group and Parcel 055N-D-06900000055N) to the Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Tennessee, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, providing housing for low-income families is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Community Development Block Grant program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE:

That the Clarksville City Council hereby agrees to donate the property at 912 Roman Street to Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Tennessee, Inc.

Mayor

City Clerk

FIRST READING:
SECOND READING:
EFFECTIVE DATE: