



City of Clarksville
Restoring Clarksville Initiative 2025 Task Force

September 23, 2025, at 4:00 PM
City Hall 4th Floor Conference Room
1 Public Square
Clarksville, Tennessee

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance

PRESENT:

Deanna McLaughlin - Committee Chairman, City Councilman, Ward 2
Justin Crosby - Director, Building & Codes Department
Jason Gregory - Building & Codes Department
Bob Kendrick - Building & Codes Department
Valerie Ogle - Building & Codes Department
Caleb Lane - President, Mayor's Youth Council
Matthew Armstrong, Legal Department
Sonny Emmert - Clarksville Street Department
Michael Palmore - Director, Building Maintenance & Parking
Michelle Austin - Director, Clarksville Neighborhood & Community Services
Mike Reed - Assistant Chief, Clarksville Fire Rescue
James Halford - Chief of Staff
Jesse Ramsey - TDOT
Lauren Winters, City Grants Director
Scott Thornton - Deputy Chief, Clarksville Police Department

ABSENT:

Jimmy Settle - Communications Director
Christen Wilcox, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Kathrine Killebrew, City Forester
Silas Matchem - Clarksville Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission
Kyleigh Koyama - APSU Emerging Leaders
Joe Pitts - City of Clarksville Mayor

3. Approval of Minutes

Councilperson Deana McLaughlin entertained a motion. Justin Crosby made a motion to adopt the August 26, 2025, meeting minutes as written; seconded by Michelle Austin. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Updates by Department

a. Chairman McLaughlin

- i. Overlay Updates – Tiny Town Road and Ft. Campbell Blvd. overlays passed first reading at the City Council meeting this month; the second reading will take place at the October meeting.
- ii. Speaking Engagement Updates – Will be speaking at the Clarksville Rotary in October regarding the RCI Task Force.
- iii. Legislation Updates
 1. Parking – Mayor Pitts is initiating more meetings.
 2. State Legislation Possibilities
 - a. Land Trust/Land Banks - Legislative Agenda Committee is working to develop resolutions for state legislature review; two of the items are related to RCI.
 - b. Enhanced Code Fines - Working on enhanced fines for Property Maintenance Code when staff are responding to the same address for the same violations repeatedly; currently tied to \$50 fine per day if adjudicated by a judge. We're asking for scaled, tiered fines and are working to adopt local language to facilitate that.

b. Building and Codes - Justin Crosby

- i. Signage Location Update – Searching out a location for the first sign placement.
- ii. Update on Cases Resolved (Stats) – *(Combined below)*
- iii. Update on Pending Cases (Stats) – In the month of August our Code Enforcement Division opened 385 new cases; Abatement worked 55 work orders.
- iv. Staffing Update - The City Council approved additional staff to be hired at the beginning of the year.

Michelle Austin – Does your department have a Facebook page?

Justin Crosby – No ma'am.

MA – I want a way to promote your information and SeeClickFix.

Deanna McLaughlin – When you say you're working on an assigned sign location, does that apply to an existing property or a new RCI property?

JC – I am hoping for something new but I am looking for somewhere visible.

DM – You spoke previously about moving someone over from the permit side to codes?

JC – Yes, we took a construction position and moved them to the code enforcement division to assist; we have a new hire who will start soon.

DM – A house fire was reported through SeeClickFix and, through such, they were able to witness the process, which is a big win.

c. Chief of Staff - Chief Halford

- i. SeeClickFix - We have a little more than a quarter of the data. It covers the Building & Codes, Street, Parks & Rec, and Building & Facility Maintenance departments. As we get more requests we are able to resolve them; some more quickly than others. We are comparing information to see if there is anything we can do to speed things up. We are taking a look at the locations as well. (To Bob Kendrick) How is the map coming?

Bob Kendrick – The map is coming along really well. We are making a few more additions but are about 90% done.

d. City Forester - Michael Palmore

- i. Updates - We are looking at next Spring to ensure we have one department to help clean up tree walls.

e. Communications -

- i. Update/Discussion on Monthly RCI Topics for Community Education -
DM - Jimmy Settle shared a living Google Doc with everyone pertaining to this Initiative in order to have each person include important data as it comes up.

f. Finance/Grants - Lauren Winters

- i. Update on Submitted Grant Applications – We are waiting for the contract to come back for Safe Streets for All.

DM – Have you seen any other grants that could apply to this initiative?

LW – Not yet; grant opportunities seem to have slid into a dry spell.

MA – Have you had any communication with the Economic Development Council regarding the New Providence area?

LW – No.

DM – I know Buck Dilinger is waiting on the 2nd reading of overlays before looking to do a focus on certain pockets of Ft. Campbell Blvd. He is looking to do an incentive in which businesses could use assistance.

MA – (to Sonny) Are there any roadways improvements scheduled for New Providence Blvd.?

Sonny Emmert – I have not seen anything.

LW – New Providence is not listed in the 10 Year Plan.

- ii. Funding Options for the New Providence Area – We are looking towards the FEMA rates schedule to draft amounts to be used for public assistance uniformed rates for Weed Bills that apply to personnel and equipment being used.
DM - Will you be capturing equipment depreciation?
LW - Correct.
- iii. Other - National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) currently shows less than 300 policy holders within the city limits with active policies. We are looking to make an education push for the third time.

g. Clarksville Fire Rescue - Captain Reed

- i. Update on the Wheel Shop -
BK – They are steadily working on it; we've seen progress on the back side of the property. They are attempting to salvage what they can and there is a mini X on site.
JC – The volume of progress is deceiving due to the 20 foot drop on the back side of the property.
DM – Is the structure safe for them?
JC – Probably not but it is no more dangerous than any general construction site.
Reed – Our scope has been exceeded once insurance released it. An update is available on another topic: The alarm that was previously malfunctioning at 103 & 105 Franklin Street has been corrected.
BK – The property owners had a contractor hired to paint the front of the building but it fell through; they are working to hire a new contractor now.

h. Mayor - N/A

- i. Panhandling

i. Neighborhood and Community Services - Michelle Austin

- i. Update on Potential Redevelopment Projects – We are purchasing vacant properties in legacy neighborhoods and have plans to build affordable housing.
- ii. Report on Homeless Coalition Efforts to include overnight shelters – We are navigating how we are working together and the collaboration is a big win.
Warming shelters for this winter will be set up by the Salvation Army and Urban Ministries. We are working together to expand capacity and provide a better service.
DM – What are we to do if we have full-time shelters in the community that have been overrun from people coming from outside the community? Hopefully the coalition will keep that in mind and consideration will be given to the people that were already in our community versus those coming into the community.

- MA – We are working with HUD, Tasser, and other organizations to stand up our own continuum of care, to serve Stewart, Houston, & Montgomery counties, which will prevent those from outside communities sending people to us for care.
- iii. Frosty Morn Property - DM – Thanks to Street Dept for securing the building and putting up panels. Brandon will let us know when that capital project is closed so we can begin discussions for putting it out for bid for affordable housing.
 - iv. Cleanup Days - I haven't done work on cleanup days yet; I need other groups to help.

j. Regional Planning Commission - N/A

- i. Update on New Providence efforts –

k. Police Department - Deputy Chief Thornton

- i. Stats on vacant & dilapidated structures – CPD gets our annual crime numbers from the TBI. When comparing cities with over 100k persons, Clarksville has the lowest in the state year after year. RCI is helping to clean up the areas where crime occurs; overall assisting with the decent in crime numbers.
Crime rate data reported per 1,000 people:
Murfreesboro has 72.12 crimes reported per 1,000 people and they are our closest competitor as far as total citizen count.
Chattanooga has 188k people and their crime rate is 96.49 per 1,000 people.
Knoxville is at 84.35 crimes reported per 1,000 people.
Memphis reported 180 crimes per 1,000 people.
DM – Have you and Bob talked about top ten locations for incidents?
Thornton – Yes, it is more like 106 locations; they have been prioritized.

l. Street Department - Sonny Emmert

- i. Maintenance of Non-TDOT Pedestrian Islands – We have taken over areas associated with sidewalks.
- ii. Grass cutting of City right-of-ways – Still cutting those.
- iii. Update on Functioning GIS Overlay – We are tweaking the map portion of it and are leaving the dashboard portion of it up to Jimmy.

m. Tennessee Department of Transportation - Jesse Ramsey

DM - The Mayor and I are reaching out to the Commissioner of TDOT because sometimes when I report items, I am told it is a city issue instead. The Mayor is initiating contact to schedule a meeting in order to come up with what is actually each entity's responsibility.

- i. Maintenance of TDOT Pedestrian Islands & Crosswalks – We are still progressing with collecting documentation of what is taking place in order to remove contractors who are not keeping up with their workload.
- ii. Grass cutting of State/Federal right-of-ways - I need clarification on what we are responsible for. I used to maintain a lot of it but I was pushed back.
DM – Is there a schedule in place for the medians in the middle of the road?
JR – Do you all have a list I can take to my boss?
DM – You and I can get together and do a field trip; sometimes seeing is believing.
JC – I saw the street sweepers shortly after our last meeting and it looked great.
JR – We are trying to implement street sweepers every six weeks.

n. APSU PELP - N/A

DM - I have been informed that Ms. Koyama is no longer able to attend the RCI meetings due to a conflict with her new schedule and we will await a replacement shortly.

o. Mayor's Youth Council - Caleb Lane

- i. Update on potential PELP volunteers for cleanup days – A meeting was held on September 8th where we were able to finish elections; we are eager to begin to contribute. It would be beneficial to introduce Michelle Austin to the Food & Housing Pod leader in order to schedule for cleanup days.

5. Committee Member Comments -

- a. Chief Halford** - Are there any organizations planning for the Make a Difference Day scheduled for October 25th? We could sponsor one.

6. Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

7. Public Comment -

- a. Dana and Adam Jepson** - If we see a place where there is a lot of trash and we pick it up into bags, is there someone we can let know to pick up the bags?
DM – Get with me after the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Lauren Winters made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Chief Halford. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:49 PM.