

## MARCH 1, 2021

The regular Council meeting was held at the M.S. Bailey Center with Mayor Bob McLean presiding with Councilmembers Cook, Jenkins, Kuykendall, Neal, Roth and Walsh. The Interim City Manager and the City Attorney were also present. Notice was emailed to all local news media on February 26, 2021. The Council meeting was a closed meeting to the press and the public. The Council meeting could be viewed on the City's Facebook.

- INCOICATION**                    The invocation was given by Councilmember Roth.
- 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 1, 8 and 15. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the February 1, 2021 Council meeting minutes, February 8, 2021 Workshop minutes and February 15, 2021 Special Called meeting minutes and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.
- PROCLAMATIONS**            Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda are  
**FAIR HOUSING**                Proclamations proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month and March as  
**DISABILITIES AWARENESS** Disabilities Awareness Month. Motion was made by Councilmember Roth to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- POLICE DEPARTMENT**        Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to recognize  
**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**      School Resource Officer Chris Moore as the City of Clinton Police Department Officer of the Year. Mayor McLean recognized Police Chief Ledda to make the presentation. Chief Ledda stated that SRO Chris Moore is dedicated to his job and the Community. SRO Moore stated that he appreciated receiving the award. SRO Moore stated that he has been employed with the City for twenty-one years and he enjoys his job and serving the Community.
- PRESENTATION**                Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is a presentation  
**LAURENS COUNTY**            from Laurens County Trails. Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Bud Marchant  
**TRAILS**                            and Mr. David Tribble. Mr. Tribble stated that Council has in their packet a Resolution approved by the City of Laurens and Laurens County. Mr. Tribble stated that the Resolution tells CSX Railroad that the local governments in Laurens County would like to build a trail along CSX Railroad right- of -way between Clinton and Laurens. Mr. Tribble stated that the trail would start behind Industrial Supply in Clinton and go all the way to the square in the City of Laurens.

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Councilmember Walsh stated that this is a great idea. Councilmember Walsh asked if Laurens County Trails have a map of the area involved. Mr. Tribble stated that Laurens County Trails would ask CSX if they would share their right-of way for the trail. Mr. Tribble stated that CSX right-of-ways are wide and a trail could exist beside the tracks. Mr. Tribble stated that the railroad in question is rarely used by CSX. Mr. Marchant stated that the Resolution is the first step toward a trail. Mr. Marchant stated that the Resolution shows CSX that Laurens County would like to engage CSX in a discussion regarding a trail from Clinton to Laurens. Mayor McLean asked if the trail could be tied to the City's Recreation Complex and Mr. Tribble stated that could be a long-range goal. Mr. Marchant stated that there have been trails alongside a railroad so this has been done before. Mayor McLean asked how the trail would be funded. Mr. Tribble stated through the Penny Sales Tax, the Hospital System and the public.

**FIRST READING  
ORDINANCE  
PROPERTY SALE  
901-35-01-034  
901-35-01-033**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance approving the sale of City owned real property containing 40 acres, more or less, located on the southeast side of SC Highway 72 within the corporate limits of the City of Clinton, being identified as Laurens County Tax Map Numbers 901-35-01-034 and 901-35-01-033. Mayor McLean stated that he would like to put in the agreement that the developers reach a certain performance standard or the City would get the property back at the price the City sold the property. Mr. Wham, City Attorney, stated that the City does have a proposed contract with the developer and the contract would be ironed out between first and second reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Wham stated that the contract would have a buy back clause in the contract. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the first reading of an Ordinance approving the sale of property located on the southeast side of SC Highway 72 being identified as Laurens County Tax map Numbers 901-35-01-034 and 901-35-01-033 and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**FIRST READING  
ORDINANCE  
WHITTEN CENTER**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance of the City of Clinton, SC (1) authorizing the acquisition of certain utility assets comprising the Water, Sewer and Stormwater Systems of the Whitten Center and certain real property of the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; (2) authorizing the execution and delivery of an agreement for the conveyance of utility assets and surplus property, a Utility Easement Agreement and a Declaration of Covenants, Restrictions, and Easements; (3) making certain representations pursuant to the amended and restated Bond Ordinance of the City in connection with such acquisition; (4) and other matters related thereto. Councilmember Walsh asked the Mayor to clarify the Ordinance. Mayor McLean stated that the City is taking over Whitten Center's Water, Sewer and Stormwater Systems in exchange for property. Councilmember Walsh asked if the infrastructure was in place and Mayor McLean stated yes. Mr. Wham stated that LCWCS received a grant to upgrade Whitten Center's Sewer System and that would also be transferred to the City. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the first reading of the Ordinance to acquire property from Whitten Center and seconded by Councilmember Walsh. The vote was unanimous.

**SPECULATIVE BLD  
SEWER LINE**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to authorize the Public Works Director to enter into a contract with SM Grading & Excavating for the installation of the Sewer Line to the Speculative Building property. Mayor McLean stated that the project would cost \$54,675 with the project funded as follows: Santee Cooper providing \$27,337.50; Laurens County Development Corporation providing \$10,935; Clinton Economic Development Corporation providing \$16,402.50. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to approve the bid from SM Grading & Excavating to install a Sewer Line to the Speculative Building for a cost not to exceed \$54,675 and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**MARTHA DENDY**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is a discussion of the Martha Dendy property. Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Higgs, Interim City Manager. Mr. Higgs stated that there have been discussion concerning the Penny Sales Tax funding recreation improvements. Mr. Higgs stated that the City has maintained ownership of the portion of property that pertains to the park. Mr. Wham stated that reviewing the Martha Dendy property it was determined to survey the property. Mr. Wham stated that the City would have to retain the property where the Martha Dendy Park is located in order to receive the funds from the Penny Sales Tax, which is \$79,000.

Mr. Wham stated that the Martha Dendy Community Center is aware of this and agree to let the City retain the Martha Dendy Park. Mr. Wham stated that the funds for the Martha Dendy Park does not jeopardize funds the City would allocate to the Martha Dendy Community Center. Mr. Wham stated that City staff and Mr. Costell Little would meet about this matter. Mr. Wham stated that once the survey is completed then the City could transfer the Martha Dendy property excluding the Martha Dendy Park to the Martha Dendy Community Center. Councilmember Walsh asked if Council would have to amend the Ordinance. Mr. Wham stated that the Ordinance gives the school property to the Martha Dendy Community Center. Mr. Wham stated that he would let Council know the best way to move forward with the transfer. Mayor McLean stated that once the Martha Dendy Park is upgraded he would like the City to transfer the property to the Martha Dendy Community Center. Councilmember Cook asked to keep this project on the agenda until it is resolved.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**BRIEFING**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**CONNECTIVITY STUDY**

**MUSEUM**

**ROTR**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the administrative briefing. Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Higgs. Mr. Higgs asked Council to consider a Budget Workshop in March between 22-25 and let City staff know a date. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff is moving forward with Phase II of the Connectivity Study, which is public input. Mr. Higgs stated that the dates for public input are Friday, April 9, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Vance Park; Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Pine Street Park; Monday, April 12, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Pine Haven Park. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff would publish these dates to the public. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff would answer questions and receive any feedback citizens have about this project. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff met with the Laurens County Museum following their presentation to Council and have received feedback and advice on how to move forward with the museum. Mr. Higgs stated that Rhythm on the Rails is scheduled for April 9, 2021 but City staff would move the event to October 22-23. Councilmember Jenkins asked if the City would have the same type of set up as in the past. Mr., Higgs stated that the City would follow COVID-19 regulations and City staff is looking to mix Rhythm on the Rails with Scotts & Brauts Festival, which is held in the Fall. Mr. Higgs stated that Code Enforcement has 33% of their issues resolved and most of these issues involve excessive rubbish. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff worked on the audio issues citizens have during a Council meeting and have improved the audio and video stream.

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Mayor McLean stated that over the past several years, the City has designated May as a spring clean-up month and he would like to see that happen this year and Mr. Higgs agreed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to go into executive session to discuss one contractual matter regarding a Project Manager and one contractual matter regarding 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 two contractual matters were discussed and no action was taken.

**INTERIM CITY MANAGER** Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Clinton and Thomas R Higgs, II as Interim City Manager and seconded by Councilmember Walsh. The vote was unanimous.

**COUNCILMEMBER REPORT** Councilmember Walsh stated that she has heard from many citizens regarding not being able to make public comments during the Council meeting. Councilmember Walsh stated that she agrees with the closed meeting but she would like to see the press at these meetings and citizens be able to make comments.

Councilmember Roth stated that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Higgs as the Interim City Manager.

Councilmember Jenkins stated that she hoped the elections go well.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** Mayor Mclean stated that the elections are tomorrow and even though no one knows the outcome, it has been an honor to serve with these Councilmembers. Mayor McLean stated that Councilmembers make decisions that may have cost them friends and business. Mayor McLean stated that he wanted to read a quote from Theodore Roosevelt called Man in the Arena. "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs. Who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasm, the great devotions;

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who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." Mayor McLean stated that he appreciated the Councilmembers who are willing to serve in the arena.

**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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CITY CLERK

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**MAYOR**