

MARCH 20, 2020

A Special Called meeting was held at the M.S. Bailey Center at 7:30 AM with Mayor Bob McLean presiding with Councilmembers Cook, Jenkins, Neal, Roth and Walsh. The City Manager and the City Attorney were present. Local news media present was Vic McDonald from the Clinton Chronicle. Notice was emailed to all local news media on March 18, 2020.

INVOCATION	The invocation was given by Councilmember Cook.
PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE	Mayor McLean asked Council and audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
ORDINANCE CITY GOVERNMENT	Motion was made by Councilmember Roth to approve an emergency Ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of the City of Clinton City Council meetings and to authorize the City Manager of the City of Clinton to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of Government services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak; and matters related thereto. Mayor McLean stated that this Ordinance is not a declaration of an immediate emergency. Mayor McLean stated that the best options for citizens is social distancing, washing hands and stay at home. Mayor McLean stated that the Ordinance allows the City to conduct business and continue services during this time. Councilmember Walsh stated that the Ordinance allows Council to meet through other means and Mayor McLean agreed. Councilmember Cook stated that if the City does enact a State of Emergency would City Management keep Council informed. Mr. Wham, City Attorney stated that Council is required to meet every month with a quorum. Mr. Wham stated that the Emergency Ordinance expires in sixty days and would cover two months so that Council may be able to meet in other ways instead of physically being at the Council meeting. Mr. Wham stated that the April meeting would also be made available for the public to listen in. Mr. Wham stated that Council would not have to hold public comment at the April meeting. Councilmember Walsh asked if City Staff has determined the means by which the Council meeting would be made public. Mr. Thomas Higgs, Assistant City Manager stated that City staff is working on providing the Council meeting through video. Mr. Higgs stated that the City has already established voice lines.
COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORT	Councilmember Neal thanked City staff and the Mayor for the report they put out on Facebook. Councilmember Neal stated that the information has been helpful.

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Councilmember Walsh thanked the City employees who have continued to provide services to the citizens. Councilmember Walsh asked how Council would be updated. Mr. Cannon, City Manager stated that he would keep Council updated through social media and he would personally contact Council. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council needs to be notified before Council is represented on a social platform and Mr. Cannon agreed. Mr. Thomas stated that the City has not seen anything of this magnitude and the City is adapting their operations as soon as the City receives updates from the Governor. Mr. Thomas stated that the Department Heads are meeting on a daily basis. Mr. Thomas stated that as the City moves forward with this crisis he would try to keep Council updated on any changes but keep in mind these plans and changes are fluid. Councilmember Walsh asked if any employees would work from home and Mr. Thomas stated that City staff has not found a need for that yet. Councilmember Walsh stated that she would be of service to City staff if needed.

Councilmember Jenkins thanked the City staff for their hard work during this time. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Council should also be notified of any changes or plans whether by text message or phone.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McLean stated that it has come to his attention that a Councilmember has a problem with him exercising his duties as Mayor to citizens and City employees by providing a video as to what the City is doing about the COVID-19 virus and how citizens could protect themselves. Mayor McLean stated that he is doing what other Mayors across the State have been doing which is keeping citizens informed during this time of uncertainty. Mayor McLean stated that he would continue to do this. Mayor McLean stated that his first priority is to the safety, health and welfare of the citizens and City personnel. Mayor McLean stated that if a Councilmember is out of the loop then that is the fault of the Councilmember. Mayor McLean stated that each Councilmember could call the City Manager or Assistant City Manager for any updates. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the Mayor is not above the rest of Council and Mayor McLean stated that he has certain duties as a Mayor and he would exercise them. Councilmember Walsh stated that she does send emails to the City Manager requesting updates. Councilmember Walsh stated that she should not have to hound the City Manager for information. Councilmember Walsh stated that she has questioned the City Manager about procedures but she has not brought this up publically and Mayor Mclean stated that he did because he wants this issue out in the open.

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Councilmember Walsh stated that she is not opposed to the video but just wants the curtesy to know about it before it happens. Councilmember Neal stated that she takes the time to make phone calls to the City Manager or the Public Works Director regarding issues. Councilmember Neal stated that Council could call just as quickly as receiving a text. Councilmember Neal stated that Council needs to be sensitive as to how the citizens see Council.

ADJOURN

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

CITY CLERK

MAYOR