

MAY 6, 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, Kuykendall, Jenkins, Neal, Roth, and Walsh. The City Attorney and the City Manager were also present. News media present were Brian Whitmore from the Clinton Chronicle, Randy Stevens from WLBG, and Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser. Notice was emailed to all local news media on Friday, April 26, 2019.

INVOCATION The invocation was given by Reverend Jerry Harris from Church of Christ.

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 March 21, April 1, April 9, and April 24. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the March 21, 2019 budget workshop minutes, the April 1, 2019 Council meeting minutes, the budget workshop minutes from April 9, 2019, and the special called meeting minutes on April 24, 2019 and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**PRESENTATION
PALMETTO PRIDE** Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Mallory Coffey, Keep South Carolina Beautiful Director. Ms. Coffey stated that her job entails everything from picking up trash to recycling. Ms. Coffey stated that her agency fights litter through education, enforcement, and organizing Communities to pick up litter. Ms. Coffey stated that litter costs Cities money to pick up and dispose. Ms. Coffey stated that Palmetto Pride works with Cities to change citizen's attitudes regarding litter. Ms. Coffey stated that citizens need to be educated on litter and how it could be recycled. Ms. Coffey stated that Cities also need to enforce the Litter laws. Ms. Coffey stated that Clinton is already involved with Palmetto Pride. Ms. Coffey stated that if the City became an affiliate then the City could apply for grants to help stop litter. Mayor McLean stated that it would be good to be able to have a sign coming into Clinton stating welcome to Clinton, the cleanest City in South Carolina.

**CITENS ADDRESS
COUNCIL
REVEREND EVANS
COUNCILMEMBER
JENKINS

MARTHA DENDY** Mayor McLean recognized Reverend Evans. Reverend Evans stated that he is grateful to have Councilmember Jenkins as his leader and he is here to show his support and defense of Councilmember Jenkins. Reverend Evans chronicles Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination and stated he does not take threats lightly. Reverend Evans stated that he would defend Councilmember Jenkins even when others do not. Reverend Evans stated that he does not appreciate how the Martha Dendy Project is going and that City Management and Council made a political issue of the project.

(Page 2)

Reverend Evans stated that back door politics has taken place regarding the Martha Dendy Project. Reverend Evans stated that the City Manager does not have a history of understanding what is important to the African American Community. Reverend Evans stated that the Council is designed to help create a Community and Council has not done this. Reverend Evans stated that Council has done nothing for the black community. Reverend Evans stated that Council is giving the Martha Dendy property over to someone else because if it is deemed a failure it would not be the City's fault. A heated discussion went on between Reverend Evans and the City Manager and order had to be restored in the Council Chamber. Mayor Mclean stated that as Mayor he presides over the Council meetings and makes sure the State and Local laws are carried out. Mayor McLean stated that the City allows public comment at every Council meeting and citizens are allowed to express their concerns and opinions. Mayor McLean stated that our Country's First Amendment allows Freedom of Speech. Mayor McLean stated that Council does not deny any citizen to be able to voice their opinion. Mayor Mclean read a transcript copy of Mr. Jerry Campbell's speech from the April Council meeting. Mayor Mclean stated that Mr. Campbell was angry but he did not use profanity, racial slurs, and did not physically threaten Councilmember Jenkins. Mayor McLean stated that in the past he has also been subject to angry comments from citizens and have allowed the citizen to have their say. Mayor McLean stated that Councilmember Jenkins held the Mayor, the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the Police Chief accountable for not stopping Mr. Campbell but did not hold fellow Councilmembers accountable. Mayor McLean read Dr. Martin Luther King's speech concerning Freedom of Speech the day before he was assassinated. Mayor Mclean stated that many people have sacrificed greatly so citizens could come to the City Council meeting and exercise their right of Freedom of Speech. Councilmember Jenkins stated that when she spoke with Mr. Campbell it was in private. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she did not tell Mr. Campbell he was stealing her signs but he was taking her signs. Councilmember Jenkins stated that at the April Council meeting Mr. Campbell's voice was harsh and aggressive. Councilmember Walsh stated that as another female Councilmember the April meeting disturb her greatly. Councilmember Walsh stated that Mr. Campbell used a threatening tone and it was offensive. Councilmember Walsh stated that she does not deny anyone the Freedom of Speech but she regrets not publically standing up for Councilmember Jenkins during that meeting. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the Mayor is in charge of the Council meeting and has the right to stop a citizen which he has done in the past.

(Page 3)

Mayor Mclean stated that part of this job is criticism from citizens. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she can handle criticism but would not stand for someone talking in that manner. Mr. Cannon, City Manager, stated that the City of Clinton has owned the Martha Dendy property since 2009 and nothing has been done with the property except tear down a portion of it. Mr. Cannon stated that the City of Clinton does not have the funds to maintain Martha Dendy. Mr. Cannon stated that if nothing is done with Martha Dendy then within five years the City will have to tear it down. Mr. Cannon stated that if the City has someone who is willing to invest in Martha Dendy then the City should move forward and sell the property.

**COSTELL LITTLE
MARTHA DENDY**

Mayor McLean recognized Costell Little. Mr. Little stated that he was before Council concerning Martha Dendy. Mr. Little stated that he was part of the Concerned Citizens for the Martha Dendy School which started in 2006. Mr. Little stated that in 2011 the group asked the City of Clinton to partner with them to restore Martha Dendy. Mr. Little stated that previous City Administrations have worked with the group but for the exception of this Administration. Mr. Little stated that Martha Dendy is a landmark in the African American Community and should remain one. Mr. Little stated that the original partnership with the City was to rehabilitate the property for a Community Center.

**RESOLUTION
PEACE OFFICER
DAY**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a Resolution for May 15, 2019 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Clinton. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Resolution and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

**RECOGNIZE
LT. PHILLIP WICKER**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is to recognize Lieutenant Phillip Wicker as City of Clinton's Officer of the Year. Mayor Mclean stated that Lt. Wicker does his job with professionalism and thanked him for his work as a Police Officer. Police Chief Ledda stated that Lt. Wicker volunteers on the SRT which is the Special Response Team as well as works his shift. Police Chief Ledda stated that Lt. Wicker has been employed with the Police Department for nine years.

**RECOGNIZE
FIRE DEPT
PERSONNEL**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is to recognize the Fire Department personnel for achieving Firefighter II status. Mayor McLean recognized Fire Chief Phillip Russell.

Chief Russell stated that the personnel in the Fire Department have been going through training and he would like to recognize these employees. Chief Russell stated that the following firemen are Will Sickles, Hasting Stewart, Daron Vincent, Clayton Ward, and Austin Youngblood. Chief Russell stated that the classes were taught in house by Firemen Josh Howell.

**PROCLAMATIONS
ALS AWARENESS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
MENTAL HEALTH
WORKS
TEACHER
APPRECIATION**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Proclamations proclaiming May as ALS Awareness Month, May as Historic Preservation Month, May as Mental Health Awareness Month, May as Foster Care Month, May as National Military Appreciation Month, May 7-11 as Teacher Appreciation Week, and May 20-26 as National Public Week. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**CITY MANAGER'S
REPORT
SECOND READING
ORDINANCE
SWF**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Cannon. Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the second reading of an Ordinance to establish the standard for the placement of small wireless facilities in covered areas in the City of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that citizens and businesses are becoming more reliant on handheld devices. Mr. Cannon stated that Local Governments must establish procedures and attachment fees for the small wireless facilities (SWF). Mr. Cannon stated that the first reading was held on April 1, 2019 and City staff recommends approving the second reading. Councilmember Kuykendall made a motion to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to establish the standard for the placement of small wireless facilities in covered areas in the City of Clinton and seconded by Councilmember Walsh. The vote was unanimous.

**FIRST READING
ORDINANCE
BLUE LAWS**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance to temporarily suspend the application of Sunday sales prohibitions (Blue Laws) within the corporate limits of the City of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that this Ordinance allows the businesses within the City of Clinton corporate limits to operate on Sunday. Mr. Cannon stated that State Law allows the City to suspend the Blue Laws every six months.

**FIRST READING
ORDINANCE
BUDGET FY 2019-20**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance to appropriate and raise revenue and adopt a budget for the City of Clinton for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Councilmember Jenkins asked if Council could amend the budget before second reading and Mr. Cannon stated yes.

(Page 5)

Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the first reading of the budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**SEATING OPTIONS
COUNCIL**

Mayor Mclean stated that a Councilmember has requested that Council sit in order of their Ward starting on the left side of the podium. Councilmember Cook stated that the Councilmember could not make a motion outside of Council Chamber but the Councilmember could recommend the change. Mayor McLean stated that he did not say a Councilmember made a motion but a Councilmember has requested the move. Councilmember Cook stated that the name of each Councilmember and the Ward they represent are on the agenda. Councilmember Cook stated that City staff could change the name plates to read the Councilmember's name and the Ward they represent instead of making Council move. Mayor Mclean stated that following the 2015 election certain Councilmembers decided to change their seats. Councilmember Cook stated that Councilmember Dowdle, a previous Councilmember, asked him to change seats in order to help Councilmember Dowdle to his seat since Councilmember Dowdle was in a wheel chair. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to change the seating of the Councilmembers to seat from left to right starting with Ward 1 and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was four to three with Councilmembers Cook, Jenkins, and Walsh voting no.

AGENDA FORMAT

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is options for a change in the agenda format for City Council meetings as it relates to the public comment section. Mayor McLean stated that Council could leave the public comment as is, remove the public comment section, or move it toward the end of the agenda. Mayor McLean stated that he is open to suggestions. After some discussion motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to move the public comment section to right before the executive session and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**FIRST READING
ORDINANCE
PROPERTY EXCHANGE
636-00-00-015
901-13-08-008**

Mayor Mclean stated that the next item on the agenda is the first reading of an Ordinance to approve a transaction concerning the purchase of Real Property identified as a portion of Laurens County Tax Map Number 636-00-00-015 and the sale of City-owned Real Property identified as Laurens County Tax Map Number 901-13-08-008. Councilmember Roth asked where is the property located. Mayor Mclean stated the property on Highway 56 owned by Young Dendy and the Martha Dendy property.

(Page 6)

Motion was made by Councilmember Roth to approve the first reading of an Ordinance to approve a transaction concerning the purchase of Real Property Laurens County Tax map Number 636-00-00-0015 and the sale of property Laurens County Tax Map Number 901-13-08-008 and seconded by Councilmember Neal. Councilmember Jenkins stated that this matter should be put on hold because Mr. Dendy did not give his presentation. Councilmember Cook stated that it was his understanding that Mr. Dendy would be present to answer questions Council may have regarding the Martha Dendy property. Mayor Mclean stated that these are legitimate concerns. Councilmember Roth made a motion to withdraw the current motion on the table and Council could discuss this matter at a later date and seconded by Councilmember Neal.

**CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACT
S ADAIR**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Portland Utilities Construction Company for the repairs to the Sanitary Lines on South Adair Street. Mayor McLean stated that the cost of the project is \$56,474.71. Councilmember Jenkins asked if this is just one of the repairs the City would be doing and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the construction contract with Portland Utilities Construction Company to repair Sanitary Sewer lines on South Adair Street for a cost not to exceed \$56,474.71 and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**PURCHASE
SANITARY SEWER
CAMERA**

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to authorize the Public Works Director to place an order for the purchase of one Sanitary Sewer camera and trailer from Jet Vac. Mayor Mclean stated that the cost of this project is \$217,392.97 and the funds for this purchase would be taken from the Sewer I&I Fund. Mayor Mclean stated that this project is a lot of money but the City is under a SC DHEC Consent Order and this equipment is needed for the required repairs to the Sewer lines. Councilmember Cook asked the life of the camera and Mr. Meadors, Public Works Director, stated about eleven years. Councilmember Roth asked where the City would use the camera. Mr. Meadors stated that the Consent Order is on two of the City's Sewer Basins and the City would concentrate their repairs in those areas. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the purchase of a camera and trailer from Jet Vac for a cost not to exceed \$217,392.97 and seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.

(Page 7)

EXECUTIVE SESSION Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to go into executive session to discuss one contractual matter relating to the City of Clinton's Boards and Commissions, one contractual matter relating to the Utility Billing Department, one contractual matter relating to the Museum Department, and one contractual matter relating to Project M 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 four contractual matters and no action was taken.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORT Councilmember Cook thanked City staff for their work on the budget. Councilmember Cook stated that the City should be run as a business because Council is using tax payer's money to operate the City. Councilmember Cook stated that he wanted to apologize to Councilmember Jenkins for not saying more at the last Council meeting and that he should have said something to Councilmember Jenkins in open session. Councilmember Cook stated that Council is moving in the right direction on several matters but Council has some tough issues ahead. Councilmember Cook stated that he is willing to work on these matters.

Councilmember Walsh thanked City staff for working on the budget. Councilmember Walsh stated that in front of 302 Cedar Street is a dip in the road that City staff filled in but there are rodent holes in the road that may have caused the dip. Councilmember Walsh stated that she would like more information between the Council meetings about the progress on issues that is brought to Council's attention at each Council meeting. Councilmember Walsh would like a progress report on the Industrial Supply Project.

Councilmember Jenkins thanked City staff for their work on the budget. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she appreciated the support she received on her behalf. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she also appreciated the apologies concerning the incident at the last Council meeting and she hopes everyone can put it behind them. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Council is elected by the people and are here to serve the citizens. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the decisions Council makes is not only for the citizens but the City.

(Page 8)

Councilmember Jenkins stated that she is looking forward to working with Council over the next four years on upcoming issues and projects. Councilmember Jenkins stated that grass needs to be cut on a vacant lot on Washington Street. Councilmember Jenkins asked Mr. Meadors to explain how the City maintains vacant lots in Clinton. Mr. Meadors stated that a vacant lot is referred to the Building and Inspections Department and that department contacts the property owner about the issue. Mr. Meadors stated that the Building and Inspections Department gives the owner a deadline to cut the grass and if it is not done then the Street Department cuts the grass. Mr. Meadors stated that after the grass is cut by the City a lien is placed on that property.

Councilmember Neal thanked City staff for working on the budget. Councilmember Neal apologized to Councilmember Jenkins for not speaking out at the April Council meeting and stated that she wanted Council to work together as a team. Councilmember Neal stated that she would like for Mallory Coffey from Palmetto Pride to come back to Council. Councilmember Neal stated that the City also has a dog issue.

Councilmember Kuykendall thanked City staff for the budget. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he would like to see departments come before Council and give progress reports on their various projects. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that this would educate Council as well as citizens who come to the Council meetings. Councilmember Kuykendall asked if Gary Street could be at the top of the paving list. Mr. Meadors stated that the City received \$100,000 from the Laurens County Transportation Committee for paving. Mr. Meadors stated that the Committee required the City pave Copeland Street and Gary Street. Mr. Meadors stated that one block of Copeland Street has been paved and the City has just opened bids to pave the second block of Copeland Street and Gary Street. Mr. Meadors stated that due to the infrastructure issues on Gary Street the City would currently only be able to pave South Broad Street to West Centennial Street. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the Frontage Road still has a dip which would damage a car. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the City also has pot hole issues especially in front of the Clinton Chronicle that need to be addressed. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the Garden Club who put signs in citizens yards for having a beautiful yard need to expand their search to all areas of Clinton. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the house on the corner of South Adair Street and Carolina Avenue looks bad.

(Page 9)

Councilmember Kuykendall stated that Presbyterian College is holding their graduation next week and people will pass by that house and it looks unsightly. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he hoped Council and the City can take all of the passion tonight and turn it into something positive.

Councilmember Roth thanked the City staff for their work on the budget. Councilmember Roth stated that at the corner of Fred Street and Willard Road the road is in bad shape and could become dangerous. Councilmember Roth stated that the City needs to stay on top of grass cutting and debris pick-ups.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mclean thanked the City staff for their work on the budget. Mayor McLean thanked City staff for doing their day to day jobs that keeps the City running. Mayor McLean apologized to Councilmember Jenkins for not stopping the public comment at the April Council meeting sooner. Mayor McLean stated that he wanted to work with Councilmember Jenkins and she agreed. Mayor McLean and Councilmember Jenkins exchanged handshakes. Mayor McLean stated that on May 17-18 the City would host the Rhythm on the Rails. Mayor Mclean stated that he would also like to have Ms. Coffey from Palmetto Pride back because he would like to see Clinton become the cleanest City in South Carolina.

ADJOURN

With there 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