



City Manager's Weekly Report to City Council September 16, 2016

Council Action Summary

by Frank Stovall

City Council met this week and reviewed several issues, including the following:

Thirty Years in Business: City Council recognized Leslie Ann Jackson and her business, Tapestry, for being in business for thirty years in downtown Clinton.

Proclamations: City Council proclaimed the 16th as POW MIA day, and the month of September as Bicycling and Pedestrian Safety Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and Drug and Alcohol Addiction Recovery Month. Other related proclamations were also approved.

Animal Control / Animal Care: City Council authorized a contract which would result in the county taking over the provision of animal control services for city residents and approved a first reading of changes to the City Code related to animals and a first reading of a new law which would limit the time that a person could tether or tie their dog outside to two hours in a twenty-four hour period.

Planning and Zoning: First reading of ordinances to annex a portion of property at Tallwood Homes and to zone it high density residential was approved.

Public Safety: The city will continue to provide medical first responder and fire suppression services to the Clinton Rural Fire District through a contract with Laurens County.

Procurement: Council authorized the city to purchase, using a municipal lease purchasing arrangement, a new auger truck for the Electric Distribution Division of the Department of Public Works and a used Jarraff Right of Way Cutting Machine for the Right of Way and Maintenance Division of the Department of Public Works.

Economic Development: Council authorized city staff to apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 from the Municipal Association of South Carolina to support economic development efforts and authorized the expenditure of up to \$2,500 in matching funds. The city intends to request the funds to master plan and design the western approach into downtown, including determining how best to utilize and develop the Industrial Supply warehouses and adjacent properties into viable space for businesses and other uses.



Frank Stovall, ICMA-CM

City Manager

Frank Stovall has served as the City Manager of Clinton, South Carolina, since 2011. Each week, the staff of the Office of the City Manager produces this report in order to keep elected officials and the public informed about happenings in our city.

You can keep up with happenings in our city by following the city manager's blog, Twitter account, and the city's Facebook pages. Visit our website at www.cityofclintonsc.com for links to those pages.



POW / MIA Day

Each year in September, we set aside time to recognize and honor our missing armed service members and their families and recognize the work being done to account for them.

City Council proclaimed September 16th as Prisoner of War / Missing in Action Day in Clinton. For more information on the efforts to find and recover the missing, visit <http://www.dpaa.mil/>.

Critical Sewer Work Underway

It's something you never think about, but lurking underneath the roads in our city is a network of sewer lines that whisk away sewer and refuse to be treated before entering the environment.

The system, much of it decades old, requires repair and maintenance to operate safely and efficiently.

Currently, several hundred feet of sewer collection lines are being replaced in Lydia Mill as part of the Community Development Grant received by the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission.

Soon, the city will release requests for bids for the repair of the sewer collection system on Copeland Street. Portions of the system have collapsed and are in need of repair. The repairs are partially funded by a grant from South Carolina's Rural Infrastructure Authority.



New Economic Development Website Unveiled

The City of Clinton has unveiled a new website devoted to economic development in and around the City of Clinton. The website, www.advantageclintonsc.com, will allow site visitors to discover how businesses and industries interested in locating to Clinton, SC can connect to the powerful advantages we offer which include:

Prime Acreage:

- Your choice of 940 acres.
- Certified and Palmetto sites.
- Class A and B settings.

Powerful Proximity:

- Your Upstate gateway at the intersection of I-26 and I-385.
- Easy access to key markets,

metro areas and SC ports.

Super-Skilled Workforce:

- Your team ready to go.
- Globally recognized training.
- Cluster experience in automotive and advanced materials.

Marvin Moss, the City's Economic Development Manager said, "the web designer did an excellent job and we have sent a newsletter announcing the website via email to about 500 people and businesses including industrial realtors, site selection consultants and the SC Department of Commerce."



OUR BEST SHOT



Out With the Old

Donnie Simpson and Michael Estes replaced the water meter at Bi-Lo recently. The new meter is part of the city wide meter upgrade effort which will result in all the city's water meters being replaced.



Leading From the Front

DPW&U Director Dale Satterfield and Street & Sanitation Div. Manager Chris Sparkman were out performing concrete work recently in downtown.

FACTS FROM THE CITIZEN SURVEY

35%

Percentage of citizens who report being satisfied with the city's paths and walking trails.

65%

Percentage of citizens who consider Clinton an easy place to walk around.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Visit cityofclintonsc.com for information on how to apply to be part of our team

CURRENT OPENINGS:

Water Treatment Plant Operator: Full Time

Water Treatment Plant Operator: Part Time

Street & Sanitation Technician I: Part Time



Right of Way trimming crews work to trim trees away from live power lines. As one of the most dangerous jobs in our city, these employees work from a bucket suspended seventy feet in the air and use a chainsaw to carefully remove limbs that are close to live power lines.

Department Notes

Department of Public Safety

- Renovations to the dispatch area are continuing. The dispatch area was flooded when an overhead pipe burst. Using internal labor, the department is rebuilding the room to better serve the needs of dispatchers and provide additional space for officers.

Department of Community & Economic Development

- Construction of eight new houses is underway in various parts of the city.
- I-26 Commerce Park continues to develop with the entrance road, Technology Way, being nearly 80% complete. In addition, the 100,000 sf development pad is now 90% stabilized.

Department of Public Works

- Storm water drainage on Poplar Street has been cleared, graded, and should be fully functional at this time.

- Streetlights along 76 from the western corporate limits to Oak Street have been replaced with new LED fixtures.
- Fiber network failures have been identified and repaired. Squirrels had chewed through the fiber optic cable.

Department of Administrative Services

- Department personnel are working with Public Works personnel to install additional Virtual Collection devices to allow for reading of meters remotely.

Office of the City Manager

- The City is proud to partner with the United Way of Laurens County to host an AmeriCorps worker periodically at the Municipal Center. The AmeriCorps worker will work with citizens who have difficulty paying their utility bills to search for solutions.

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, September 24, 2016 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Laurens County Chamber of Commerce will host the 3rd Quarter Laurens County Clean Up.

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Laurens County Chamber of Commerce will host a Business After Hours and Silent Auction at Bailey Manor. "Falling in Love with the Good Ole Days" Big Silent Auction proceeds go to purchase outside furniture for residents. The silent auction closes at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The City of Clinton will host a Community Blood Drive in the West Main Street parking lot in downtown Clinton.

Monday, October 3, 2016 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Clinton will hold its October City Council meeting in the P.S. Bailey Council Chambers of the M.S. Bailey Municipal Center.

Monday, October 3, 2016 thru Friday, October 7, 2016

The City of Clinton will host Fire Prevention Week, and Public Power Week.

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 5:30 p.m.

The City of Clinton Design Review Board will hold its October Design Review Board meeting in the P.S. Bailey Council Chambers of the M.S. Bailey Municipal Center.

Monday, October 17, 2016 thru Friday, October 21, 2016

The City of Clinton will host Customer Service Week.

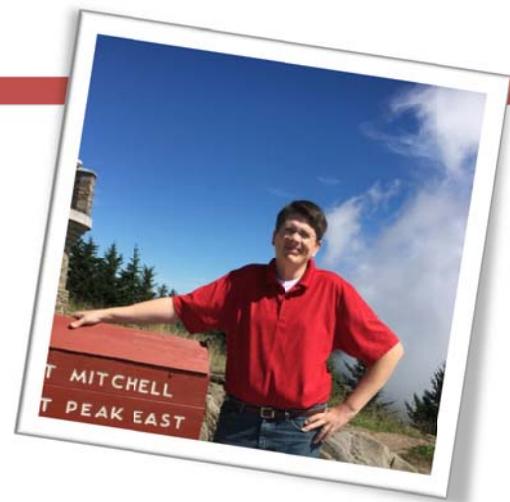
Monday, October 17, 2016 6:30 p.m.

The City of Clinton Planning Commission will hold its October Design Review Board meeting in the P.S. Bailey City Council Chambers of the M.S. Bailey Municipal Center.

A Word with the City Manager:

Rumors Can Cloud Our Perception of Reality

Have you ever had a dream that seemed so real that you were convinced it was happening to you until you woke up? Every event in your dream was vivid and real – and if a character in your dream were to grab your arm and say something along the



lines of "Hey, buddy – this is just a dream" you would have never, ever, believed them. Your perception at that moment was that you were experiencing what was in your dream, falling from a plane,

running through the woods, walking along a country lane, but in reality you were asleep under the covers in your very own bed.

Perception vs reality. What a person thinks is real based on a portion of the facts that they have been provided vs what is actually happening based on all the facts. These are things that every government agency, the county, the school district, the state, must deal with every day. We even deal with it all of the time down at the city hall.

Humor me for a moment. Imagine you lived in a city that was recently ranked as one of the top ten tax friendliest cities for retirees in South Carolina, one of the top ten cities on the rise in South Carolina, and the region was named one of the best markets for automotive related manufacturing in the country. Imagine the city was home to a police force that over 70% of the citizens on a recent survey said was doing a great job and was home to the county-wide officer of the year. Imagine you lived in a city that had a fire department ranked in the top 5% nationally. Imagine you lived in a city that had been nationally recognized for both its ability to plan to spend your tax dollars wisely but also for its efforts to report annually to you what it did with your tax money. Imagine you lived in a city whose electric distribution operation was recognized nationally for its superior reliability, speed to restore power, and safety. Imagine you lived in a city where in spite of serious challenges the students in our schools consistently perform at a nationally recognized level in the sciences.

Did any of that sound familiar to you? It should. Every single item in the paragraph above is a fact about the city you call home. Yes. Clinton. It is an awesome place to live. Let's never forget that. Yes, we have problems; big overwhelming problems that we must still address. Poverty. Unemployment. Cost of living. Housing. But, we can't let half-truths, rumors, and misrepresentations of the facts distract us from who we are and

sway us from the course we have set to become who we know we can be.

I think it is time to address the rumors and make the facts more accessible to you. Believe me, there are a ton of rumors out there that are just not true and if you let yourself be influenced by just what you read on Facebook or hear down at the corner store, you might not make the same decisions or feel the same way as you would if you had all the facts. Soon we will roll out a new page on our website which will allow you to submit your rumor anonymously to me and we will post your question and the answer on the webpage for all to see. We will share the facts. You can draw your own conclusions.

Do you need some examples of the ridiculous to get you started? Here's one: The city mows the grass at PC. I've heard this one at least a dozen times and it is simply not true. We've have way more grass in this city than our tiny team of mowers can keep up with as it is and mowing the grass at the college is not, nor has it ever been, on our to do list. But wait you say, what about the fact that the Assistant City Manager makes over \$100,000 per year? Folks, we haven't had an employee with the title of Assistant City Manager since June of 2011 and even when we had one, they never made that much money.

We are a good city. We are on our way to becoming a great city. However, if we are going to get to great, we can't let ourselves be distracted, discouraged, or blown off course by a misrepresentation of the facts or a poor perception of reality.

Together, we can move our city forward.

*Frank N. Stovall, ICMA-CM
City Manager*