

JANUARY 7, 2019

The regular Council meeting was held at the M.S. Bailey Center at 6:00 PM with Mayor Bob McLean presiding with Councilmembers Cook, Jenkins, Kuykendall, Neal, Roth, and Young. The City Manager and the City Attorney were also present. Local news media present were Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser, Randy Stephens from WLBG, and Larry Franklin from the Clinton Chronicle. All local news media notice was emailed on January 4, 2019.

AMEND AGENDA

Mayor McLean asked Council to amend the agenda to include the first reading of an Ordinance to approve the grant of an easement of property. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she has a problem with Council receiving an amended agenda right before Council starts. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Council does not have time to look over the information. Mr. Cannon, City Manager, stated that he did not know this issue existed until this afternoon. Mayor McLean stated that if Council is going to vote on this issue then he would like for the City Manager to explain the matter. Mr. Cannon stated that the City has purchased property from Mr. Monty Dutton for the Recreation Complex. Mr. Cannon stated that part of Mr. Dutton's property has an easement already established and when the City purchased the property in question then Mr. Dutton did not have access to this property. Mr. Dutton has asked the City to give him easement into the property so the property would not be land locked. Mr. Cannon stated that he wanted to act now to show good faith to Mr. Dutton. Mr. Cannon stated that this is the first reading and the second reading would not be done until the City determines the easement portion of the property. Councilmember Jenkins stated that this matter could have been discussed in a called meeting. Mr. Wham, City Attorney, stated that the City closed on the Dutton property today but Mr. Dutton asked if the City could give him an easement into his property in case the current owner of the easement decides not to use the property and Mr. Dutton would have a way to the property. Mr. Wham stated that the current easement owner has a tower on the property and so the property is not of any use to the City. Mr. Wham stated that until the design for the Recreation Complex is set the City does not know the best place for the easement. Councilmember Cook stated that the easement was for Mr. Dutton and Mr. Wham agreed. Motion was made by Councilmember Young to amend the agenda and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Reverend Charles Davis from All Saints Episcopal Church.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE Mayor McLean asked Council and the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES Mayor McLean asked Council to approve the minutes from December 3. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to approve the December 3, 2018 minutes and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

**CITIZENS ADDRESS
COUNCIL
REGINALD VANCE
ABANDONED HOUSES** Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Reginald Vance. Mr. Vance stated that he was before Council concerning abandoned houses. Mr. Vance stated that he understands the City only demolishes abandoned houses two months out of a year. Mr. Vance stated that he wanted to know which two months the City tears down houses. Mr. Cannon, City Manager, stated that the City utilizes Public Works to demolish the houses in order to save money. Mr. Cannon stated that Public Works must schedule time and also rent the equipment to demolish the houses. Mr. Cannon stated that each year during the budget process the City decides on how much funds to delegate toward demolishing the houses. Mr. Cannon stated that the budget is adopted in July and then Public Works schedules the demolition. Mayor McLean stated that this fiscal year the City has demolished 36 houses. Mayor Mclean stated that the City has been aggressive in tearing down abandoned houses and would continue to be so. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the City has a list of abandoned houses in need of demolishing. Mr. Meadors, Public Works Director, stated that Mr. Vance could give him the name of the abandoned houses and he would check to see if they are already on the list.

**SUSAN GALLOWAY
ELECTIONS** Mayor Mclean recognized Ms. Susan Galloway. Ms. Galloway stated that she lives at 106 Maple Street. Ms. Galloway stated that she is before Council concerning the upcoming elections. Ms. Galloway thanked Council for their service and also thanked the citizens who put their name in to run for the next elections. Ms. Galloway stated that citizens would be able to vote in order to have a say in how our government is run. Ms. Galloway stated that some citizens chose not to run for personal reasons and some citizens chose not to run because of the negative campaigns in the past. Ms. Galloway stated that she would read comments from an article that Mr. Eckstrom Comptroller General of SC wrote concerning elections and government. Mr. Eckstrom urged Public Officials to re-dedicate themselves to good government. Public Officials must take the lead in restoring civility in government and strive to set the right example. Those who have confidence in their positons should never hesitate to take the high road.

Ms. Galloway stated that she is before Council tonight to challenge everyone who is running for office to run a clean race in which your mother and grandmother would be proud of. Ms. Galloway stated that every citizen running for office and every citizen voting are preparing a civics lesson for our children. Ms. Galloway stated that this Community could teach our children that it is still possible to disagree but still work together to make this Community better. Ms. Galloway stated that Clinton would go further if everyone works together.

**2018 CHRISTMAS
PARADE WINNERS**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to recognize the 2018 Christmas Parade Award winners. Mayor Mclean stated the winners are as follows: Education – Laurens Academy; Non-Profit – Family Promise; Performing Groups – Dancing Devils; Commercial – Patriots Kitchen; Best Adaptation of the Parade Theme – Thornwell.

**2018 SPIRIT OF
CHRISTMAS
DECORATING
WINNERS**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to recognize the 2018 Spirit of Christmas Decorating Award winners. Mayor McLean stated that each residential winner would receive a \$25 credit on their utility bill and the business winner would receive a \$50 credit. Mayor McLean stated that the winners are as follows: Ward I – Randy Litzenberger at 207 W Walnut Street; Ward II – Cynthia Tucker at 157 Pine Street LM; Ward III – Clatie Putman at 710 North Broad Street; Ward IV – Betty Campbell at 521 North Broad Street; Ward V – Charles Childress at 207 Caldwell Street, Ward VI – James Gower at 303 Cedar Street; Sunshine City as the business winner.

**2018 WINDOW
WONDERLAND
WINNERS**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item is the 2018 Window Wonderland Award winners. Mayor McLean stated that the winners are as follows: 1st place – Sadler’s Apothecary; 2nd place – Sunshine City; 3rd place – Emma Jane. Mayor McLean thanked everyone for their participation in making Clinton look good during Christmas.

**PROCLAMATIONS
BIRTH DEFECTS
BLOOD DONOR
DRUNK & DRUGGED
DRIVING
ILLEGAL DRUG USE**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Proclamations proclaiming January as Birth Defects Prevention Month, January as Blood Donor Month, 2019 as Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Year, and 2019 as War on Illegal Drug Use. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

AUDIT REPORT

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is a report from the independent auditing and accounting firm of McKinley, Cooper regarding their findings and the CAFR for 2018. Mayor Mclean recognized Ms. Sherly Meddors from McKinley Cooper.

Ms. Meddors stated that the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Ms. Meddors stated that receiving this award provides a level of confidence that the City's Financial Statements include correct information of the City's financial position. Ms. Meddors stated that this award helps the City when the City applies for bonds. Ms. Meddors stated that management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles general accepted in the United States which includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Ms. Meddors stated that the auditor's responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit and in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Ms. Meddors stated that the audit is performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Ms. Meddors stated that in McKinley, Cooper opinion the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Ms. Meddors stated that this opinion is referred to as a clean opinion from the auditors. Ms. Meddors stated that in 2017 the City issued \$6,902,000 in bonds. Ms. Meddors stated that the 2011 bonds with an outstanding balance of \$3,274,000 were refunded and the remaining funds were used on replacement of water and sewer infrastructure in the City. Ms. Meddors stated that the projects funded by the 2017 bonds were South Broad Street water and sewer lines, Richloom water line, Sunset Blvd infrastructure, I-26 sewer line connector, and the completion of projects began with the 2011 Bond funds including remote meter reading conversion and City-wide software. Ms. Meddors stated that the City also received \$1,614,875 in grants for economic development projects. Ms. Meddors stated that these funds came from Clinton Newberry Natural Gas, Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Santee Cooper, and South Carolina Department of Commerce. Ms. Meddors stated that the Economic Development funds were spent on the Exit 54 landscaping for \$272,000 and the development of the commercial site for \$697,000. Ms. Meddors stated that the City is required to report a liability of the unfunded portion of the employee's benefits. Ms. Meddors stated that this amount is noted as Prior Period Adjustments related to the GASB 75. Ms. Meddors stated that this liability does not impact the City's cash.

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Ms. Meddors stated that \$859,996 was recorded on the Governmental Fund as a liability and \$722,268 was recorded on the Business Activities as a liability. Ms. Meddors stated that she would point out some similar activities between the two fiscal years. Ms. Meddors stated that in the Statement of Net Position the City records a Net Pension Liability which continues to be the largest liability each year. Ms. Meddors stated that the City does not have the capability to pay this liability down because it is an estimated liability of the cost of the employee's benefit from the SC Retirement System. Ms. Meddors stated that the Due in more than one year liability of \$7,842,255 in the Business Activities fund is the City's bonds. Ms. Meddors stated that the Balance Sheet shows the current assets and current liabilities with the difference as the Fund Balance. Ms. Meddors stated that the Balance Sheet records the City's operating activities on a regular basis. Ms. Meddors stated that the Governmental Fund has a Fund Balance of \$9,457,356 which is a positive balance. Ms. Meddors stated that part of this Fund Balance is restricted funds of \$5,194,140 which are tied to tourism. Ms. Meddors stated that \$2,240,242 is the Unassigned Fund Balance which is the City's operating expenses and debt service. Ms. Meddors stated that the City's Unassigned Fund Balance is four months of operating expenses the City has to work with but the City should have at least six months of funds in the Unassigned Fund Balance. Ms. Meddors stated that four months is good and shows the City is making progress. Ms. Meddors stated that the City has improved over the last six years with increasing the Unassigned Fund Balance. Ms. Meddors stated that the City's Net Position and Fund Balance have increased over the last ten years. Ms. Meddors stated that the City is moving in the right direction. In summary, McKinley Cooper believes that the City's financial statements are fairly stated and give the City a clean opinion. Ms. Meddors stated that the major activities in the audit were the bond issuance and the economic development grants from various organizations. Ms. Meddors stated that the City has a good Net Position and an adequate Fund Balance.

RESOLUTION
AUDIT FY 2017-18

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is Council to consider a Resolution accepting the City of Clinton Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Roth. The vote was unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER'S
REPORT
SECOND READING
ORDINANCE
BUSINESS LICENSE**

Mayor Mclean recognized Mr. Cannon. Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the second reading of an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Clinton to amend Chapter 18, Article I, Sections 18-1 through 18-14, Businesses. Mr. Cannon stated that the Business License Ordinance was updated in 2017 in an effort to make the Business License function standard in order to match other Municipalities across the State. Mr. Cannon stated that MASC has plans to implement a payment portal to make renewal of Business Licenses even easier. Mr. Cannon stated that this Ordinance amends the Business License Ordinance to make sure the Business Licenses are standard in accordance with the MASC. Mr. Cannon stated that Council passed the first reading at the December 3, 2018 Council meeting. Motion was made by Councilmember Young to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 18, Article I, Sections 18-1 through 18-14, Businesses and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**FLORIDA STREET
STORM DRAIN REPAIR**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Elmore Land & Site Development for the repair of the storm drain on Florida Street. Mr. Cannon stated that City crews were notified of the cave in on Florida Street and City staff hired WK Dickson an engineering firm to oversee the project. Mr. Cannon stated that the cost of the project is \$49,710 which includes \$7,000 to cover any change orders during the project. Councilmember Roth asked how long would the project take to complete and Mr. Cannon stated the City would start the project in the near future. Councilmember Roth asked if repairing the storm drain would just affect Florida Street or would other streets be involved. Mr. Cannon stated that City staff just anticipates just Florida Street but the added \$7,000 would be in case if the problem went beyond Florida Street. Mr. Meadors stated that the City would order the material for the project and would start the project in about three to four weeks. Councilmember Kuykendall asked what were the indicators which alerted City staff of the problem on Florida Street and are there other streets in Clinton with the same problem. Mr. Cannon stated that the Florida Street road began to collapse and when City staff investigated the issue they found three storm drains stacked vertically on top of each other. Mr. Cannon stated that two of the storm drains did not function. Councilmember Roth asked if the City had a handle on the Storm Drain System and Mr. Cannon stated no. Mr. Cannon stated that the City had a lot of rain fall over the last several weeks which have magnified the storm drain issues.

Mr. Cannon stated that the City is taking steps to GPS the storm drain locations and map them out. Councilmember Jenkins asked if City staff had a system to check the streets and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Councilmember Jenkins asked if City staff checked the streets and storm drains on a routine basis and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Mr. Cannon stated that Gary Street also has a storm drain issue which the City has to fix before the City has Gary Street paved. Councilmember Roth asked what is the paving schedule for South Broad Street. Mr. Cannon stated that City staff has met with the SCDOT and the SCDOT is willing to help the City cut some of the trees on South Broad Street before the street is paved. Mr. Cannon stated that the City would hire a Tree Arborist to decide which trees need to come down. Councilmember Cook made a motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Elmore Land & Site Developing to repair the Florida Street Storm Drain for a cost not to exceed \$49,710 and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

**RESOLUTION
SAFETY POLICY**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a Resolution adopting the 2019 City Council Safety Policy Statement for the City of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that the City of Clinton is committed to furnishing each of its employees a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that may be causing or are likely to cause death, serious physical harm, or a health-related illness to its employees. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to approve the Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

**PURCHASE
BUCKET TRUCK**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Altec Industries for the purchase of one new Bucket Truck to be used by the Electric Distribution Department. Mr. Cannon stated that the City currently has a 2008 F-750 Bucket Truck with a lot of mechanical problems. Mr. Cannon stated that when Hurricane Florence came through the City had to borrow a Bucket Truck from Presbyterian College in order to make repairs. Mr. Meadors stated that the engine in the Bucket Truck causes problems and the City has spent thousands of dollars over the last four years. Councilmember Roth asked what would the City do with the current truck and Mr. Meadors stated the City would sell the truck. Mr. Cannon stated the City budgeted a down payment of \$80,000 in the current budget with the remaining balance being financed through a five year Lease Purchase. Mr. Meadors stated that since the City did not purchase the Bucket Truck in the current budget the Electric Department would budget the purchase of the Bucket Truck in the 2019-20 Budget and would not spend the funds in this current budget.

Mr. Meadors stated that City staff would order the Bucket Truck now but it would not be until December 2019 before the City received the truck. Councilmember Cook made a motion to authorize the purchase of a Buck Truck from Altec Industries for a cost not to exceed \$212,683 and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
BRIEFING
AWOP AWARD
COUNCIL MEETING
CALENDAR
RECREATION
COMPLEX
VANCE PARK**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the City Manager's administrative briefing. Mr. Cannon stated that the first item on his list is the AWAP Award to the Filter Plant which the Filter Plant has received for fifteen years. Mr. Cannon presented the award to Mr. Jimmy Miller, Filter Plant Director. Mr. Miller thanked City Management and Council for their support in order for the Filter Plant to be able to serve the citizens of Clinton and receive this award. Mr. Cannon stated that the 2019 City Council meeting calendar was included in Council's packet. Mr. Cannon stated that Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 3:00 PM the City would hold a public forum at the site of the new Recreation Complex. Mr. Cannon invited the public and Council to the meeting to see the conceptual plans. Mr. Cannon stated that the City has also closed on the Dutton property which would also be part of the Recreation Complex. Mayor McLean asked if citizens could give their input and Mr. Cannon agreed. Councilmember Cook asked if the City could also hold a Public Forum in the evening so that citizens who work would be able to give their input and see the plans and Mr. Cannon agreed. Mr. Cannon stated that the City is getting ready to start on the Vance Park Pavilion. Councilmember Jenkins asked if the City Manager would report on the Martha Dendy Project. Mr. Cannon stated that the City is still waiting on information and would make a report as soon as City staff receives the information.

**FIRST READING
ORDINANCE
EASEMENT
636-00-00-052**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance to approve the grant of an easement providing access over and across City owned real property identified as Laurens County Tax map number 636-00-00-052. Mr. Cannon stated that the City did not know until this afternoon about the easement issue. Mr. Cannon stated that the City wanted to treat Mr. Dutton fairly regarding the easement and wanted to act quickly on the matter. Mr. Cannon stated that this is the first reading and the second reading may not occur in two to three months. Mr. Cannon stated the City would not know the exact location of the easement until the Recreation Complex plans are finalized. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the easement of City owned property tax map # 636-00-00-052 and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT Mr. Wham stated that he did not think Council voted on the Bucket Truck and would Council please take another vote. Council took another vote and the vote was unanimous to purchase the Bucket Truck from Altec Industries.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORT Councilmember Roth thanked City staff for the CAFR Award. Councilmember Roth congratulated all of the Christmas Parade winners and the Christmas Decoration winners.

Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the downtown area looked great over the Christmas holiday. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he hoped one day every house in Clinton could show their Christmas spirit. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the leaves are everywhere in Clinton and needs to be addressed.

Councilmember Neal thanked the Christmas Parade winners and the Christmas Decoration winners for their hard work.

Councilmember Jenkins congratulated the Christmas Parade winners and the Christmas Decoration winners. Councilmember Jenkins wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the pot holes on D Street and Gary Street need to be addressed.

Councilmember Young thanked City staff for their hard work during the Christmas Holiday. Councilmember Young stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Meadors for his timely explanations on several projects. Councilmember Young reminded the City Manager about marking the parking lot lines downtown. Councilmember Young stated that the Welcome to Clinton sign on Hwy 76 near Whitten Center is in need of repair. Councilmember Young wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Cook asked if City staff was close in replacing the signage near the Clinton Chronicle. Mr. Meadors stated that he should have an answer tomorrow concerning the project.

MAYOR'S REPORT Mayor McLean thanked City staff for their work during the Christmas Holiday as well as throughout the year. Mayor McLean stated that the City looks the better than it has in several years. Mayor McLean stated that the financial report Council received was encouraging. McLean stated that the City is growing and improving.

ADJOURN

With there being no further business before Council motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to adjourn and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR