

OCTOBER 1, 2018

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 Young. The City Manager and the City Attorney were present. Local news media present were Larry Franklin from the Clinton Chronicle, Judith Brown from the Laurens Advertiser, and Randy Stephens from WLBG. All local news media was notified by email on September 25, 2018.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Reverend Jerry Harris from Church of Christ.
- PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE** Mayor McLean asked the Council and audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- MINUTES** Mayor Mclean asked Council to approve the minutes from September 10. Motion was made by Councilmember Young to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.
- POLICE DEPARTMENT**
POLICE CHIEF Mayor Mclean recognized Mr. Cannon, City Manager. Mr. Cannon stated that he wished to read a statement. Mr. Cannon stated that he has the upmost respect and admiration for Chief Morse. Mr. Cannon stated that he liked Chief Morse personally and professionally. Mr. Cannon stated that Chief Morse was caught up in a confusing and unfortunate situation that began once City Council passed the Ordinance to separate Public Safety into two independent departments which are the Police Department and the Fire Department. Mr. Cannon stated that the employees were somewhat confused and did not know to whom they should report to or take their instructions from. Mr. Cannon stated that he had discussions with Chief Morse about the situation on several occasions. Mr. Cannon stated that he told Chief Morse that he was caught up in the middle of this transition and the confusion needed to be stopped. Mr. Cannon stated that nothing personally or professionally against Chief Morse but there was too much misunderstanding during this transition period that had to be fixed. Mr. Cannon stated that after some discussions Chief Morse and the City Manager reached a separation agreement including a non-disclosure severance package which Chief Morse accepted and stepped down. Mr. Cannon stated that this decision was not made absent a management plan. Mr. Cannon stated that he has been in local government for 21 years and have seen and dealt with similar situations as this one in Clinton. Mr. Cannon stated that in approximately two weeks Sonny Ledda will begin his duties as the new Police Chief in Clinton to assist with this transition.

(Page 2)

Mr. Cannon stated that this entire scenario concerning Robin Morse was a management decision necessary to insure a smooth transition from Public Safety back to a Police Department and a Fire Department. Mr. Cannon stated that he would like to thank Chief Morse for his excellent service to our City and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Councilmember Jenkins asked what day would Sonny Ledda come and Mr. Cannon stated in two weeks. Mayor Mclean stated that there seemed to be a lot of misinformation and confusing. Mayor Mclean stated that GoClinton.com stated that the Mayor and the City Manager met with Chief Morse on Tuesday night about his employment. Mayor McLean stated that he, the City Manager and several Councilmembers were in Newberry on Tuesday night from 5:00 PM to 9:45 PM. Mayor McLean stated that he has never met with Chief Morse on Tuesday or any other day concerning his employment with the City. Mayor McLean stated under the City's form of government it is unlawful for the Mayor or any Councilmember to contact Chief Morse or any employee concerning their employment. Mayor McLean stated that if anyone has a question please contact the Mayor or the City Manager before stating what we have done or said. Mayor Mclean stated that it appears that creditable sources are not so creditable especially when they are not named. Mayor Mclean stated that he supports Mr. Cannon who was hired unanimously by this Council and he runs the day to day operations of the City and has sole responsibility of all the employment matters of this City. Councilmember Jenkins stated that all of the rumors she heard in the street were coming true. Councilmember Jenkins stated that she did not know how the rumors got started but the rumors did come true. Mayor Mclean stated that the rumors did not come from him and any employment matters are the responsibility of the City Manager.

**CITIZENS ADDRESS
COUNCIL
DEBBIE VAUGHN
COUNTY MUSEUM**

Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Debbie Vaughan. Ms. Vaughn stated that she was before Council concerning the Laurens County Museum. Ms. Vaughn stated that the Museum is in Laurens but it represents all of Laurens County. Ms. Vaughn stated that the Laurens County Museum is located at 205 West Laurens Street and is open on Thursdays and Sundays from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Ms. Vaughn stated that the museum also has a new location on the Laurens Square which is currently under renovation. Ms. Vaughn encouraged everyone to join the Laurens County Museum. Ms. Vaughn stated that on Thursday, October 25 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM the museum would host a live and silent auction. Ms. Vaughn stated that the auction would have a drawing for a Firmin Ford car for one year. Ms. Vaughn invited everyone to the auction.

**EMILY BAILEY
TOWN MEETINGS**

Mayor McLean recognized Ms. Emily Bailey. Ms. Bailey stated that she was before Council concerning town meetings. Ms. Bailey thanked Council for their service and stated that she liked to come to the Council meetings to know what is going on in the City. Ms. Bailey stated that she would like to see Council host some town meetings. Ms. Bailey stated that citizens could express their concerns and ask questions during the town meetings. Ms. Bailey stated that the town meetings would allow citizens to get together as a community to express concerns and ask questions. Ms. Bailey stated that would also be a good way to stop rumors.

**PROCLAMATIONS
PUBLIC POWER
FIRE PREVENTION
RED RIBBON
BREAST CANCER
CRIME PREVENTION
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DYSLEXIA AWARENESS
ARBOR DAY**

Mayor Mclean stated that Council has been asked to consider approval of Proclamations proclaiming October 7-13 as Public Power Week in the City of Clinton, October 7-13 as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Clinton, October 23-31 as Red Ribbon Week in the City of Clinton, October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Clinton, October as Crime Prevention Month in the City of Clinton, October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Clinton, October as Dyslexia Awareness Month in the City of Clinton, and the first Friday in November as Arbor Day in the City of Clinton. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Proclamations and seconded by Councilmember Young. The vote was unanimous.

**PRESENTATION
UPSTATE ALLIANCE
ECONOMIC TRENDS**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. John Lummus, Upstate SC Alliance President and CEO. Mayor McLean stated that Mr. Lummus would discuss the trends and insights in economic development. Mr. Lummus stated that the Upstate Alliance serves ten Counties in South Carolina. Mr. Lummus stated that the role of Upstate Alliance is to market and recruit industry into the Upstate. Mr. Lummus stated that the Upstate is part of the world economy. Mr. Lummus stated that he would like to give Council information on what will happen in regards to economic development. Mr. Lummus stated that one economic development trend is the size of the projects. Mr. Lummus stated that major projects are down 50% over the last ten years but the middle market firms are experiencing job growth. Mr. Lummus stated that 86% of jobs from 1995 to 2013 were created by firms already here. Mr. Lummus stated that a mid-size company impacts the economy in that the company does not need a major infrastructure investment, would hire local staff, use local banks, buy or rent office space, and spend money in the local economy. Mr. Lummus stated that the second trend is a growing demand for innovation.

Mr. Lummus stated that in 2015 it took five employees to produce one million dollars of output but the same amount of production took twenty-five employees in 1980. Mr. Lummus stated that with automation external sources and services are more important. Mr. Lummus stated that the third trend is our expanding role in the world market. Mr. Lummus stated that the Upstate initially attracted foreign companies because of the low cost of doing business then the Upstate built infrastructure and learned how to compete in the foreign market. Mr. Lummus stated that the Upstate's share of the foreign jobs is twice the national average. Mr. Lummus stated that from 2015 to 2020 it is projected that 80% of economic growth would occur outside the United States. Mr. Lummus stated that marketing the Upstate as a region is key which the Upstate Alliance does. Mr. Lummus recognized the City for their Speculative Buildings and how the City has marketed them. Mayor Mclean thanked Mr. Lummus for his presentation.

**CITY MANAGER'S
REPORT
FIRE PREVENTION
MR. RUSSELL**

Mayor McLean recognized Mr. Cannon. Mr. Cannon recognized Mr. Phillip Russell, Fire Chief. Mr. Russell thanked Council for approving the Fire Prevention Proclamation. Mr. Russell stated that the Fire Department would use Fire Prevention Week to stress fire prevention. Mr. Russell stated that in the past five years 337 lives have been lost in South Carolina due to fires. Mr. Russell stated that 80% of these deaths have been in single family homes. Councilmember Jenkins asked how many vacancies does the Fire Department have and Mr. Russell stated two, one Firefighter and one Captain.

**SECOND READING
ORDINANCE
DEBT SETOFF**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is the second reading of an Ordinance relating to the recovery of collection costs as a part of delinquent debts collected pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act. Mr. Cannon stated that the City participates in the MASC sponsored Setoff Debt Program in order to collect past due utility bills. Mr. Cannon stated that the first reading was approved at the September 10, 2018 Council meeting. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the second reading of the Debt Setoff Ordinance and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. 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 comes before Council every six months as allowed by State law.

Mr. Cannon stated that the businesses in neighboring Counties are exempt from the Blue Laws and this Ordinance allows businesses within the City limits to remain open on Sundays in order to compete with the neighboring Counties. Councilmember Jenkins made a motion to approve the first reading of an Ordinance to temporarily suspend the Blue Laws and seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.

**LEASE PURCHASE
CAB & CHASSIS**

Mr. Cannon stated that the next item on the agenda is to authorize the City Manager to finalize documents for the purchase of one International 7400 Cab & Chassis. Mr. Cannon stated that financing proposals were solicited from financial institutions for a five-year Municipal Lease Payment Agreement. Mr. Cannon stated that the City received proposals from three financial institutions. Mr. Cannon stated that the Right of Way Department requested the purchase of the Cab & Chassis to replace the Cab & Chassis on the 70' Ariel Device Bucket Truck. Mr. Cannon stated that the Right of Way Department has experienced many emission issues with this truck. Mr. Cannon stated that Council approved the purchase at the July 9, 2018 Council meeting and staff recommends the City enter into a five-year Municipal Lease/Purchase Agreement with BB&T Governmental Finance. Mr. Cannon stated that the purchase price of the Cab & Chassis is \$76,587.43. Mr. Cannon stated that the City would make a down payment of \$15,200 and would budget over the next five years payments in the amount of \$13,508.16 with an interest rate of 3.40%. Motion was made by Councilmember Young to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Municipal Lease/Purchase Agreement with BB&T for a Cab & Chassis for a cost not to exceed \$76,587.43 with an interest rate of 3.40% with a five-year payment of \$13,508.16 and seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Neal to go into executive session and discuss one contractual matter relating to the sale or purchase of real properties, one personnel matter relating to the Police Department, and one personnel matter relating to the Fire Department 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 contractual matter and two personnel matters were discussed and no action was taken.

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORT**

Councilmember Jenkins asked the City Manager to look into providing more handicap parking spaces at the M.S. Municipal Building and also more park benches at the front of the building.

(Page 6)

Councilmember Neal thanked the City Manager and the Mayor for doing a great job

Councilmember Kuykendall thanked Mr. Cannon for his service. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that some of his decisions have been tough but the City Manager is taking the necessary steps. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the City made good strides in demolishing the houses but he would like to see the City form a program that addresses the upkeep of the property after the houses or building have been torn down. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the Piedmont Pad building on Davidson Street is an example. The City tore down the old building but the property is not kept up and is an eye sore to that neighborhood.

Councilmember Roth stated that he supported the City Manager. Councilmember Roth thanked Chief Morse for his service to the City and wished Chief Morse the best moving forward.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mclean stated that a citizen came before Council last month requesting aid for the cheerleaders. Mayor McLean asked if Council had Community Grant funds for this. Councilmember Cook stated that the Community Grant Committee is in the process of awarding those grants and this group is on the list. Mayor Mclean stated that the Scots and Brats event would be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Vance Park. Mayor Mclean stated that Saturday, October 27, 2018 the City would host the Fall-O-Ween from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Vance Park.

ADJOURN

With there being no further business before Council Mayor Mclean adjourned the meeting.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR