

## NOVEMBER 4, 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, Jenkins, Kuykendall, Neal, Roth, and Walsh. The City Attorney and the City Manager were present. Local news media present were Randy Stevens from WLBG, Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser, Monty Dutton from GoClinton.com and Brian Whitmore from the Clinton Chronicle. Notice was emailed to all local news media on November 1, 2019.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Reverend Mark Entrekin from the Clinton First Pentecostal Holiness Church.
- PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE** Mayor McLean asked the Council and the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- MINUTES** Mayor McLean asked Council to approve the minutes from October 7th and the 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made by Councilmember Neal to approve the October 7, 2019 Council minutes and the October 17, 2019 Special Called Meeting 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 the Proclamations proclaiming November as Alzheimer’s disease Awareness month, November as Diabetes Awareness month, November as Lung Cancer Awareness month, and November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.
- ALZHEIMER AWARENESS**  
**DIABETES AWARENESS**  
**LUNG CANCER**  
**PANCREATIC CANCER**
- INTRODUCTION** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the introduction of the new Assistant City Manager, Thomas R. Higgs, II. Mr. Higgs thanked Council and citizens for the opportunity to serve the Community.
- THOMAS HIGGS**
- POLICE OFFICERS** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the introduction of the Police Department’s new Police Officers. Mayor McLean recognized Police Chief Ledda. Chief Ledda stated that two of the Officers have graduated from the Academy and three of the Officers are new hires with experience. The new Police Officers are Quinn Adams, William Foster, Tawanna Thompson, Brandon Howard, and Adam Galloway.

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**CITY MANAGER'S  
REPORT  
SECOND READING  
ORDINANCE  
BLUE LAWS**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Bill Cannon, City Manager. Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the second reading of an Ordinance to temporarily suspend the application of Sunday Sales Prohibitions (Blue Laws) within the corporate limits of the City of Clinton and other matters related thereto. Mr. Cannon stated that the Blue Laws allow businesses to remain open and to operate prior to 1:00 PM on Sunday in the City of Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that Council passed the first reading at the October 7, 2019 Council meeting. Motion was made by Councilmember Walsh to approve the second reading of an Ordinance to suspend the Blue Laws and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**SECOND READING  
ORDINANCE  
CODE BOOKS**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the second reading of an Ordinance adopting and enacting a new Code for the City of Clinton providing for the repeal of certain Ordinances not included therein; Providing a penalty for the violation thereof; Providing for the manner of amending such Code; And providing when such Code and this Ordinance shall become effective. Mr. Cannon stated that Council passed the first reading on October 7, 2019. Councilmember Kuykendall made a motion to approve the second reading of an Ordinance accepting the Code Books for the City of Clinton and seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.

**ATAX COMMITTEE  
REVIEW  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the review of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's recommendations for disbursing the State Accommodation funds. Mr. Cannon stated that the State levies a 2% tax on all hotels in South Carolina and the funds collected is returned to the Municipality or County. Mr. Cannon stated that the City is required to form a Committee to disburse the funds if the City collects more than \$50,000 a year. Mr. Cannon stated that the Committee is a seven member committee with the majority from the Hospitality industry and at least two members from the Accommodations industry and one member from a cultural organization. Mr. Cannon stated that the first \$25,000 of the funds would go to the City's General Fund account plus another 5%. Mr. Cannon stated that 30% of the funds would go to a tourism related program and the City gives these funds to the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Program. Mr. Cannon stated that the Committee disburses the remaining 65% of the funds. Mr. Cannon stated that these funds must be spent on tourism related projects. Mr. Cannon stated that the State's definition of a tourist is any person traveling outside their home Community for a purpose other than work or school.

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**CLINTON CANOPY**

Mr. Cannon stated that Council could accept, amend, or deny the recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. Mayor McLean stated that Council has had time to study the recommendations from the ATAX Committee. Mayor McLean stated that Council would vote on each recommendation separately and Council may approve, make changes, or deny the recommendation. Mayor McLean stated that the first request was from Clinton Canopy for \$1,000. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the \$1,000 request from the Clinton Canopy and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. Mayor McLean stated that he discussed with Ms. Galloway from the Clinton Canopy about increasing this request to \$1,500 and Ms. Galloway stated that Clinton Canopy would appreciate the funds. Councilmember Cook stated that he would let his motion stand because the Clinton Assistance Grant Committee is also awarding the Clinton Canopy \$1,000.

Councilmember Jenkins stated that Clinton Canopy asked for \$1,000 and she does not see why Council would award them more funds. Mayor McLean stated that Clinton Canopy was not aware they could ask for more funds. Mayor McLean stated that Clinton Canopy does a lot work in Clinton. Councilmember Walsh stated that she was concerned if Council awards organizations more than was requested then Council would be changing the application procedures. Mayor McLean stated that the ATAX Committee is an Advisory Committee and Council makes the final decisions. Councilmember Walsh stated that it concerns her that applications were solicited and received and now Council is making changes to the applications. Mr. Cannon stated that Council is the final authority in regards to the disbursement of the funds but the State's Tourism Board will review Council's decisions. Councilmember Walsh stated that she thinks Council should honor the request from Clinton Canopy as originally requested. Councilmember Neal asked Mr. Cannon to explain the application process. Mr. Cannon stated that the applicants turn in a formal application along with information concerning the project and how the tourism dollars would be spent. The vote was unanimous. Mayor McLean stated that the next request is from the Main Street Program for \$15,000. Motion was made by Councilmember Walsh to approve the \$15,000 recommendation from the ATAX Committee and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

**MAIN STREET**

Mayor McLean stated that the next request is from Laurens County Hospice for \$25,000 for the Flight of the Dove Event. Mayor McLean stated that the ATAX Committee recommends giving this event \$10,000. Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the \$10,000 recommendation from the ATAX Committee for the Flight of the Dove and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall.

**FLIGHT OF THE DOVE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the \$10,000 recommendation from the ATAX Committee for the Flight of the Dove and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall.

**PRESBYTERIAN  
COLLEGE**

The vote was unanimous with Councilmember Jenkins recusing herself because she is on the Advisory Board for Laurens County Hospice. Mayor McLean stated that the ATAX Committee considered a request from Presbyterian College for \$130,000 for lights at Presbyterian College's baseball field. Mayor McLean stated that the ATAX Committee recommends giving Presbyterian College \$50,000 for this project. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the ATAX Committee recommendation of \$50,000 and seconded by Councilmember Walsh. Mayor McLean stated that he would recuse himself from voting on this issue because of his close ties to this project. Mayor McLean stated that his father along with other family members help construct the baseball field and he feels this would be a conflict of interest to vote on this issue. Councilmember Roth stated that he would recuse himself because Presbyterian College is one of his largest customers. The vote was four to one with Councilmember Neal voting no and Councilmember Roth and Mayor McLean recusing themselves from voting. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Presbyterian College does pay for their utilities and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the City would receive money from the use of the lights. Mayor McLean stated that the ATAX Committee considered a request from the City of Clinton for \$225,000 for a Welcome Center and Museum. Mayor McLean stated that the ATAX Committee recommends awarding the City \$150,000 for this project. Councilmember Neal made a motion to approve the recommendation from the ATAX Committee for \$150,000 and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. Mr. Cannon stated that the City would need the \$225,000 for the projects and would like bring the balance in the account to zero. Mayor McLean stated that the City purchased the Founders Building to house the Utility Billing Department and the Inspection Department which allowed the City to proceed with the Welcome Center and Museum. Mayor McLean stated that these funds would upgrade the Municipal Building and that the ATAX funds should be disbursed for tourism projects. Mr. Cannon stated that the City purchased the Founders Building because the building accommodates the public and the City could also use the lobby of the Municipal Building for the Welcome Center and Museum. Councilmember Neal stated that she would amend her motion and grant the City the \$225,000 for the Welcome Center and Museum. Mayor McLean stated that Councilmember Neal has made a motion to include the balance in the ATAX funds up to the amount requested. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that if Council raises the funds to the City up to \$225,000 then Council would not be able to grant the Main Street Program their request for the Holiday lighting.

**CITY OF CLINTON**

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**MAIN STREET**

Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he would not vote on exhausting the funds until Council reviews the next request. The original motion of granting the City of Clinton \$150,000 was on the table with a motion from Councilmember Neal and a second from Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous. Mayor McLean stated that the last request was from Main Street for \$45,380 for a synchronized Holiday light show. Mayor McLean stated that the ATAX Committee denied this request. Mayor McLean stated that this is a one-time purchase and the equipment may be used for many years. Councilmember Jenkins asked why was this request denied and no one knew the reason. Councilmember Walsh stated that she requested someone from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee to be present at this meeting. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the request from the Main Street Program for \$45,380 to purchase a Holiday light show and seconded by Councilmember Neal. Councilmember Roth asked if putting the light show up and then taking it apart would be a reoccurring expense each year. Mayor McLean stated that the City could train City personnel to do this work. Councilmember Walsh asked if it is the same light show every year or would it change from year to year. Councilmember Roth stated that he sees a reoccurring expense each year and Mayor McLean agreed but the cost would be about \$400 each year. Councilmember Walsh asked about the cost to operate the light show and Mr. Cannon stated that the City would pay the cost. Councilmember Walsh asked if this cost would come out of the General Fund and Mr. Cannon agreed. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Cannon asked as the City goes through the approved funds if there are excess funds in the State ATAX fund could the City utilize them. Mayor McLean made a motion for the City to spend the remaining ATAX funds and seconded by Councilmember Neal. After much discussion concerning the ATAX funds Mr. Wham, City Attorney, clarified the State law. Mr. Wham stated that the State allows the City to extend the deadline for spending the funds for an ongoing project which the Welcome Center and Museum would fall under. Mr. Cannon stated that the City would be in jeopardy of losing the ATAX funds if the City does not distribute the funds. Mayor McLean stated that he would amend his motion to all of the remaining ATAX funds that must be spent now in order to comply with the requirement that ATAX funds must be spent within two years of receipt of such funds, the City recommends an extension to spend such remaining ATAX funds beyond the said two-year limit, and that these remaining ATAX funds shall be committed to be spent on the Museum and the Welcome Center Projects of the City of Clinton and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

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<b>WORKSHOP DATES</b>	Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is to set a date for a workshop to discuss the Capital Improvement Projects to be submitted to the Sales Tax Commission. After some discussion Council decided to hold the workshop on December 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM. Mayor McLean asked the City Manager to give Council a list of projects and their costs before the workshop.
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Bob Staton from Presbyterian College. Mr. Staton thanked Council for their support and approving ATAX funds for Presbyterian College's baseball field.
<b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b>	Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to enter into an executive session to discuss one contractual matter relating to the sale and purchase of real property and return to open session on the call of the chair and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
<b>OPEN SESSION</b>	Mayor McLean declared Council back in open session. Mayor McLean stated that one contractual matter was discussed and no action was taken.
<b>COMMUNITY GRANT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE</b>	Mayor McLean recognized Councilmember Cook, Community Grant Assistance Committee Chairman. Councilmember Cook stated that himself along with Councilmember Jenkins and Councilmember Walsh met and went over the 2019 Community Grant Assistance applications. Councilmember Cook made a motion to award the grant funds as follows: Clinton Canopy receives \$1,000; Clinton Community Garden receives \$1,000; Clinton Little Red Devils receive \$1,000, Laurens County SAFE Home receives \$1,000; United Ministries receives \$1,000 to go toward utility bills; Laurens School District receives \$5,000 to support the Science Olympiad Teams. Mayor McLean stated that this motion comes from a Committee and does not need a second. The vote was unanimous.
<b>COUNCILMEMBER REPORT</b>	<p>Councilmember Walsh stated that she would like to recommend Council have a quarterly work session to discuss ongoing and future projects.</p> <p>Councilmember Jenkins stated that the 2020 Census is coming up. Councilmember Jenkins asked if the City is preparing for the Census. Mr. Cannon stated that he would look into the matter.</p> <p>Councilmember Cook thanked everyone for the support and prayers during his medical issues.</p>

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor McLean thanked Adele Adlucin, Main Street Director, for her work on the Fall Festival. Mayor McLean welcomed Mr. Higgs to the City and stated that he looks forward to working with Mr. Higgs.

**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.

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CITY CLERK

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**MAYOR**