

JULY 6, 2020

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, Roth and Walsh. The City Attorney and the City Manager were present. Notice was sent to all local news media on July 2, 2020. The meeting was closed to the public and press and could be viewed on the City's Facebook.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Councilmember Jenkins.
- PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE** Mayor McLean asked Council to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- MINUTES** Mayor McLean asked Council to approve the minutes from June 1st and 15th. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the June 1, 2020 Council meeting minutes and the June 15, 2020 Special Called meeting minutes and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.
- SERVICE AWARDS** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to recognize City employees for their years of service with the City of Clinton. Mayor McLean stated that due to the COVID-19 the employees would not be present to accept their awards. The employees recognized are as follows: Police Lieutenant Phillip Wicker with 10 years of service; James (Tink) Barnes, Building Official with 20 years of service; Norman (Binky) Patterson, ROW Equipment Operator with 5 years of service; Julie Mercer, Police Officer with 5 years of service.
- RESOLUTION
HISTORIC DISTRICT
COLOR PALETTE** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is a Resolution to adopt Historic District Color Palette approved by the Design Review Board. Mayor McLean stated that the Design Review Board approved the colors at their June 16, 2020 meeting. Mayor McLean stated that businesses in the Historic District could choose from the colors before Council. Councilmember Walsh asked what is the Historic District and Mayor McLean stated the downtown area all the way to Wells Fargo. Motion was made by Councilmember Walsh to approve the Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.
- RESOLUTION
LAW ENFORCEMENT** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is a Resolution in support of local law enforcement. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she appreciated the letter Chief Ledda submitted to the paper regarding Police Officer's behavior. Mayor McLean stated that all citizens deserve a well-equipped and trained Police Department.

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Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Roth. The vote was unanimous.

**COVID-19
ORDINANCE**

Mayor McLean stated that Councilmember Walsh has requested the Ordinance in Council's packet pertaining to COVID-19 be placed on agenda for a vote. Councilmember Walsh made a motion to approve the COVID-19 Ordinance and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. Councilmember Roth stated that he opposed a COVID-19 Ordinance. Councilmember Roth handed out information regarding face masks by the US Surgeon General. Councilmember Roth stated that the Surgeon General opposes wearing face masks. Councilmember Roth stated that he would support a strong Resolution encouraging citizens to wear their masks, practice social distancing and to comply with the DHEC guidelines. Councilmember Roth stated that this Council should not be in the business of mandating citizens to wear masks. Councilmember Roth stated that it would be up to individual businesses to require masks. Councilmember Walsh stated that this Ordinance requires citizens to wear a face mask at certain businesses. Councilmember Walsh stated that everyone has to go to the grocery store as well as the pharmacy. Councilmember Walsh stated that she has received calls from citizens stating if it is not safe to shop in Clinton then the citizens would shop in other towns. Councilmember Walsh stated that CDEC recommended wearing face masks in April and Clinton would not be the first City to pass an Ordinance. Councilmember Walsh stated that citizens need to feel safe going into certain businesses. Mayor McLean stated that he received many calls concerning this issue and many citizens oppose wearing face masks while others are all for it. Mayor McLean stated that when you tell citizens they have to wear a mask then many will oppose it. Mayor McLean stated that the Surgeon General states that citizens should be educated on why they should wear the face masks and not be made to wear them. Mayor McLean stated that in order for people to wear face masks then they would have to buy into the program and mandates would not get the job done. Mayor McLean stated that education and communication would go a long way in getting citizens to wear a face mask. Mayor McLean stated that he recommends the City of Clinton partner with the City of Laurens and Laurens County and work together to inform the citizens of Laurens County and even provide face masks as a safety measure for citizens. Councilmember Jenkins stated that seat belts are mandatory and they protect citizens.

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Councilmember Jenkins stated that she has received several phone calls regarding the City not trying to enforce wearing face masks. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she understands it would be difficult to mandate wearing a face mask but the virus is serious. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Council has to start thinking about the health of our citizens. Councilmember Cook stated that he has received many comments from citizens who are in support of passing an Ordinance. Councilmember Cook stated that he understands Council may have a hard time separating what Council would like to happen with what Council mandates. Councilmember Cook stated that he understands this would put pressure on the Police Department. Councilmember Cook stated that he has spoken with school officials and college officials about this issue and they are also concerned with how fast the COVID-19 cases are climbing. Councilmember Cook stated that if the Ordinance does not pass then the City needs to have a strong Resolution. Councilmember Cook stated that if Council sees the COVID-19 cases continuing to rise then Council should revisit this issue. Councilmember Cook stated that Council doesn't need to just pass something and be done with it but Council needs to continue to monitor this issue and take necessary actions based on the COVID-19 information. Councilmember Cook stated that the virus could have a major impact on businesses and businesses should encourage citizens to wear masks. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he has also received phone calls about wearing face masks. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that citizens should be encouraged to wear a face mask and the City should educate citizens about this issue. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that citizens should wear a face mask, practice social distancing and wash their hands. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he would not support a mandate but Council needs to monitor the situation. Mr. Cannon, City Manager, stated that City staff is putting an educational campaign together with the City of Laurens and Laurens County. The vote was three to three with Councilmembers Roth and Kuykendall and the Mayor voting no. The COVID-19 Ordinance did not pass.

**COVID-19
RESOLUTION**

Mayor McLean stated that the next option is to pass the COVID-19 Resolution. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the COVID-19 Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous. Councilmember Roth asked the time limit for the Resolution and Mayor McLean stated sixty-one days. Councilmember Walsh asked what are Council's criteria to revisit this Resolution and Mayor McLean stated if the City has a COVID-19 outbreak. Councilmember Roth stated that Council could review the Resolution at the next Council meeting

Councilmember Walsh stated that the cases are going up and what is the cutoff number before Council takes further action. Councilmember Cook stated that the City should monitor what School District 56 and Presbyterian College does about COVID-19. Councilmember Cook stated that the City should use the actions of the School District, Presbyterian College and the hospital as part of the criteria to make an informed decision. Councilmember Cook stated that City staff should share this information with Council well in advance. Mr. Higgs, Assistant City Manager, stated that City staff would facilitate a meeting concerning the Resolution and COVID-19 if Council desired. Mr. Higgs stated that the Resolution would continue for sixty-one days. Councilmember Walsh asked if a Special Called meeting would require a majority of Council to request the meeting and Mr. Wham, City Attorney, stated yes. Councilmember Kuykendall asked if a representative from the City of Clinton, the City of Laurens and Laurens County could spearhead COVID-19 information going out to citizens as well as the Cities. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the citizens of Laurens County should be protected. Mr. Higgs stated that three times a week City staff has a conference call with the City of Laurens and Laurens County about COVID-19. Councilmember Walsh asked if City staff could give Council a weekly update on these meetings and Mr. Higgs agreed. Mayor McLean asked if Council could receive a chart in regard to COVID-19 cases so Council could track the COVID-19 progress in Laurens County. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff would reach out to the State agencies for COVID-19 information. Councilmember Jenkins asked if City staff has tested positive. Mr. Higgs stated that due to the HIPPA Law dealing with personnel health information he could not address that question.

**CITY MANAGER
REPORT
CENSUS**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the City Manager's reports. Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Cannon. Mr. Cannon stated that the upcoming Census is important to Clinton since the results would affect Clinton for the next ten years. Mr. Cannon stated that 48.6% of Clinton citizens have filled out the Census and 55.5% of Laurens citizens have filled out their census. Mr. Cannon stated that these numbers determine the revenue shares the City receives through the State from the Federal Government. Mayor McLean asked if City staff could include this information in the utility bills. Councilmember Walsh asked if the City could start a campaign and Mr. Cannon stated that City staff is working on a census campaign. Councilmember Kuykendall asked if citizens could use the library to fill out the forms and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Councilmember Cook stated that the City should reach out to the churches to help get the message out.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Higgs stated that City staff has done a social media campaign and the City has included information in the utility bills. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff would continue to reach out to the Census for guidance on how to encourage citizens to fill out the census forms. Mr. Higgs stated that he would like to give Council an update on Code Enforcement. Mr. Higgs stated that since the last Council meeting there are sixty-five new cases and twenty-seven of these cases are still open. Mr. Higgs stated that 34% of the open cases are in the Clinton Mill area. Mr. Higgs stated that the majority of the open cases relate to overgrowth and excess rubbish. Mr. Higgs stated that the City has placed dumpsters in different areas in Clinton and citizens can dump excess trash in these dumpsters. Mr. Higgs stated that this program would run from July 1st through July 13th. Mr. Higgs stated that the dumpster locations are Clinton Mill, Martha Dendy Park, Lydia Mill and Lydia Mill Park. Councilmember Jenkins stated that at the last Council meeting she requested to know why the City does not advertise with the Clinton Chronicle. Mr. Cannon stated that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 the Clinton Chronicle received 72.45% of the City's advertising. Mr. Cannon stated that the Clinton Chronicle received \$6,013 from the City for advertising. Mr. Cannon stated that City staff and the Clinton Chronicle have a good working relationship. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she wanted the City to have a good relationship with the Chronicle since it is a local business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to go into an executive session to discuss one contractual matter relating to the sale and purchase of City owned Real Property, one contractual matter relating to Thornwell, 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 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 and no action was taken.

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE

STERILITE

AMERICAN LEGION

Motion was made by Councilmember Roth to approve the first reading of an Ordinance for the disposition of City owned Real Property located within the corporate limits of the City of Clinton, being shown as Laurens County Tax map Number 594-00-00-054 which is the Sterlite property and a portion of Laurens County Tax map Number 901-31-01-001 which is the American Legion Hut and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORT**

Councilmember Cook stated that he would like for Council to receive an update on the Pine Street Park incident and Mr. Cannon stated that he would get that information to Council. Councilmember Cook stated that last week Council and the Martha Dendy Community Center discussed the Martha Dendy property. Councilmember Cook stated he would like City staff to move forward with this project and create a formal written agreement with the Martha Dendy Community Center group concerning the Martha Dendy property and Mr. Cannon agreed. Councilmember Cook thanked City staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Jenkins thanked City staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he wanted Council and City staff to keep a close watch on the COVID-19.

Councilmember Roth stated that the City should keep a close watch on COVID-19. Councilmember Roth stated that he wanted to encourage the citizens of Laurens County to adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines.

Councilmember Walsh stated that she has information from MASC concerning work sessions for Council. Councilmember Walsh stated that she would like to make a motion to hold Council work sessions every three months and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. After some discussion, Mr. Wham stated that Council can only vote on agenda items but Council could add this to the next agenda. Councilmember Walsh requested the item regarding work sessions be added to the August agenda and Mr. Cannon agreed. Councilmember Walsh encouraged citizens to stay safe.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McLean stated that Councilmember Neal did not attend tonight because of an illness. Mayor McLean encouraged citizens to keep all of our healthcare workers in their thoughts and prayers. Mayor McLean stated that the meeting tonight was difficult. Mayor McLean stated that sometimes Council has to make difficult decisions when there is not a right or wrong answer. Mayor McLean asked citizens to keep Council in their thoughts and prayers.

ADJOURN

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

CITY CLERK

MAYOR