

JUNE 3, 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, Kuykendall, Jenkins, Neal, Roth, and Walsh. The City Attorney and the City Manager were also present. Local news media present were Brian Whitmore from the Clinton Chronicle, Randy Stevens from WLBG, Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser, and Monty Dutton from GoLaurens.com. Notice was emailed to all local news media on May 31, 2019.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Dr. Jeri Perkins from First Presbyterian 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 May 6 and 15. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the budget workshop minutes from May 6, 2019, the Council meeting minutes from May 6, 2019, and the special called meeting minutes from May 15, 2019 and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- PRESENTATION**
JIMMY YOUNG Mayor Mclean recognized Mr. Jimmy Young for his four years of service as a Councilmember and thanked Mr. Young for his service and dedication during his term in office. Mayor McLean stated that serving as a Councilmember is not an easy task since many people second guess Council's decisions. Mayor McLean stated that while he did not always agree with Mr. Young he respected Mr. Young's opinion and he respected Mr. Young. Mayor McLean presented Mr. Young with a plaque.
- SWEAR-IN**
TIM DOUGLAS
CODE ENFORCEMENT Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Tink Barnes, Building Official. Mr. Barnes introduced Mr. Tim Douglas as the new City of Clinton Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Douglas was sworn in by Ms. Tammy Templeton, City Clerk.
- RESOLUTION**
CLINTON MIDDLE
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
TEAM Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a Resolution in honor of the 2019 South Carolina Science Olympiad Champions, Clinton Middle School Science Olympiad Team. Mayor McLean stated that the Clinton Middle School Science Olympiad Team has won the State Championship seventeen years in a row. Mayor McLean stated that the team could not be present tonight because they are traveling back from the National Science Olympiad Competition in New York. Mayor Mclean stated that Council contributes \$2500 to the team each year to help offset their costs. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.

**PROCLAMATIONS
NATIONAL SAFETY
PTDS AWARENESS
CAROLINA DAY
PARK/RECREATION**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Proclamations proclaiming June as National Safety Month, June 27, 2019 as PTDS Awareness Day, June 28, 2019 as Carolina Day, and July as Parks and Recreation Month. Motion was made by Councilmember Neal to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Walsh. The vote was unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER'S
REPORT**

FIRE CONTRACT

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Bill Cannon, City Manager. Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Laurens County Fire Contract. Mr. Cannon stated that Council has the Fire Contract draft before them. Mr. Cannon stated that Laurens County proposes to pay the City an annual fee of \$293,068 for fire services. Mr. Cannon stated this is the same amount Laurens County paid the City last year and the contract must be executed by June 30, 2019. Mayor Mclean stated that the Fire Contract requires the City to submit a proposed contract fee for the next fiscal year by February 1, 2020. Mayor McLean stated that he would like to respond as soon as possible. After some discussion, Council decided to discuss the matter at the July Council meeting. Councilmember Cook stated that the City should ask if the installment payments from Laurens County could be moved up. Motion was made by Councilmember Walsh to approve the Laurens County Fire Contract for fire services between the City of Clinton and Laurens County and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARING
BUDGET
FY 2019-20**

Mayor Mclean declared Council in a Public hearing regarding the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2019-20 for the City of Clinton. Mayor McLean opened the floor for public comment. Council did not receive any comments and a motion was made by Councilmember Cook to close the Public Hearing and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**GRANTS
TD GREEN STREET
PARD**

Mr. Cannon recognized Mr. Joey Meadors, Public Works Director, to give Council an update on some recent grants the City has received. Mr. Meadors stated that City staff applied for two grants and received a TD Green Street Grant for \$20,000 that would be applied to the Martha Dendy Park in conjunction with Arbor Day. Mr. Meadors stated that that the second grant is a PARD grant for \$26,500 to be used at the Pine Street Park.

**YOUNG PROPERTY
ANNEXATION
APPLICATION**

Mr. Cannon recognized Mr. Tink Barnes to give Council an update on the Planning Commission meeting regarding the annexation application for the Young property. Mr. Barnes stated that the purpose of the annexation application is to build a 46 unit apartment complex on this property. Mr. Barnes stated that the City's engineers looked at the project and determined that the City's Sewer System in that area would not accommodate the apartment complex. Mr. Barnes stated that the Planning Commission denied the annexation application. Mr. Barnes stated that City staff and the Martha Dendy Community had a good meeting on May 29, 2019. Mr. Barnes stated that Mr. Cannon has received a lot of bad publicity on this matter but he inherited this project and is trying to move forward.

**SECOND READING
ORDINANCE
BUDGET
FY 2019-20**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the second reading of an Ordinance to appropriate and raise revenue and adopt a budget for the City of Clinton for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Motion was made by Councilmember Roth to approve the second reading of the Ordinance to adopt the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was six to one with Councilmember Jenkins voting no.

**SECOND READING
ORDINANCE
BLUE LAWS**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is the second reading of an Ordinance to temporarily suspend the application of Sunday Sales Prohibitions (Blue Laws) within the corporate limits of the City of Clinton. Mayor Mclean stated that State allows the City to pass an Ordinance every six months to suspend Blue Laws. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to suspend the Blue laws and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**CITIZENS ADDRESS
COUNCIL**

**REVEREND WELLS
MARTHA DENDY**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is public comment. Mayor Mclean recognized Reverend Carroll Wells from Friendship AME Church. Reverend Wells stated that he is before Council regarding the Martha Dendy property. Reverend Wells stated that he attended the meeting last Wednesday concerning Martha Dendy. Reverend Wells stated that revitalization of the Martha Dendy property has been talked about for many years. Reverend Wells stated that it is time for the Community to do something about the property and not just talk about the property. Reverend Wells stated that the City and the Community need the faith and commitment to see this project through.

**REVEREND AIKEN
MARTHA DENDY** Mayor McLean recognized Reverend Jackie Aiken from Mt. Pleasant AME Church. Reverend Aiken stated that she toured the Martha Dendy building last Wednesday and saw great potential for a positive gathering for all age levels in the building. Reverend Aiken stated that the Community is willing to work with the City to save this property.

**MARY JACKSON
MARTHA DENDY** Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Mary Jackson. Ms. Jackson stated that she is before Council concerning the Martha Dendy property. Ms. Jackson stated that she runs a non-profit company dealing with housing rehabilitation and she is also a licensed General Contractor. Ms. Jackson stated that she has a plan she would like to discuss with Council on how to utilize this property. Councilmember Walsh asked Ms. Jackson the name of her company and Ms. Jackson stated Calvary Life Inspiration Community Development Corporation. Mayor Mclean stated that Ms. Jackson owned properties in Clinton and Ms. Jackson agreed.

**SUSAN TALLMAN
CITY LEADERSHIP** Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Susan Tallman. Ms. Tallman stated that she sent a letter to Council, the City Manager, and the Clinton Chronicle concerning her frustration about the leadership in the City. Ms. Tallman stated that she had planned to speak before Council for the last two weeks but since then her view point has changed. Ms. Tallman stated that she is a cancer survivor and attended a recent Cancer Survivor Conference. Ms. Tallman stated that the conference gave her a better perspective on what she wants from her life. Ms. Tallman stated that she is here tonight to ask each Councilmember to meet with their Wards before the July Council meeting. Ms. Tallman stated that Council represents their neighbors, friends, and even family and each Councilmember needs to be aware of the issues in their Ward. Ms. Tallman stated that Council should listen to citizens and give citizens a voice in the City.

**CHARLOTTE STRICKLAND
CITY MANAGER** Mayor Mclean recognized Ms. Charlotte Strickland. Ms. Strickland stated that she was before Council regarding the City Manager. Ms. Strickland stated that there is a small group of people working against the City Manager and the Mayor. Ms. Strickland stated that this group of citizens hurt the City of Clinton because this prevents the City from moving forward. Ms. Strickland stated that the pettiness needs to stop and everyone needs to work together. Ms. Strickland stated that Council needs to do what is best for Clinton and not what a small group of citizens want. Ms. Strickland stated that citizens should go to their Councilmember with issues first before bringing the matter to Council.

Ms. Strickland stated that Mr. Cannon has done more for Clinton than the previous City Managers in that roads have been paved and sewer lines have been repaired. Ms. Strickland stated that Mr. Cannon is moving forward with economic development projects and the City has purchase property for a new Recreation Complex. Ms. Strickland stated that she supports Mr. Cannon and Mayor Bob McLean one hundred percent.

RICKY JOHNSON
MARTHA DENDY

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Ricky Johnson. Mr. Johnson stated that he lives at 408 Frances Street and he is before Council regarding the Martha Dendy property. Mr. Johnson thanked Councilmember Kuykendall for fixing the sidewalk in his neighborhood. Mr. Johnson stated that he had a conversation with the City Manager in 2018 concerning Martha Dendy. Mr. Johnson stated that the City Manager told him the City has spent \$750,000 on Martha Dendy and the City spoke with the Agriculture Departments at Clemson and South Carolina concerning the Martha Dendy property. Mr. Johnson asked if anything came from this discussion with the universities and Mr. Cannon stated no. Mr. Johnson stated that there are seven cameras on one pole at the Martha Dendy property. Mr. Johnson asked if the cameras could be placed on the building to give a better view of the building. Mr. Johnson stated that he asked the Police Chief about the cameras and the Police Chief did not know the cameras were there. Mr. Johnson asked if anyone has been monitoring the cameras. Mr. Johnson stated that he had a conversation with Councilmember Roth about the division in Clinton. Mr. Johnson stated that there are fourteen restaurants on one side of town and about five on his side of town. Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to see more businesses on his side of town.

ROSA BOOKER
MARTHA DENDY

Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Rosa Booker. Ms. Booker stated that she was before Council concerning the Martha Dendy property. Ms. Booker stated that she works with Outreach in Laurens County and she helps citizens find jobs and educational opportunities. Ms. Booker stated that the Martha Dendy property should not just be for black people but also white people. Ms. Booker stated that everyone in Clinton should work together because it should not be about where you live in Clinton and the color of your skin. Ms. Booker stated that the biggest issue about Martha Dendy is that the City Manager tells everyone they will own Martha Dendy. Ms. Booker stated that this town is all about money but Clinton does have poor citizens. Ms. Booker stated that everyone should work together and rehabilitate the Martha Dendy property.

REVEREND KENNETH MURRAY Mayor McLean recognized Reverend Kenneth Murray from Mt. Moriah Baptist Church and Reverend LeShown Goodwin from Hebron Baptist Church. Reverend Murray stated that he is before Council concerning the renovation of Martha Dendy. Reverend Murray stated that there has been much talk and now is the time for action. Reverend Murray stated that he would like to see the City and the Community partner together on the Martha Dendy property. Reverend Murray asked Council to add funds in the next budget to help with the Martha Dendy renovations. Reverend Murray stated that Martha Dendy could be used to assist the elderly as well as the youth in Clinton. Reverend Goodwin stated that he is not concerned with what happened ten years ago about Martha Dendy but Council now has four ministers and a concerned Community to help Council and City staff renovate Martha Dendy.

REVEREND LESHOWN GOODWIN

MARTHA DENDY

EMMA HARRISON CITY MANAGER Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Emma Harrison. Ms. Harrison stated that she was before Council concerning the City Manager. Ms. Harrison stated that she has worked with many of the Councilmembers as well as City staff throughout the years. Ms. Harrison stated that Mr. Cannon has moved forward with projects that other City Managers did not complete. Ms. Harrison stated that citizens have to give the Council and City staff a chance and they will work with citizens.

COSTELL LITTLE MARTHA DENDY Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Costell Little. Mr. Little stated that he is before Council regarding the Martha Dendy property. Mr. Little stated that he was a original member of the Concerned Citizens for the Preservation of Martha Dendy which was organized in 2006. Mr. Little stated that the original intent of the group was for the City to partner with them in order to preserve Martha Dendy. Mr. Little stated that he would like for the City to get back on board and help renovate Martha Dendy. Mr. Little stated that Martha Dendy is not just for one group but for all the citizens of Clinton. Mayor McLean thanked all of the citizens who spoke during public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to go into executive session and discuss one contractual matter relating to the sale and purchase of real property relating to the Utility Billing Department, one contractual matter relating to the sale and purchase of real property relating to City owned property, and one personnel matter relating to the Administration Department and return to open session on the call of the chair and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor McLean declared Council back in open session. Mayor Mclean stated that two contractual matters and one personnel matter was discussed in executive session and no action was taken.

**COUNCILMEMBER'S
REPORT**

Councilmember Walsh stated that she appreciated citizen's participation tonight since every citizen would like a place to come and be heard. Councilmember Walsh stated that often the job in public service is just to listen with an open mind. Councilmember Walsh stated that citizens may have lost trust in Council over the last two Council meetings to do what is right and to uphold the Oath of Office each Councilmember took. Councilmember Walsh stated that she thinks that the communication between Councilmembers and the City Manager needs to improve. Councilmember Walsh stated that she thinks Council has also lost communication with citizens by not communicating with the press. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council should utilize the press as a tool of communication and education to the citizens of Clinton. Councilmember Walsh stated that the citizens that spoke tonight shows how important the Martha Dendy building is to a Community. Councilmember Walsh stated that it is citizen's duty to question authority but respectfully on issues concerning the City so that Council knows if they are proceeding in the right direction.

Councilmember Roth stated that the information tonight was productive and he appreciated citizens coming out and speaking.

Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he appreciated the opinions tonight and it was done in a way that allowed Council to listen and gain information. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he believes in this City. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the City does have issues but we can work together to solve them.

Councilmember Neal thanked the citizens for speaking tonight. Councilmember Neal stated that Council may have disagreements but will work together.

Councilmember Jenkins thanked the citizens for speaking tonight. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she wanted to invite these citizens to continue to come to the Council meetings. Councilmember Jenkins stated that there are seven Councilmembers and each one has one vote and Council must work together.

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Councilmember Jenkins stated that Council does need to communicate with each other as well as with the City Manager. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Council wants what is best for Clinton but we have to learn to work together. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Clinton is our Community whether you are black or white. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she likes the idea of each Councilmember holding a meeting with citizens in their own Ward.

Councilmember Cook thought Rhythm on the Rails went well. Councilmember Cook thanked the City staff for their work on the event. Councilmember Cook also congratulated the Middle School Science Olympiad Team for winning the State Championship. Councilmember Cook stated that the microphones in the Council Chamber are only for the recording system. Councilmember Cook asked City staff to place a microphone at the podium. Councilmember Cook thanked the citizens who participated in the meeting last week concerning Martha Dendy. Councilmember Cook thanked the citizens who spoke tonight and he felt this was a positive meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mclean stated that citizens may think that communication is coming to the Council meeting when citizens should approach their Councilmember about issues in Clinton as well as in their Ward. Mayor McLean thanked the citizens who came to the meeting and voiced their opinions. Mayor Mclean stated that Clinton is the only City in the State who has built a Speculative Building and the City is building a Recreation Complex for all of the citizens in Clinton. Mayor McLean stated that he would like for the City and the citizens to concentrate on the positive projects going on in Clinton.

ADJOURN

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

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

