



City of Clarksville
Restoring Clarksville Initiative 2025 Task Force

February 24, 2026, at 4:00 PM
City Hall 4th Floor Conference Room
1 Public Square
Clarksville, Tennessee

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Deanna McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 4:13 PM.

2. Attendance

PRESENT:

Deanna McLaughlin - Committee Chairman
Joe Pitts - City of Clarksville Mayor
Justin Crosby - Director, Building & Codes Department
Jason Gregory - Building & Codes Department
Valerie Ogle - Building & Codes Department
Bob Kendrick - Building & Codes Department
Mike Reed - Assistant Chief, Clarksville Fire Rescue
Caleb Lane - President, Mayor's Youth Council
Katie French - APSU PELP
Jacob Wiggins - APSU PELP
Sonny Emmert - Clarksville Street Department
Michael Palmore - Director, Building Maintenance & Parking
Viola Sykes - Finance Department
Matthew Armstrong, Assistant City Attorney
Scott Thornton - Deputy Chief, Clarksville Police Department
Silas Matchem - Clarksville Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission

ABSENT:

Jimmy Settle - Communications Director
Michelle Austin - Director, Clarksville Neighborhood & Community Services
Zachary Johnston, Assistant City Attorney
Kathrine Killebrew, City Forester
Lauren Winters, City Grants Director
Jesse Ramsey - TDOT
James Halford - Chief of Staff

3. Approval of Minutes

Deana McLaughlin entertained a motion. Mayor Pitts made a motion to adopt the November 25, 2025, meeting minutes as written; seconded by Sonny Emmert. No opposition; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Updates by Department

a. Chairman McLaughlin

- i. EDC Conversation regarding Fort Campbell Blvd. Corridor - Had a conversation with Sprouts groundbreaking individuals and provided my contact information
- ii. Updates on State Legislation Items Presented to Legislative Delegation
 1. Land Trust/Land Banks - Have been lumped in with another jurisdiction that provides better enforcement for everyone. Has not gone through the committee yet.
 2. Enhances Code Fines - Rep. Maberry – Has been combined as well. Will receive updates as it proceeds.

b. Building and Codes - Justin Crosby

- i. Code areas of focus based on Fort Campbell Blvd Design Overlay – We will be dedicating a Code Enforcement Officer to this overlay and have them focus on design overlay guidelines and restrictions in order to stay ahead. Working on communication with businesses as well.
- ii. Vacant Building Update -
- iii. Update on Cases Resolved (Stats) – Bob Kendrick – Started with 144 properties, currently 32 structures demolished.
- iv. Update on Pending Cases (Stats) – Bob Kendrick – We are starting the demolition process on 14 properties.

Justin Crosby – We are seeing our community reinvesting in our community. When citizens see us putting forth the effort, they are in turn, doing the same. We have had great engagement with the citizens.

Mayor Pitts – Are we plotting those locations on a map?

Kendrick – Yes, they are visible on the GIS map.

Sonny Emmert – I can share the link so you can have access.

Crosby – Ultimately, we will be able to share the map with the community.

Kendrick – If people were able to see the pending properties on the GIS map, it might make them a target in certain aspects.

Chief Thornton – All the credit goes to the Building & Codes Department. We are their security, but they're doing the legwork.
- v. Staffing Update - Crosby - We are currently fully staffed.

c. Chief of Staff - Mayor Pitts

- i. See Click Fix – It is working. The town of Smyrna has picked it up as well.
McLaughlin – Fort Campbell is getting ready to start something similar too.

d. City Forester - Michael Palmore

- i. Anything to Report? – We have been working with the Building and Codes Department to take part in the disputes that come through SeeClickFix to help take off some of the pressure regarding tree complaints.
Mayor Pitts – How many tree complaints have we received through SeeClickFix?
Palmore – I am not sure.
Kendrick – Tree complaints now automatically go to Killebrew for assessment.

e. Communications - N/A

- i. Google Doc - Update/Discussion on Monthly RCI Topics for Community Education - N/A
- ii. Monthly RCI-related press release schedule – Crosby - I did an interview today with Nikki from News Channel 2 which should air at two different times this evening.
- iii. Coordinating with PELP and MYC members for pushing RCI information out – N/A

f. Finance/Grants - Viola Sykes (Lauren Winters via email)

- i. Update on Submitted Grant Applications – “There's nothing new to report for grants related to RCI. We are still waiting on a signed contract for SS4A (Safe Streets for All) to begin the New Providence Boulevard project. Also, we were awarded a new SS4A grant which includes public transit expansion as well as speed management for CPD. While that's not specific to a particular area, it will positively impact the jurisdiction as a whole.”

g. Clarksville Fire Rescue - Chief Reed

- i. Updates on occupancy business issues – Continued concerns with business occupancies. We are searching social media, etc. for parties and events. We cannot flex on anything until there is an issue, however, we are timing our visits accordingly to review posted occupancy limit certificates.

h. Mayor - N/A

i. Neighborhood and Community Services -

- i. Canopy Initiative Updates - N/A
- ii. Update on Potential Redevelopment Projects – N/A

- iii. Frosty Morn for senior & ADA low-income housing - Mayor Pitts - They are going to submit an application for low-income housing.
- iv. Cleanup Days - Great American Clean Up Day is April 25, 2026.
McLaughlin - I will follow up with Michelle for volunteer possibilities.

j. Regional Planning Commission - Silas Matchem

- i. Update on New Providence efforts – The group is starting to meet with other organizations looking for collaborations to create partnerships. RPC is getting ready to issue an annual report, hopefully by the end of March. Still working on the zoning rewrite. I've started looking at pattern books in other jurisdictions and possibly creating our own pattern book for Clarksville.
McLaughlin – Has the New Providence group engaged the Manna Café director, Dorothea? They are interested in partnering with efforts because it is their neighborhood too.
Matchem – I was in contact with them last week.
Mayor – There is an event on Saturday, March 7th from 10-11:30am on Oak Street discussing how the church can become more engaged in the area.
Matchem – I will check on that.

k. Police Department - Deputy Chief Thornton

- i. Stats on vacant & dilapidated structures –Michelle reached out regarding environmental design at Manna Café. I suggested more lighting. She said that should be affordable.

l. Street Department - Sonny Emmert

- i. Maintenance of TDOT Pedestrian Islands & Crosswalks – Asphalt popping up after the winter storm. We will be wrapping those fixes up by the end of the week.
- ii. Update on Functioning GIS Overlay – Working with Bob Kendrick to do some cleanup on the back-end database. We are getting additional information as things are resolved and completed.

m. Tennessee Department of Transportation - N/A

- i. Maintenance of TDOT Pedestrian Islands & Crosswalks – N/A
- ii. Grass cutting of State/Federal right-of-ways contract update – N/A

n. APSU PELP - Katie French & Jacob Wiggins

- i. Update on potential PELP volunteers for cleanup days – We can send information on volunteer opportunities to the honors and PELP students. The

CMCSS Seniors are needing required volunteer hours as well. Is there a way to enhance the traffic lighting timing around APSU?

McLaughlin – The lights are timed that way for pedestrians, which is why there is no right turn on red as well.

Mayor Pitts – The adaptive signal on Wilma, will that transfer to APSU once it is up?

Emmert – That is the hope after we see how well it works. It should be up and running shortly after this past month's testing.

Mayor Pitts – It would be nice to go down College and all the way down Fort Campbell Blvd.

Emmert – That is our hope as well.

Wiggins – We are going to continue to ask our front desk assistant to spread the word as well.

French – This would be a great way to share the RCI logo and use it for social media.

- ii. PELP Forum Date for RCI - N/A

o. Mayor's Youth Council - Caleb Lane

- i. Update on potential MYC volunteers for cleanup days – I can share the volunteer opportunities with the council, however, my time as president is coming to a close.

McLaughlin – Are you running for re-election?

Lane – Term limits prevent that. Also, we have our legacy project that the entire council will work on. We are going to be doing work on the playground at Liberty Park to spruce it up, paint, etc. The plan is to have it finalized by the end of March.

Palmore – Have you reached out about volunteers to plant trees?

McLaughlin – Would you share the information with French, Wiggins, and Lane directly?

Palmore – We have 100 or so trees we need volunteers to get in the ground.

5. Committee Member Comments - Valerie Ogle

- a. The June meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, June 30, 2026 due to a conflict.

6. Next Meeting - Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

7. Public Comment - N/A

8. Adjournment

Mayor Pitts made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Silas Matchem. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:50 PM.