

## **MARCH 2, 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, Neal, Roth and Walsh. The City Manager and the City Attorney were present. Local news media present were Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser, Randy Stevens from WLBG, Brian Whitmore from the Clinton Chronicle, and Monty Dutton from GoClinton.com. Notice was emailed to all local news media on February 27, 2020.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Reverend Jim Roberts from Westminster 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 February 3 and 10. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the February 3, 2020 Council meeting minutes and the February 10, 2020 Special Called meeting minutes and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- PROCLAMATIONS** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Proclamations proclaiming April as Fair housing Month, March as American Red Cross Month, March as Disabilities Awareness Month, and March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month. Councilmember Kuykendall presented Mr. Tavenner from the Specials Needs and Disabilities Board with the Disabilities Awareness Proclamation and Councilmember Walsh presented Ms. Baird with the Bleeding Disorders Awareness Proclamation.
- FAIR HOUSING**
- RED CROSS**
- DISABILITIES**
- AWARENESS**
- BLEEDING**
- DISABILITIES**
- SERVICE AWARDS** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to recognize employees for their years of service. Mayor McLean stated that the awards are as follows: Renee Morrow, Finance Director – 15 years; Ryan Garrett, Fire Department Captain – 10 years; Crystal Roberts, Assistant Police Chief – 20 years; Brison Taylor, Water/Sewer Supervisor – 5 years; Ashley Rochester, Administrative Specialist/Business License – 5 years. Mayor McLean thanked the employees for their hard work and presented each employee with an award.
- EMPLOYEES**
- PRESENTATION** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is a presentation from Carolyn Calwise from the U.S. Census Bureau in regards to the upcoming 2020 Census. Ms. Calwise stated that the 2020 Census will start in the next few weeks and this census count would dictate how citizens live in the next ten years.
- CAROLYN CALWISE**
- CENSUS 2020**

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Ms. Calwise stated that Census invitation would be mailed out in the next few weeks which would direct citizens to complete the Census Survey online or call a toll free number. Ms. Calwise stated that in rural areas citizens would receive the actual Census Survey. Ms. Calwise stated that she wanted to encourage Council to create events in their Wards so that citizens could participate in the Census Survey. Ms. Calwise stated that funds would be distributed to States on the basis of the Census count and the City would lose funding for any citizen that does not participate in the Census Survey. Ms. Calwise stated that these Federal funds support schools, roads, Medicare and Medicaid, and free lunches. Ms. Calwise stated that April 1, 2020 is Census Day and this would give Council an opportunity to create an event to encourage citizens to fill out the Census Survey. Ms. Calwise stated that the Census Bureau would start the homeless count in the next few weeks and if Council knows of any homeless areas then please forward that information on to the Census Bureau. Ms. Calwise stated that after April the Census Bureau would send out Census Takers. Ms. Calwise stated that the information the Census Survey collects is confidential and the Census Bureau does not share the information with any agency. Councilmember Walsh asked if the students on Presbyterian College campus counted and Ms. Calwise stated yes. Ms. Calwise stated that the Census Bureau would coordinate with the college to count the students. Ms. Calwise stated that if the student lives off campus then they would receive an invitation through the mail. Councilmember Walsh stated that the School District is aware of families that have homeless needs and Ms. Calwise stated that the Census Bureau has already contacted the School District about these citizens. Mayor McLean stated that it is important to count the Presbyterian College students. Mayor McLean stated that the Census Bureau does not share this information and that is an important message for citizens to hear. Councilmember Kuykendall asked how would the Census Taker be identified and Ms. Calwise stated that the Census Takers would carry a Federal badge and their totes will have the Census emblem. Councilmember Neal asked if the churches would be involved and Ms. Calwise stated that the Census Bureau would host a Worship Weekend from March 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> where the churches would help members fill out the Census Survey. Council thanked Ms. Calwise for her information.

**PRESENTATION  
CONNECTIVITY STUDY**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is a presentation from Blake Sanders regarding the Connectivity Study. Mr. Sanders stated that he is president of Studio Main and his company engages in a focused design approach that leads with a commitment to transforming Communities through community-oriented designs.

Mr. Sanders stated that he would discuss some case studies and a master planning scope. Mr. Sanders stated that Clinton needs to know what the City could offer citizens and how to take steps to input a plan. Mr. Sanders stated that he has worked on several Connectivity Plans with the City of Clemson, City of Anderson and the City of Easley. Mr. Sanders stated that these Connectivity Plans brought citizens downtown as well connected several Communities. Mr. Sanders stated that many of these Connectivity Plans utilized grants to improve infrastructure and make upgrades to sidewalks. Mr. Sanders stated that no Connectivity Plan will work unless the City has Community buy-in to the plan. Mr. Sanders stated that in order to implement a Connectivity Plan the City would need an analysis of existing conditions, input from citizens, and implement the phases for the plan as well as plans to fund the project. Mr. Sanders stated that the City would need a Community oriented Master Plan that would provide diverse public spaces, provide recreation and transportation, enhance the City of Clinton brand, create a renewed sense of place in Clinton and provide opportunities to Laurens County, the City of Clinton, and Presbyterian College. Mr. Sanders stated that the City needs to build on work already completed such as the Miller's Fork Trail and utilize existing infrastructure. Mr. Sanders stated that the City should look for private/public partnerships to help fund the Connectivity Plan. Councilmember Neal asked if the Connectivity Plan would include all of Clinton or just the downtown and Mr. Sanders stated that the scope would include all of Clinton. Mayor McLean stated that the City needs to connect Presbyterian College students to grocery stores and restaurants. Mayor McLean stated that the City needs to implement plans for sidewalks to the YMCA and out toward the Recreation Complex. Mayor McLean stated that the Connectivity Study should be taken up by the Recreation Committee and Councilmember Kuykendall chair the committee. Councilmember Kuykendall agreed to chair the committee and Council was in agreement to send this project to the Recreation Committee.

**CITY MANAGER'S  
REPORT  
PURCHASE  
CHIPPER**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Cannon, City Manager. Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the purchase of a Morbark M15R Chipper from Chippers Southeast. Mr. Cannon stated that the total cost listed on the agenda is not correct but the correct cost of the Chipper is \$64,408.65. Mr. Cannon stated that currently the City rents a chipper to complete the daily work. Councilmember Walsh asked if the City used the chipped wood as mulch and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Mr. Cannon stated that the City is currently using the mulch on Miller's Fork Trail. Mayor McLean stated that at one time the City looked at purchasing a Tub Grinder that could do a lot more work.

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Mayor McLean stated that a Tub Grinder's scope of work is greater than a Chipper. Mayor McLean stated that the Tub Grinder could cut up whole trees. Mr. Cannon stated that the Chipper would be used by the Public Works Department to cut up debris. Mayor McLean stated that the actual cost is \$80,908.00 and the City has already paid \$16,500. Mayor McLean asked if the City would receive a new machine and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Councilmember Kuykendall asked if the City has already purchase this type of equipment. Mr. Meadors, Public Works Director stated that the City purchased equipment several years ago that attaches to a Skid Gear. Mr. Meadors stated that the Chipper would be used on the job site every day to chop up the brush. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the City's equipment is left out in the weather and Mr. Meadors agreed. Mr. Meadors stated that the Chipper would be housed at the D.E. Tribble Building. Mr. Meadors stated that the Chipper would not be stored out of the weather because most of the storage space at D.E. Tribble is full. Councilmember Neal asked if the Chipper could be covered and Mr. Meadors agreed. Councilmember Kuykendall asked the benefit of buying the Chipper and how would the City put this equipment to use. Mr. Meadors stated that the Chipper would primarily be used by the Right of Way Department on a daily basis. Mr. Meadors stated that the Chipper enables the Right of Way crew to clean up the debris and brush at the end of each job. Mr. Meadors stated that if the brush is not put through the Chipper then the City must take the brush and debris to the landfill and pay a disposal fee. Mr. Meadors stated that the other Chipper is a Forestry Cutter and is used to cut small limbs or pines on the Right of Way. Mr. Meadors stated that this Chipper cuts the trees just enough which enables the Right of Way crew to leave the brush on the right of way. Mr. Meadors stated that the Tub Grinder would cost the City approximately \$300,000. Councilmember Roth stated that the Chipper was used to clean up North Adair Street after the recent storm. Councilmember Roth stated that a Chipper is needed. Councilmember Kuykendall asked before the Millers' Fork Trail where was the mulch hauled each day. Mr. Meadors stated to various areas in Clinton such as Thornwell and Presbyterian College. Mayor McLean stated that it would be a good idea to make this mulch available to citizens. Councilmember Jenkins asked if this is a budgeted item and Mr. Meadors stated no. Councilmember Neal asked if the Chipper would be used in the Wards and Mr. Meadors stated yes. Mr. Meadors stated that the Chipper is used throughout the City. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to approve the purchase of a M15R Chipper from Chippers Southeast for a total cost not to exceed \$64,408.65 and seconded by Councilmember Roth. The vote was unanimous.

**SEWER LINE REPAIR  
GARY STREET**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with SM Grading and Excavation, LLC for the repair of the Sanitary Sewer line on Gary Street. Mr. Cannon stated that the City would go under the railroad line to make the repairs to a misaligned pipe. Mr. Cannon stated that the cost of this repair is \$124,500. Mr. Cannon stated that once the repairs are made then the City would pave Gary Street with funds from the Laurens County Transportation Committee. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to approve the repairs of the Sanitary Sewer line of Gary Street by SM Grading and Excavation, LLC for a cost not to exceed \$124,500 and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous. Councilmember Jenkins thanked Police Chief Ledda for his help in re-routing the large transfer trucks to Sterilite which has reduced the number of trucks going down Gary Street.

**WREATH**

Mayor McLean recognized Police Chief Ledda. Chief Ledda stated that he wanted Council to be aware that the Police Chief along with five City of Clinton Police Officers with military background were invited to Washington DC to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Chief Ledda stated that the Officers were given a tour of the White House and the Capital.

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
BRIEFING  
MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the Administrative Briefing. Mr. Cannon stated that the first project is the Monarch Butterfly Project from Clinton Canopy. Mr. Cannon stated that Council has information about the project located at the M.S. Bailey Center. Mr. Cannon stated that currently the City has several projects going on at this building such as roofing, landscaping and the Welcome Center and Clinton Canopy would need to start the Monarch Butterfly Project soon. Mr. Cannon recommended the Monarch Butterfly Project be re-scheduled for next year because of all the current projects. Mayor McLean asked when the City would have the Landscape Architect's plans and Mr. Cannon stated he hoped within the next thirty days. Councilmember Walsh asked if the project could be moved to another site and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Mr. Cannon stated that he is not against the project but the timing is the problem. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that if the City is getting plans from a Landscape Architect then either the City include the Monarch Butterfly Project in the plans or the City decide on another location for the project. Mr. Cannon stated that when he receives the plans from the Landscape Architect then Council could determine whether to include the Monarch Butterfly Project in the plans for the M.S. Bailey Center.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Councilmember Jenkins asked if Council should put this project on hold and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Mr. Cannon stated that Council has before them the schedule for the budget workshops. After some discussion the April 6, 2020 workshop was changed to April 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM, the April 16, 2020 budget workshop would be held at 6:00 PM and the May 4, 2020 budget workshop would be held at 5:00 PM. Mr. Cannon stated that Council had the drawings and cost of the Vance Park sign in their packet.

**VANCE PARK**

Mr. Cannon stated that the cost of the sign would be about \$5,500 and would be paid for by the Vance family. Councilmember Walsh made a motion to approve the design and placement of the Vance sign in the Vance Park and seconded by Councilmember Roth. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Cannon stated that he recommends the Recreation

**AQUATIC CENTER**

Committee meet with the YMCA and Aquatic Engineers to discuss the proposed Aquatic Center. Mr. Cannon stated that the Recreation Committee and the Aquatic Engineers would make a presentation to Council concerning the design and cost of the Aquatic Center. Mayor McLean stated that the Recreation Committee should hold a public meeting for citizens to give their input and then the Recreation Committee could bring the project before Council. After some discussion, Council determine to send the Aquatic Center Project to the Recreation Committee and the Recreation Committee would also host a meeting for public input on the project and then bring the project before Council. Mr. Cannon stated that the contract with the contractor has been sign to start work on the Recreation Complex with a beginning date of March 2, 2020.

**CITIZENS ADDRESS**

**COUNCIL**

**BETTY CAMPBELL**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Betty Campbell. Ms. Campbell stated that she lives at 521 North Broad and she is before Council concerning code enforcement. Ms. Campbell stated that she has been trying for years to remove vehicles on property next to her house. Ms. Campbell stated that the owners left the vehicles behind when they moved. Ms. Campbell asked what is the Code concerning abandoned vehicles and what can be done about this problem. Ms. Campbell asked if citizens had a time limit to remove debris from their homes after a storm. Mayor McLean stated that several years ago the City pursued vehicles that were abandoned or did not have vehicle tags and the City should revisit that program. Councilmember Walsh stated that the City should enforce the codes concerning vehicles.

**LIZA POWERS**

**RECYCLING CENTER**

Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Liza Powers. Ms. Powers stated that she is a Presbyterian College student and she is part of a group called Green Hose Environmental Club. Ms. Powers stated that she is before Council concerning the Recycling Center.

Ms. Powers stated that the Green Hose Environmental Club goes to the Recycling Center at least twice a week and have found issues at the Recycling Center. Ms. Powers stated that one issue is the Recycling Center lacks signs informing the public on what items could be recycle and which bins to put them in. Ms. Powers stated that the Recycling Center also lacks a pickup schedule. Ms. Powers stated that the Recycling Center should have staff on site to help citizens with what could be recycled. Councilmember Walsh thanked Ms. Powers for her input and she agreed with Ms. Powers on her assessment of the Recycling Center. Councilmember Walsh stated that she would be happy to lead a Task Force along with the Green Hose Environmental Club concerning the Recycling Center. Mr. Cannon stated that many Cities do not have a Recycling Program because of the cost. Mr. Cannon stated that Laurens County services the City's Recycling Center. Mr. Cannon stated that Laurens County picks up the recycled materials but if Laurens County does not have a driver available then the material does not get picked up. Councilmember Walsh stated that citizens should be concerned with recycling. Councilmember Walsh stated that the City needs to solve the problems with the current Recycling Center. Councilmember Neal asked Ms. Powers if she had a solution to the problem. Ms. Powers stated that the bins fill up quickly and many non-recyclable items are put in the bins. Ms. Powers stated that if signs were placed on the bins this may prevent the bins from filling up with non-recyclable items. Mayor McLean stated the Recycling Center could be opened at certain times and also have a person on hand to direct the citizens. Mayor McLean stated that the City could ask for volunteers to man the Recycling Center.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Neal to enter into executive session to discuss one legal matter relating to the Reservoir Road and return to open session on the call of the chair and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

**COUNCILMEMBER  
REPORT**

Councilmember Walsh stated that she recently attended a Municipal Association meeting regarding strategic planning. Councilmember Walsh stated that she would like to see Council hold a retreat to discuss strategic planning for the City. Councilmember Walsh stated that the monthly meetings are used to discuss the business of the City.

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Mr. Cannon stated that he has a concern about the expense of a retreat and if Council wishes to include the public or enter into an executive session. Councilmember Walsh stated that the City could contact Jeff Shacker from the Municipal Association to facilitate the meeting. Councilmember Walsh stated that the meeting would be open to the press and citizens. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council could hold the retreat in the Council chambers. Councilmember Walsh stated that she wanted a defined time where Council meets and discusses the strategic planning. Councilmember Cook stated that he would like to discuss the current projects as well as future projects. After some discussion, Council determined it would be beneficial to hold a retreat with Jeff Shacker as moderator.

**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.

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**MAYOR**

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CITY CLERK