



City of Clarksville
Restoring Clarksville Initiative 2025 Task Force

April 28, 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 4:03 PM.

2. Attendance

PRESENT:

Deanna McLaughlin - Committee Chairman
Justin Crosby - Director, Building & Codes Department
Jason Gregory - Building & Codes Department
Valerie Ogle - Building & Codes Department
Bob Kendrick - Building & Codes Department
Caleb Lane - President, Mayor's Youth Council
Reagan Preston – Mayor's Youth Council (Incoming President)
Michael Palmore - Director, Building Maintenance & Parking
Sonny Emmert - Clarksville Street Department
Jimmy Settle - Communications Director
Casey Williams - Communications
Scott Thornton - Deputy Chief, Clarksville Police Department
Lauren Winters, City Grants Director
Matthew Armstrong, Assistant City Attorney
Michelle Austin - Director, Clarksville Neighborhood & Community Services
James Halford - Chief of Staff
Joe Pitts - City of Clarksville Mayor
Silas Matchem - Clarksville Montgomery County Regional Planning Commission
Mike Reed - Assistant Chief, Clarksville Fire Rescue

ABSENT:

Katie French - APSU PELP
Jacob Wiggins - APSU PELP
Kathrine Killebrew, City Forester
Jesse Ramsey - TDOT

3. Approval of Minutes

Deana McLaughlin entertained a motion. Justin Crosby made a motion to adopt the March 24, 2026, 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 - Nothing to report.
- ii. Updates on State Legislation Items Presented to Legislative Delegation
 1. Land Trust/Land Banks - 1. Rep. Lankford – Passed, and the Governor should sign soon.
 2. Enhances Code Fines - Rep. Maberry – Passed, and the Governor should sign soon.

b. Building and Codes - Justin Crosby

- i. Code areas of focus based on Fort Campbell Blvd Design Overlay – Tremendous amount of legwork for both this overlay and the Tiny Town Road overlay.
- ii. Vacant Building Update -
- iii. Update on Cases Resolved (Stats) – 37 properties demolished by property owners.
- iv. Update on Pending Cases (Stats) – About a dozen properties are currently being worked.

Deanna McLaughlin – What is the process leading up to determining if a property must be demolished?

Crosby – It is a lengthy process; we have a high success rate of communicating with the property owners and actions proceeding from there. The life safety standpoint is always taken into consideration. Liens are placed on the properties when the City performs the demolition.

Mayor Pitts – Have we seen any redevelopment of the 37 demolished properties?

Crosby – We have, looking to track the redevelopment sites.
- v. Staffing FY2027 Budget Request - We've asked for new staff and some still remain for the time being.

c. Chief of Staff - Chief Halford

- i. See Click Fix – (showed a "SeeClickFix – How To" video) This should drive the number of submissions up and provide a better way to track it.

Casey – We can provide this tutorial on the RCI website.

Halford – Is it live now?

Casey – No, I was waiting for approval.

Jimmy Settle – We are looking to begin sharing on May 1st and share once per month.

McLaughlin – What about a special presentation at an Executive Session?

Mayor Pitts – That's an excellent idea.

d. City Forester - Michael Palmore

- i. Anything to Report? – Nothing to report.

e. Communications - Jimmy Settle

- i. Google Doc - Update/Discussion on Monthly RCI Topics for Community Education -
- ii. Monthly RCI-related press release schedule – Looking to perform a recap of the RCI progress in early June; videography and written reporting as an end of fiscal year wrap up.
McLaughlin – That will put us at 18 months.
Settle – Sharing it on Channel 3 and on socials once per month as well.
McLaughlin – The council might not be aware of it. I like it for the tracking capabilities; it provides transparency for the citizens to see what the progress is on their complaint.
Bob Kendrick – We've talked to the IT Dept about the Other category because we have a gentleman who submits complaints that are questionable (turtles on a log, dirty sign, etc.). We are working on a solution for this at the moment.
- iii. Coordinating with PELP and MYC members for pushing RCI information out – N/A

f. Finance/Grants - Lauren Winters

- i. Update on Submitted Grant Applications – Safe Streets for All grant, we finally have the contract for New Providence and Ft Campbell Blvd. Quick reminder, this is our first implementation grant; it has been a year and half of contract refinement. We are looking to be able to sign the contract at the end of June. We submitted an application this month to the Community Health Foundation and Bikers Who Care carried the applicant for us as we are unable to be a direct applicant for this one and it is for the New Providence pool.
McLaughlin – Is that based on the two public input meetings?
Winters – Yes.

g. Clarksville Fire Rescue - Chief Reed

- i. Updates on occupancy business issues – We recently worked with the B&C Dept. to identify a location where about 25 people were living illegally outside of codes and zone regulations. We were able to mitigate that in the immediate future with fire and life safety being the highest concern with exterior doors being

padlocked. Those kinds of places typically lead to crime and to the need for further intervention.

McLaughlin - How are the occupancy issues going?

Reed- Quiet right now.

h. Mayor - Mayor Pitts

- i. Update of TDOT Commissioner Meeting – Meeting scheduled for May 20th with the TDOT Commissioner. We need to get into what they are going to do with existing roads, trash, etc.
- ii. Parking Code Rewrite – It'll be ready to go to the council in June.

i. Neighborhood and Community Services -Michelle Austin

- i. Canopy Initiative Updates - Met on Thursday last week; standing up a 100-day challenge. This consists of housing navigation. How they will enter our system and how they will be triaged. We put that system to the test last week when we had two people from the illegal housing issue instance. We have a clear process in place and are working out the kinks. Our goal is to get around 60 people into housing in the next 100 days. For this challenge, we're focusing on families with children. We know we have 37 kids as of last week who are currently living in cars.
- ii. Update on Potential Redevelopment Projects – Mana Café will include revised parking, lighting, and shopping carts to assist citizens.
- iii. Frosty Morn for senior & ADA low-income housing - PUD passed through Regional Planning, special session is tomorrow night, and second reading is May 7th. The tax credit application is for 65 units of low-income housing on the Frosty Morn site. No one at the facility will be paying more than 30% of their income; it is based on a sliding scale. This is for senior citizens only. South Central Villages- we are aware of hot water outages and bugs.

McLaughlin – Who notifies the housing board?

Austin – They were aware, they just disagreed that it was their property. In this incident, I contacted the new Director, who was unaware that this was in her scope of responsibilities. She has taken responsibility and brought in a shower trailer and additional cleaning products to assist.

Mayor Pitts – Are we still going by South Central Village to ensure doors remain unlocked/unblocked and not screwed shut?

Reed – Yes, we've ensured this is on a regular rotation for inspection.

Austin – Land Bank is approved at the state level. We work with residents to help them clear titles. We're going to take the first step to help those families in the low-income areas by paying an attorney to help us work through those cases.

Once the titles are cleared, this allows the families to move forward with a multitude of options.

j. Regional Planning Commission - Silas Matchem

- i. Update on New Providence efforts – Started putting a list together and having conversations with a group in Nashville to further our conversation about best practices.

k. Police Department - Deputy Chief Thornton

- i. Stats on vacant & dilapidated structures –Dealing with ensuring all fleet vehicles are going in a garage as there is a potential for large hail this evening. I ran into Bob Kendrick this weekend after hours in order for him to enforce light pollution. I recently reviewed our quarterly crime report and all district Captains talked about their partnerships with the B&C Dept.; we are very proud of that.

l. Street Department - Sonny Emmert

- i. Maintenance of TDOT Pedestrian Islands – Riverside is lit back up; thank you to Building & Facilities Maintenance for assisting. Mowing is in full swing.
McLaughlin – How is the survey at night of lights not working?
Emmert – Survey is complete, and resolutions are in progress. Looking forward to seeing ClickFix assisting with this as well.
Mayor Pitts – Might be good in the next meeting to review the Safe Streets for All plan.
- ii. Update on Functioning GIS Overlay – Looking at having a public layer that would allow for certain information and not have all items visible, now that we have success stories.
McLaughlin – Are the Code Enforcement Officers using this resource on their iPads?
Crosby – They are. We just wrapped up a build of an interactive dashboard for our construction division. This is man hours that were not being accounted for, and these dashboards are a tremendous assist with documenting the taxpayers' dollars at work.

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 - N/A

o. Mayor's Youth Council - Caleb Lane and Reagan Preston

- i. Update on potential PELP volunteers for cleanup days – Legacy project was a revitalization at Liberty Park. Last meeting brought a new Chair, Reagan Preston.

5. Committee Member Comments - May 26, 2026, meeting canceled.

6. Next Meeting - Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

7. Public Comment - N/A

8. Adjournment

Mayor Pitts made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Justin Crosby. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:48 PM.