

FEBRUARY 4, 2019

The regular Council meeting was held at the M.S. Municipal Bailey Center at 6:00 PM with Mayor Bob McLean presiding with Councilmembers Cook, Jenkins, Neal, Kuykendall, Roth, and Young. The City Manager and the City Attorney were also present. News media present were Larry Franklin from the Clinton Chronicle, Randy Stephens from WLBG, and Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser. Notice was emailed to all local news media on February 1, 2019.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Bishop Troy Price, Sr. from Ain't God Good Christian 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 January 7. Motion was made by Councilmember Young to approve the January 7, 2019 minutes and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- CITIZENS ADDRESS
COUNCIL
KATHLEEN PITTS
ANIMAL CONTROL** Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Kathleen Pitts. Ms. Pitts stated that she operates Right Touch Beauty Salon on North Broad Street and she is before Council concerning animals. Ms. Pitts stated that next to her business is an abandoned building and wild animals such as skunks and possums are going into the building and underneath her building. Ms. Pitts stated that an alley separates the two buildings and the animals are using the alley to get to her Salon. Ms. Pitts stated that two weeks ago a skunk dug under her building and sprayed. Ms. Pitts stated that she had to close her business until she got the smell out. Ms. Pitts stated that she needed help from the City to address this problem. Mayor McLean stated that the trash in the alley attracts the animals.
- RHONDA GARY
YOUTH PROGRAMS** Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Rhonda Gary. Ms. Gary stated that she lives at 705 Washington Street and she is before Council on behalf of Impact for Purpose Youth Mentorship in Laurens County. Ms. Gary asked what the Community could do to offer summer programs for the youth in Clinton. Ms. Gary stated that her group would like to partner with the City and offer summer activities for children in the 7th through the 8th grade. Ms. Gary stated that she currently partners with School District 55 and hosts an afterschool program and a summer program in Laurens.
- SUSAN GALLOWAY
STERILITE PARK** Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Susan Galloway. Ms. Galloway stated that she lives at 106 E Maple Street. Ms. Galloway thanked everyone who participated in the Public Forum regarding the Recreation Complex.

Ms. Galloway stated that she was before Council concerning the Sterilite Park. Ms. Galloway stated that in 2015 Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to use up to \$70,000 in Hospitality Tax funds to create the Sterilite Park. Ms. Galloway stated that this decision was based on a recommendation from the Recreation Committee. Ms. Galloway stated the decision in 2015 by City Council to move forward with the park was instrumental in the Laurens County Parks Association being able to apply for a grant from the National Park Service. Ms. Galloway stated that the National Park Service drew up conceptual plans for the Sterilite Park. Ms. Galloway stated that the property is pristine and the City owns the property. Ms. Galloway stated that the park does not have to be elaborate and could be done in phases.

**RICKY MARTIN
ELECTIONS**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Ricky Martin. Mr. Martin stated that he would be running for Mayor in the upcoming elections. Mr. Martin stated that he is glad that citizens come to the Council meeting and give their opinions.

**PROCLAMATION
BARRINGTON**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a Proclamation honoring Ashton and Elaine Barrington for 22 years in business and service to the citizens of Clinton. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Proclamation and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous. Councilmember Kuykendall presented the Proclamation to Ashton and Elaine Barrington. Mr. Barrington thanked everyone for the recognition and stated that he has enjoyed the past twenty-two years. Mr. Barrington stated that he and his wife plan to retire and continue to live in Clinton.

**PROCLAMATIONS
AMERICAN HEART
BLACK HISTORY
DENTAL HEALTH
CITIES MEAN BUSINESS**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Proclamations proclaiming February as American Heart Association Month, February as Black History Month, February as Children's Dental Health Month, and February as Cities Mean Business Month. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous. Mayor McLean stated that he has been out in the Community has come across children with dental issues. Mayor McLean stated that it is a shame for a child to grow up without dental care.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
FIRST READING
ORDINANCE
BACKFLOW PENALTIES**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Bill Cannon, City Manager. Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the first reading of an Ordinance amending the Cross-Connection Ordinance to include penalties for failure to have backflow devices tested.

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Mr. Cannon stated that many businesses are required to have a backflow device in order to protect and maintain the Water Supply System in Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that the City is required to test the backflow devices on an annual basis and the City is having trouble getting businesses to comply with the testing. Mr. Cannon stated that the business would be given 45 days to fulfill the requirement and if the business fails to do so then the City would test the backflow device and charge the business. Motion was made by Councilmember Neal to approve the first reading the Ordinance amending the Cross-Connection Ordinance to include penalties and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

**LETTER TO GOVERNOR
SCDOT**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is approval of a letter to Governor McMaster requesting assistance with an economic development project with the SCDOT. Mr. Cannon stated that the letter would include the signature of every Councilmember. Mr. Cannon stated that the project deals with the SCDOT's maintenance shed on Exit 54. Mr. Cannon stated that the SCDOT's shed is a distraction and hurts the City's economic development opportunities. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he thought the SCDOT was in agreement to assist Clinton in this matter and Mr. Cannon stated no, the SCDOT is not interested. Mayor McLean stated that the location of the SCDOT property on Exit 54 has been identified by the SC Department of Commerce as one of the top 25 sites for future growth. Mr. Cannon stated that the City has offered to purchase the land or engage in a land swap with the SCDOT but the SCDOT has not expressed an interest in the matter. Councilmember Roth asked if the SCDOT was receptive to a land swap and Mr. Cannon stated they are not. Councilmember Cook stated that the City should include background information and who the City has spoken with at the SCDOT about this matter with the letter to the Governor. Mayor McLean stated that this issue has been ongoing for several years. Councilmember Cook asked if there are any environmental issues on the property and Mr. Cannon stated he did not think so but an environmental study could be done. Councilmember Young stated that the ideal location for the SCDOT is where I-26 and Highway 385 divides. Mr. Cannon stated that the SCDOT would not only want property to house a maintenance shed by an office complex. Motion was made by Councilmember Young to send the letter to the Governor and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**RESOLUTION
ANNEXATION
636-00-00-052
614-00-00-001**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of an Resolution for the annexation of contiguous City-Owned Real Properties tax map numbers 636-00-00-052 and a portion 614-00-00-001 into the City of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that this is the Dutton and Watkins properties. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

**FIRST READING
ORDINANCE
ANNEXATION
636-00-00-052
614-00-00-001**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance for the annexation of contiguous City-Owned Real Properties tax map numbers 636-00-00-052 and portion 614-00-00-001 into the City of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that the Ordinance confirms the Resolution Council approved for the annexation of the Dutton and Watkins properties. Councilmember Jenkins made a motion to approve the first reading of an Ordinance to annex properties tax map numbers 636-00-00-052 and portion 614-00-00-001 into the City of Clinton and seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
BRIEFING

MARTHA DENDY
STEVEN EVANS**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the administrative briefing. Mr. Cannon stated that the first matter relates to the Martha Dendy Project. Mr. Cannon recognized Reverend Steven Evans who is spear heading the project. Reverend Evans stated that he is no longer the pastor at Friendship AME but he is still involved with the Martha Dendy Project. Reverend Evans stated that the Martha Dendy Building needs to be more than just a recreation center but a viable part of the Community. Reverend Evans stated that the Martha Dendy Building should offer activities for the whole family not just the youth. Reverend Evans stated that the Martha Dendy Project contains three phases with the first phase being the Park. Reverend Evans stated that the Clinton Canopy Group has received a grant of \$20,000 for greenspace. Reverend Evans stated that the second phase of the project would include the facility which everyone wants to be a part of. Reverend Evans stated that the Martha Dendy Project has become a political issue and this should stop because one should not play with people's lives. Reverend Evans stated that resources should not be allocated to just one part of Clinton. Reverend Evans stated that the third phase is the historic piece. Reverend Evans stated that two groups will help organize the historic information for the Martha Dendy Project. Reverend Evans stated that since it is an historic piece of property then the State has a voice in how to renovate the property. Reverend Evans asked everyone to be patient with the progress because several groups will be involved and it will take time.

Reverend Evans stated that the Martha Dendy Building could be used as an after school program and also a training center for young people. Reverend Evans stated that he wanted to be able to help the family and seniors in the Community. Reverend Evans stated that as abandoned houses are torn down in this area how could the Martha Dendy Center empower citizens to buy that property become home owners and a presence in the Community. Reverend Evans stated that the Martha Dendy Center should not only be an empowerment center but a healing center.

**DRIVE –THRU
MUNICIPAL BLD**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next update concerns the Municipal Building drive-thru. Mr. Cannon recognized Mr. Meadors, Public Works Director, to address this matter. Mr. Meadors stated that City staff has been working on opening the drive-thru by fixing the HVAC system and placing computers in the drive-thru. Mr. Meadors stated that the City also has plans to move the Utility Billing Department to that area which will make it easier to operate the drive-thru full time. Mr. Meadors stated the City has a plan for that area but the City is waiting on the cost of the project. Mr. Meadors stated that the City will move forward with the project as soon as possible because the City realizes that some customers struggle to get into the Municipal Building. Councilmember Jenkins thanked Mr. Meadors for the report and stated she is glad this project is moving forward. Councilmember Roth asked if the City would still have walk in traffic and Mr. Meadors stated yes. Mr. Meadors stated that the drive-thru would only accept checks, cash or money orders for utility bills.

SEWER LINES

Mr. Cannon stated that the next update relates to smoking the sewer lines. Mr. Cannon stated that in the next several weeks City staff would start this project. Mr. Cannon stated that smoking the sewer lines would show where the City has leaks in the Sewer System.

D.E. TRIBBLE BLD

Mr. Cannon stated that City staff would also smoke the sewer lines at the D.E. Tribble Building so City staff could see the structural issues in the building. Mr. Cannon stated that he gave Council a copy of the report from the structural engineer regarding the D.E. Tribble Building. Mr. Cannon stated that the City did receive a CDBG Grant for \$99,900 from the SC Department of Commerce. Mr. Cannon stated that the purpose of the grant is to stabilize building #3 of the D.E. Tribble Complex. Mr. Cannon stated that the grant requires a \$10,000 match which would come from the Economic Development funds. Mr. Cannon stated that the structural engineer stated in his report that Building #3 is near total failure and renovations of this building would require a new roof and repairs to the floor and structure.

Mr. Cannon stated that the City would have to notify the Department of Commerce if the City wants the grant funds. Mr. Cannon stated that he needed direction from Council whether to keep the grant funds and make the repairs or return the funds to the SC Department of Commerce. Mr. Cannon stated that building #3 is unsafe in its current state. Councilmember Roth stated that if the City tears down building #3 how would that affect the other two buildings. Mayor Mclean stated that the other two buildings are in good shape. Mr. Cannon stated that the City would only tear down Building #3 under the direction of the structural engineer. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to return the grant funds of \$99,900 to the SC Department of Commerce and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

**RECREATION COMPLEX
VANCE PARK**

Mr. Cannon stated that he would like to address some false information concerning the Recreation Complex and the Vance Park. Mr. Cannon stated that Council has not yet approved to build a pavilion at the Vance Park. Mr. Cannon stated that bids will be solicited next month to determine the actual cost for the facility. Mr. Cannon stated that once the bids for the Vance Park have been received then the project would be brought before Council for their approval of the project and the bid. Mr. Cannon stated that this would take some time and would not be completed until a later date. Mr. Cannon stated that the first priority is the Recreation Complex. Mr. Cannon stated that the City has started the process Council must go through to reach a Master Plan that Council deems suitable for the citizens of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that the plans presented last month of the Recreation Complex is the starting point and is a conceptual plan only. Mr. Cannon stated that the City is looking at other complexes and assessing the needs for Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that the City has purchased the property and are looking at many options that would meet the needs of the citizens of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that the Recreation Complex would be a multi-use facility for all sports and recreation and it would be impossible to build the complex to everyone's expectations. Mr. Cannon stated that the Recreation Complex could be built to hold ball tournaments but it may not bring in the revenue that larger Cities receive because the City does not have the number of restaurants and hotels other Cities have. Mr. Cannon stated that the conceptual plan included an amphitheater for concerts and events. Mr. Cannon stated that if the amphitheater is built it would be years down the road. Mr. Cannon stated that the City does not plan to use Adele Alducin, Main Street Director, as the booking agent for the amphitheater.

Mr. Cannon stated that there are zero plans to build a water park at the Recreation Complex but the Conceptual Plan does include a splash pad. Mr. Cannon stated that these rumors have stirred up many of our citizens and Facebook was busy with complaints about the City of Clinton and wasteful spending. Mr. Cannon encourage everyone to listen to what is being said at the Council meetings. Mr. Cannon stated that the Mayor and Council and City staff are working hard to build something that citizens could enjoy and would be good for tourism.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to go into executive session to discuss three contractual matters relating to the Industrial Supply Complex and the Recreation Complex 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 three contractual matters and no action was taken.

**INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY
COMPLEX
LIBRARY**

Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to authorize the City Manager to extend a grant not to exceed \$15,000 to Wheeler & Wheeler for the cost of the development of a site design for a new library in the Industrial Supply Complex and contingent however upon the consent of the property owners and the agreement by those property owners to reimburse the City the grant funds either when the property is sold or development commences, whichever occurs first and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORT**

Councilmember Young thanked the City Manager for all of the economic development work he has done. Councilmember Young asked if the City Manager had any updates on the Police Department and Fire Department building. Councilmember Young stated that the City needs to move forward with that project.

Councilmember Jenkins asked where the City was in regards to the Police Department and Fire Department building, the walking trails at Sterilite Park, the American Legion Hut, the Clinton Museum and the City parks. Mr. Cannon stated that the City is in the process of opening the Clinton Museum and finding someone to operate the museum. Mr. Cannon stated that Council would have to decide which direction to go in regards to the Police and Fire building.

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Mr. Cannon stated that he thinks part of the building should be torn down and a new building should be constructing on the old library site. Mr. Cannon stated that Council and City staff would have to discuss the project and the financing of the project. Mr. Cannon stated that he is not familiar with the Sterilite Park but the City is in the process of determining the upgrades for the City parks. Councilmember Jenkins asked which streets would be repaired after the City paves Woodrow Street and Gary Street. Mr. Cannon stated that the only two streets he knows about are Woodrow Street and Gary Street because the City received funds from Laurens County Transportation Committee to pave these two streets. Mr. Cannon stated that the park benches have been placed at the Municipal Building. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she has placed out her campaign signs and six of the signs are missing. Councilmember Jenkins stated that these signs are expensive and she would not remove anyone's campaign sign and she expects the same courtesy for her signs. Mayor Mclean stated that he too is having problems with his campaign signs. Mayor Mclean stated that someone is removing his signs and are placing them in yards that did not give him permission to place the signs on their property. Mayor Mclean stated that some individuals are also placing their campaign signs on City property which is not allowed. Councilmember Jenkins thanked Reverend Evans for his report on Martha Dendy.

Councilmember Neal thanked the City Manager for the work he has been doing. Councilmember Neal stated that the City should move forward with the upgrades to the Police Department and the Fire Department building. Councilmember Neal stated that citizens are dumping trash in her Ward and it is becoming a problem. Mr. Cannon stated that the Police Department could send extra patrols in that area.

Councilmember Kuykendall stated that when the City cut timber on East Main Street it uncovered a lot of trash that needs to be cleaned up. Councilmember Kuykendall asked about the progress on the Florida Street sink hole. Mr. Cannon stated that the contract has been signed and the contractors would start in the near future. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the parking lines downtown looks good. Councilmember Kuykendall asked if City staff could take down a stump on North Adair Street. Councilmember Kuykendall stated on the corner of North Adair and East Carolina Avenue a tree has fallen in a yard that is unsightly and will be an issue. Councilmember Kuykendall thanked Chief Ledda for addressing an issue on Elizabeth Street. Councilmember Kuykendall thanked the City Manager for the information regarding the Recreation Center and Vance Park.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McLean stated that PARD Funds are to be distributed every year but these funds have not been distributed for two years. Mayor Mclean stated State Legislators should be notified about the matter. Mayor McLean stated that the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual award dinner on February 21st at 6:00 PM at Presbyterian College. Mayor McLean stated that the Laurens County Special Needs and Disability Board will host their annual breakfast on February 12th at 8:00 AM. Mayor Mclean thanked the City Manager for his reports. Mayor McLean stated that nothing happens until Council votes on it.

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