

MAY 4, 2020

The regular Council meeting was held by video conference 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 Attorney and the Assistant City Manager were present. No news media was present. The agenda and an invitation to join the meeting were sent to all local news media on April 30, 2020.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Councilmember Neal.
- MINUTES** Mayor McLean asked Council to approve the minutes from April 16. Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the April 16, 2020 minutes and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.
- PROCLAMATIONS** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of
MENTAL HEALTH the Proclamations proclaiming May as Mental Health Awareness Month,
MILITARY APPRECIATION May as National Military Appreciation Month and May 7 through 11th as
TEACHER APPRECIATION Teacher Appreciation Week. Motion was made by Councilmember Jenkins to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- RESOLUTION** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of
CDBG a Resolution endorsing the expenditures of funds as a required match for
CLINTON MILL a Community Development Block Grant for the 2020 Clinton Mill Sewer Line Project. Mayor McLean stated that the City may receive up to \$750,000 and the maximum match the City would make is \$75,000. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the Resolution endorsing the expenditures of funds as a required match for the CDBG for the 2020 Clinton Mill Sewer Line Project and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- FIRST READING** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the first
ORDINANCE reading of an Ordinance to temporarily suspend the application of
BLUE LAWS Sunday Sales Prohibitions (Blue Laws) within the corporate limits of the City of Clinton. Motion was made by Councilmember Walsh to approve the first reading of an Ordinance suspending the Blue Laws and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.
- ADMINISTRATIVE** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the
BRIEFING administrative briefing. Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Higgs, Assistant City Manager.

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Mr. Higgs stated that Ms. Alducin, Main Street Director has partnered with Presbyterian College and School District 56 to honor the seniors by developing a senior wall on Wall Street. Mr. Higgs stated that this backdrop would allow the seniors to have a place to take their pictures. Mr. Higgs stated that the City would be going back to a full staff in the near future. Mr. Higgs stated that some services would be limited to accommodate the safety of City personnel as well as the citizens.

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORT**

Councilmember Walsh thanked City staff for the Sales Tax Application. Councilmember Walsh asked about the progress with the library. Mr. Higgs stated that he has been working with Ann Szypulski from the Laurens County Library to make sure she has all the needed information for their proposal for the new Clinton library branch. Mr. Higgs stated that the City would also submit a letter of support to be included in their proposal. Mr. Higgs stated that the Lauren County Sales Tax Commission has extended the proposal deadline to May 15, 2020. Councilmember Walsh asked if Council needs to act on this matter and Mayor McLean stated that Council has already approved a letter of support. Councilmember Jenkins asked if the City has a site in mind for the library and Mayor McLean stated yes. Mayor McLean stated that the site is on Pitts Street which is adjacent to the Founders Building. Mayor McLean stated that the Library Board has also approved the site. Mayor McLean stated that the City has met their requirements for the new library without having to purchase a piece of property that may not be needed if the referendum does not pass. Councilmember Jenkins asked if this was the only site looked at and Mr. Higgs stated that the City left it up to the Library Board to choose the site from the City sites available. Mr. Higgs stated that the City is working on an agreement with the owner to give the City the option to purchase the property if the referendum passes. Mr. Higgs stated that once the City and the property owner reach an agreement then Council would receive the information regarding the property. Mr. Wham, City Attorney, stated that the agreement has been sent to the seller for approval. Mr. Wham stated that the City may have to hold a Special Called meeting to approve the agreement in order to meet the May 15, 2020 deadline. Councilmember Jenkins asked if the City still owned the Belk's Shopping Center property and Mayor McLean stated no. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council discussed at the March Council meeting contacting MASC for a Strategic Planning meeting. Councilmember Walsh asked where the City stood with this matter. Mr. Higgs stated that City staff sent out the dates for the meeting to Council but did not receive a lot of response but City staff would try again.

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Councilmember Walsh stated that the senior wall is a great idea and this could be a good project to do every year. Mayor McLean stated that Clinton High Booster Club will hang banners downtown of all the Clinton High seniors.

Councilmember Neal thanked the City for supporting PRISMA Healthcare when the military did a fly over at the hospital. Councilmember Neal stated that the City's Police Department and Fire Department attended the event. Councilmember Neal thanked everyone for their efforts during the COVID-19. Councilmember Neal stated that PRISMA Healthcare of Laurens County is testing for COVID-19.

Councilmember Jenkins asked the status of the Martha Dendy Project. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the committee presented their report to Council. Mayor McLean stated that the City is waiting for the Martha Dendy Committee to apply and receive approval of a non-profit status. Mr. Higgs stated that one aspect of the Martha Dendy Project is the grant which the City is now up to date on the grant requirements. Mr. Higgs stated that the City is waiting for the Martha Dendy Committee to receive the 501-C designation. Mr. Higgs stated that their proposal was great but they must have the non-profit designation in order to move forward with the property. Councilmember Jenkins stated that in her Ward as well as throughout the City is vacant property that needs to be cut. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the City needs to enforce the Ordinance that deals with abandoned vehicles. Councilmember Jenkins stated that some neighborhoods are beginning to look bad and the City needs to enforce existing Ordinances dealing with these issues. Mayor Mclean stated that some citizens maintain their property but some citizens do not. Mayor McLean stated that the City should enforce the Ordinances.

Councilmember Cook stated that Laurens County's website has the deadline for the Laurens County Sales Tax proposals as May 12, 2020 not the 15th. Mr. Higgs stated that he would look onto the matter and get it resolved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McLean stated that the City should thanked healthcare workers for their work during the COVID-19. Mayor McLean thanked Councilmember Neal and Councilmember Walsh and her husband for their work during this crisis. Mayor McLean stated that Rhythm on the Rails has been rescheduled for June 19 – 20. Mayor Mclean stated that the next Council meeting is Monday, June 1, 2020.

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Mayor McLean thanked the Street and Sanitation Departments for picking up debris from recent storm as well as from the homeowners who are at home due to the COVID-19. Mayor McLean stated that Mr. & Mrs. Dillon wanted to thank the Right of Way Crew and the Electric Crew for handling two trees that fell in the street in front of their house. Mayor McLean stated that since the last Council meeting the COVID-19 has continued to rise. Mayor McLean stated that the latest numbers are 6,626 COVID-19 cases in South Carolina, 275 deaths, and 141 new active cases since the previous day. Mayor McLean asked everyone to continue to wash their hands frequently, maintain a safe social distance, be careful of what you touch, and wear a mask if needed. Mayor McLean stated that the Budget Workshop would be Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 5:30 PM. Mayor McLean stated that Council would have the option of coming to the M.S. Bailey Center or use video conference to attend the meeting.

ADJOURN

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

CITY CLERK

MAYOR