

AUGUST 5, 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 Walsh. The City Attorney and the City Manager were present. News media present were Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser, Brian Whitmore from the Clinton Chronicle, and Randy Stevens from WLBG. The agenda was emailed to all local media on July 30, 2019.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Councilmember Kuykendall.
- 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 July 1 minutes. Councilmember Walsh stated that under the Councilmember's Reports the minutes should read Councilmember Walsh requested a weekly report from the City Manager not City staff. Councilmember Jenkins made a motion to approve the July 1, 2019 minutes along with the amendment and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- PRESS RELEASE
ELECTRIC RATES** Mayor McLean stated that he wanted to address an issue in the local newspaper concerning the City of Clinton's electric rates. Mayor McLean stated that the City issued a press release about this matter and Mayor McLean read the press release to the audience. Mayor McLean stated that the City of Clinton is committed to keeping the electric rates as low as possible. Mayor McLean stated that Councilmembers pay the same electric rates as citizens and Councilmembers do not want their rates to go up either. Mayor McLean stated that the article states three PMPA member Cities would leave PMPA in 2028 which is not true. Mayor McLean stated that RockHill, Greer, and Westminster would not leave the PMPA contract in 2028. Mayor McLean stated that copies of the press release are available to the public.
- PROCLAMATIONS
BACK TO SCHOOL
COPS & COMMUNITIES** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the Proclamations proclaiming August as Clinton Goes Back to School Month and August as Connecting Cops and Communities Month. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**RESOLUTION
SPECULATIVE BLD**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a Resolution supporting the Clinton Economic Development Corporation to secure a loan from Santee Cooper for the construction of a speculative building. Mr. Cannon, City Manager, asked Mr. Marvin Moss, Economic Development Director, to address Council concerning this issue. Mr. Moss stated that Council has before them information regarding the current sizes available of current speculative buildings and proposed buildings in the State. Mr. Moss stated that the City's best option is to build a speculative building between 50,000 SF and 60,000 SF. Mr. Moss stated that last month Council approved a Resolution for \$3,000,000 for a speculative building but costs have risen by 24% since building the City's current speculative building. Mr. Moss stated that the Clinton Economic Development Corporation has the ability to borrow up to \$4,900,000 but believe the cost would be lower. Mr. Moss stated that by asking for \$4,900,000 from Santee Cooper would give the City the flexibility to build a 50,000 SF or 60,000 SF building. Councilmember Walsh asked if speculative building #2 and future buildings would be on the City's electric lines and Mr. Moss stated yes. Councilmember Walsh stated that the proposed size of buildings is enough. Mr. Moss stated that the City does not have the capacity to borrow more than the \$4,900,000 from Santee Cooper and this amount would allow the City to build the 50,000 SF or 60,000 SF building. Mr. Moss stated that the potential customer would have the capacity to expand the building. Motion was made by Councilmember Roth to approve the Resolution supporting the CEDC in securing a loan from Santee Cooper for \$4,900,000 for a speculative building and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**BOARDS
COMMISSIONS**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the appointments to Boards and Commissions. Mayor Mclean stated that Council has a list in their packet. Councilmember Walsh asked how often would the Committees meet and Mayor Mclean stated anywhere from monthly to once a year. Councilmember Jenkins made a motion to approve the appointments to the Boards and Commissions and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**SECOND READING
ORDINANCE
PROPERTY
901-12-04-004**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is approval of a second reading of an Ordinance approving the conveyance of City-owned property identified as Laurens County tax map # 901-12-04-004 with conditions to CrossFit 864, LLC. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the second reading of the Ordinance conveying property to CrossFit 864, LLC with conditions and seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.

**FIRST READING
ORDINANCE
CODE BOOKS**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance adopting and enacting a new code for the City of Clinton providing for the repeal of certain Ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this Ordinance shall become effective. Mayor McLean stated that the City has not codified their codes in many years. Mayor Mclean stated that the City worked with Municode to organize the codes and bring the codes up to date. Mr. Cannon stated that the new code books would have a table of contents with Ordinances Council has approved dealing with certain issues. Mr. Cannon stated that the information would be available to Council as well as the public. Mr. Cannon stated that Municode would receive the approved Ordinances from the City throughout the year and at the end of the year send the City a new version of the codified codes. Mr. Wham, City Attorney, stated that he went through the code book to review the updates. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council has not seen any of the updates and that is why she hesitates to move forward and Councilmember Jenkins agreed. Councilmember Roth asked the frequency the updates would be made moving forward and Mr. Cannon stated once a year. Mayor McLean stated that Council is voting on the codified version of the Ordinances. Mayor McLean stated that Council is not voting on any new Ordinances. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to table the matter until the next Council meeting so Council could review the new code book and seconded by Councilmember Walsh. The vote was unanimous.

**CLOCK REPAIR
DOWNTOWN**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is to consider repairs to the clock located downtown. Mayor McLean stated that the cost to repair the clock is \$6,056.20. Councilmember Jenkins asked where the funds would come from to pay for the repairs and Mr. Cannon stated the General Fund. Mayor Mclean stated that the clock adds a lot to Clinton and the City needs to maintain the clock. Councilmember Roth asked where is the Verdin Company located and Mr. Meadors, Public Works Director, stated that he did not know. Mr. Meadors stated that the Verdin Company installed the clock and has maintained the clock throughout the years. Mayor Mclean asked what would be the warranty on the clock and Mr. Meadors stated two years. Councilmember Roth asked the age of the clock and Mr. Meadors stated that the clock has been there for about twenty-five years. Motion was made by Councilmember Roth to approve the repairs to the downtown clock for a cost not to exceed \$6,056.20 and seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER'S
BRIEFING
SEPTEMBER
COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the City Manager's briefing. Mr. Cannon stated that the September Council meeting falls on Labor Day. Mr. Cannon asked Council if they would want to move the meeting to another date. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to move the September Council meeting to Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:00 PM and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Cannon stated that the City would be working with the State's Forestry Division in regards to a Forestry Plan for South Broad Street. Mr. Cannon stated that the trees would have to be planted on private property and the Forestry Plan would determine what type of trees could be planted. Mayor McLean asked when would the stumps on South Broad be removed and Mr. Meadors stated that the City is taking bids this upcoming week. Mayor Mclean asked if the City has made in progress about putting the lines underground on South Broad and Mr. Meadors stated that the City is working on the determining the cost of the project.

**FORESTRY PLAN
S BROAD ST**

**CITIZENS ADDRESS
COUNCIL
SHERI AMICK
LYDIA MILL**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is public comment. Mayor Mclean recognized Ms. Sheri Amick. Ms. Amick stated that she lives at 139 Pine Lydia Mill and she is before Council concerning issues in Lydia Mill. Ms. Amick asked if the City has a Noise Ordinance and Councilmember Jenkins stated yes. Ms. Amick stated that it needs to be enforced in Lydia Mill. Ms. Amick stated that she has to call the Police Department about citizens walking through her yard. Ms. Amick stated that citizens are hanging out at the Lydia Mill Park after dark. Ms. Amick stated that citizens park on the street and blocked access to driveways. Ms. Amick stated that citizens steal power and water from the Lydia Mill Park.

**RICKY MARTIN
MARTHA DENDY**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Ricky Martin. Mr. Martin stated that he was before Council concerning Martha Dendy. Mr. Martin stated that it was nice the Mayor read the press release but that information could be obtained from the newspaper. Mr. Martin stated that he would like information about events going on behind the scenes. Mr. Martin stated that he read in the news about a bribe and the Mayor. Mr. Martin stated that he does not like to see comments about the Mayor that is not true but he has not heard any defense in regards to this matter. Mr. Martin stated that he has not heard any details about the accusations. Mr. Martin stated that this is confusing since he is a concerned citizen and is proud to live in Clinton. Mr. Martin stated that he has recently seen several proposals about Martha Dendy but he has been making proposals for the last several years.

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Mr. Martin stated that he has never received any calls to be part of the meetings regarding Martha Dendy. Mr. Martin asked if the City is in the process of getting a grant for the project. Mr. Martin asked if the City would sell the property to him. Mayor Mclean stated that it never has been in the paper or the lawsuit stating the Mayor takes bribes. Mayor Mclean stated that he did not appreciate rumors being spread. Mayor Mclean stated that in 2009 Mr. Martin ran for office and did not complete his Statement of Economic Interest to the State Commissions of Ethics. Mayor Mclean stated that you were fined \$5,000 but you ran on accountability and transparency. Mayor McLean stated that this last election you did not file any of your reports which is required by law. Mayor McLean stated that the public does not see where your funds to run came from. Mayor Mclean stated that all of this information is available to the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to enter into executive session to discuss one contractual matter relating to School District 56, one contractual matter relating to the sale and purchase of City owned property, one legal matter relating to PMPA, and one personnel matter relating to the Office of the City Manager and return to open session on the call of the chair and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

OPEN SESSION

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

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORT**

Councilmember Cook asked if the Police Department would host the National Night Out and Police Chief Ledda stated no.

Councilmember Jenkins stated that Hebron Baptist Church recently paved their parking lot. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the Church wanted to know where on the paving list is Buice Road. Councilmember Jenkins asked if the City had any funds to pave Buice Road. Mr. Cannon stated that he would look into the matter. Councilmember Jenkins stated that in 2010 or 2012 a historic marker was placed at the Martha Dendy School. Councilmember Jenkins asked the City to dedicate the marker. Councilmember Jenkins thanked City staff for demolishing the abandoned houses. Councilmember Jenkins thanked City staff for opening up the Recycling Center.

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Councilmember Kuykendall stated that Saturday, August 10 is the Flight of the Dove. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that it is an annual event that attracts many cyclists to Clinton. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the event has been going on about twelve years and brings in about four hundred cyclists. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the event raises funds for Hospice of Laurens County. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that a young family has moved into a house on North Adair Street next to Drusilla's building. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that this family has upgraded that house and he wanted to recognize their efforts. Mayor McLean thanked City staff for taking down the tree on North Adair. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that Tuesday, August 13, 2019 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM Jitters and Clinton Canopy are hosting an event to meet local artists and the downtown mural artists. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that this event would bring awareness to the mural on Musgrove Street.

Councilmember Neal asked Mr. Meadors if City staff was still tearing down the abandoned houses. Mr. Meadors stated that the City has stopped that project in order to concentrate on clearing the City's right of ways.

Councilmember Roth thanked City staff for their work in Clinton. Councilmember Roth stated that he sees the upgrades in that the streets are looking better and the potholes are being filled.

Councilmember Walsh stated that she received texts from friends about how good the Clinton sign looks on the interstate. Councilmember Walsh thanked Mr. Meadors for repairing Cedar Street. Councilmember Walsh stated that Popular Street is in need of repairs. Mr. Meadors stated that he is aware of the issue and is working on getting the road repaired. Councilmember Walsh asked if the City has met with any groups about Martha Dendy. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the Committee has met with Costel Little's group once. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the Committee would meet with them again in September and then they would present their plans at a Council meeting. Mayor McLean stated that this group wants to form a 501 and move forward with this project. Councilmember Walsh asked the City Manager to send Council a weekly email on current projects in the City.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McLean stated that he has also received comments about Clinton's sign on I-26. Mayor Mclean stated that the Physicians Assistance School is opening this year at Presbyterian College. Mayor McLean stated that the school would help the housing market in Clinton.

ADJOURN

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

CITY CLERK

MAYOR