



City of Clarksville
Restoring Clarksville Initiative 2025 Task Force

January 28, 2025 at 4:00 PM
City Hall 4th Floor Conference Room
1 Public Square
Clarksville, Tennessee

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Councilwoman Deanna McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2. Attendance

Michelle Austin - Director, Clarksville Neighborhood & Community Services
Ty Burdine - Deputy Chief, Clarksville Police Department
Justin Crosby - Director, Building & Codes Department
Sonny Emmert - Clarksville Street Department
Jason Gregory - Building & Codes Department
James Halford - Chief of Staff
Stephanie Jenkins - Deputy City Clerk
Kathrine Killebrew - City Forester
Kyleigh Koyama - APSU Emerging Leaders
Laurie Matta - City Chief Financial Officer
Deanna McLaughlin - Committee Chairman, City Councilman Ward 2
Freddie Montgomery - Chief Clarksville Fire Rescue
Valerie Ogle - Building & Codes Department
Michael Palmore - Director, Building Maintenance & Parking
Joe Pitts - City of Clarksville Mayor
Jimmy Settle - City Public Information Officer
John T. Spainhoward - Clarksville Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission
Adam Stover - President Mayor's Youth Council
Scott Thornton - Captain, Clarksville Police Department
Jeffrey Tyndall - Director, Clarksville Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission
Lauren Winters - City Grants Writer

3. Goals of the Task Force

- a. [Restoring Clarksville Initiative Task Force Overview](#) reviewed by Councilperson Deanna McLaughlin and Mayor Pitts.

4. Department Responses

- a. How can your department contribute to the mission?
- b. Suggestions on items that can be addressed quickly.

i. Building and Codes

- Present spreadsheet with details of long-standing residential dilapidated properties and abandoned
- Going forward create a priority based on the number of years that a property has been vacant.
- Will share the spreadsheet with Mayor Pitts, Deanna McLaughlin, Michelle Austin, Ty Burdine, Chief Montgomery, and Sonny Emmert for input on abandoned structures and properties that have active trespass notices

ii. Chief of Staff

- Check to see if all departments are following the same procedure when items are reported to See Click Fix, for example, a case isn't resolved until the issue has been worked on and fixed.
- Work with Jimmy Settle to "Relaunch" See Click Fix to the community

iii. City Forester

- Provide coaching services to residents on proper tree and shrub maintenance and trimming.
- Check into the possibility of connecting persons who sell firewood with property owners who need trees removed for safety reasons.

iv. Communications

- Keeping the public engaged through press releases through a multi-tiered approach (Who, What, When, Where, etc.)
- Ask Brian Taylor and Mark Riggins if messaging related to this effort could be published on their utility bills

v. Finance

- Create a special revenue fund for code enforcement
- Work with Michelle Austin & RPC on the creation of Land Bank
- Tax sale properties that could be used for true low-income housing built and maintained by entities other than the City of Clarksville (Concord Gardens for example)

vi. Fire Rescue

- Share details on the "Next Door" program with the Task Force

vii. Grants

- SAFE STREETS GRANT Awarded for 41A from Red River to Charlemagne (Five Years, \$10M)
- BRAG Grant
- TAPE Grant
- Continue to seek grants that can be applied to the RCI effort

viii. Mayor's Youth Council - Adam Stover

- I propose that the Mayor's Youth Council public health and safety pods could play a vital role in promoting the Restoring Clarksville Initiative Task Force.
- The public health pod could effectively engage with schools and community facilities to raise awareness about the initiative through their projects, while also having the opportunity to inform the community about the potential "Facebook Neighborhood Watch" initiative, should it move forward. Meanwhile, the public safety pod could focus on educating the community about the risks associated with abandoned or unsecured properties.
- Additionally, their involvement in cleanup efforts and restoration of properties could further enhance community engagement and contribute positively to our neighborhoods.

ix. Neighborhood and Community Services

- Already applied for an AARP Grant and a Lowes Grant
- Work with Finance and RPC on Land Bank
- Work with the Planning Commission on focused efforts in New Providence Neighborhoods.
- Engage non-profits to connect them with neighborhoods that want to hold cleanup and improvement days (invite the councilman for the area to help)
- Engage non-profits who have programs that offer home improvements, and low-income home-building programs.
- Create a list of volunteer organizations for future use
 - a. Jonason "Jay" Hawkins (contacted Mayor Pitts & Deanna on 2/1/25)
Store Manager
Store 498, Clarksville TN
Region 6, District 862
(931) 436-1053

x. Police Department

- Identify and report properties of concern
- Enforce street parking codes outside of the downtown area
- Connect with Michelle Austin on identified homeless persons that CPD comes in contact with so that she can locate potential resources
- Engage with TRUE neighborhood Facebook groups
- Work with the street department to remove old/dilapidated neighborhood watch signs.

xi. Street

- Sonny has identified (by GIS) properties that have not had CGW and CDE services for over a year, this will help identify abandoned properties.
- Work with Michelle Austin and Justin Crosby to expand the GIS report to encompass several topics that are part of RCI.

- Identify and repair streetlights that are out
- Identify and replace dilapidated street signs

xii. Deanna McLaughlin

- Suggest changes to the Building & Codes spreadsheet for input from other stakeholders.
- Meet with Buck Dellinger, EDC - 2/3/2025
- Meet with RPC, Michelle Austin, & Justin Crosby to discuss how other cities address long-term vacant structures - 2/5/2025
- Meet with Justin Crosby on revamp of the spreadsheet - 2/11/2025
- Draft ordinance to present to the Finance Committee and City Council that will set terms on how long a structure can remain vacant before action is taken
- Work with Deanna McLaughlin, Michael Palmore, and Eric Bittner to present a rewrite of the Parking Ordinance to the Finance Committee and City Council for approval.
- Get TDOT at the table for discussion on maintenance issues on their roads.

xiii. Mayor Pitts

- Look into creating part-time codes enforcement positions looking at retired city public safety officers to fill.

5. People Who Have Reached Out to Be Part of Our Efforts

- Lowes (Jonason "Jay" Hawkins)
- Valerie Guzman
- Mayor's Youth Council
- Montgomery County Preservation Coalition
- Carolyn Ferrell

6. Meeting Frequency Discussion

Councilperson Deanna McLaughlin proposed meeting once per month.

7. Committee Member Comments - N/A

8. Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

9. Public Comment

- Carol Ferrell
- Jennifer Rudolph
- Louisa Cook

10. Adjournment

Councilperson Deanna McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mayor Pitts. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 5:25 PM.