

OCTOBER 17, 2019

A Special Called meeting was held at the M.S. Bailey Center at 5:00 PM with Mayor Bob McLean presiding with Councilmembers Jenkins, Kuykendall, Neal, Roth, and Walsh. The City Manager was present. Local news media present were Monty Dutton from GoClinton.com and Brian Whitmore from the Clinton Chronicle. Notice was emailed to all local news media on October 16, 2019.

- INVOCATION** The invocation was given by Councilmember Kuykendall.
- MINUTES** Mayor McLean asked Council to approve the minutes from September 30. Motion was made by Councilmember Neal to approve the Special Called meeting minutes from September 30, 2019 and seconded by Councilmember Walsh. The vote was unanimous.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to go into an executive session to discuss a receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege: Discussion of Municipal finance matters bond counsel 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 a matter relating to bond counsel was discussed and no action was taken.
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SALES TAX COMMISSION** Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is the discussion of Capital Improvement Projects to submit to the Sales Tax Commission. Mayor McLean opened the floor up for discussion. Mayor McLean stated that Laurens County anticipates spending 40 million dollars on Capital Improvement Projects and the City needs to come up with a list of projects to submit to the Sales Tax Commission. Councilmember Roth stated that the City does not know how much funds would be awarded to Clinton so Council may need to set a limitation on the costs of the projects. Mayor McLean stated that 85% of the money to fund the Capital Improvements would come from Clinton and Laurens. Councilmember Roth stated that Council needs a dollar amount to work within. Councilmember Roth stated that Council should not get too ambitious with the projects because they may not be funded. Mayor McLean stated that Council can only select one project but the City has many Capital Improvement Projects. Councilmember Roth stated that the City should work with Laurens County. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council could discuss the options and not necessarily come up with one project tonight.

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Mayor McLean stated the City is under a Consent Order, the City needs a new Police and Fire Building, the City needs a library, and the City needs a Recreation Park. Councilmember Walsh asked Walter Hughes, the Clinton Representative on the Sales Tax Commission to give Council some insight. Councilmember Jenkins asked if the City of Laurens and Laurens County has chosen their representatives. Mr. Hughes stated that the City of Laurens has chosen their representative who is Sharon Brownlee. Mr. Hughes stated that he and the City of Laurens Representative would choose a member and Laurens County would choose three members. Mayor McLean stated that the City had a deadline in which to choose their representative. Mr. Hughes stated that the deadline was just for Clinton and Laurens. Mayor McLean stated that all of the entities involved should have the same deadline. Mr. Hughes stated that he and the Laurens Commissioner would have their member picked by next week. Mr. Hughes stated that the research he has done on similar projects is that even though the State claims Laurens County would have forty million dollars to spend usually it is less funds. Mr. Hughes stated that Laurens County may get around thirty-five million dollars to spend. Councilmember Neal asked during this process if Mr. Hughes would keep Council informed and Mr. Hughes agreed. Councilmember Walsh stated that the application states to select one project and Mr. Hughes stated that Council may select several projects but each project must have a separate application. Mr. Hughes stated that he would ask Mr. Cruickshank's, Laurens County Attorney, if this is correct. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council could submit multiple forms just have one project per form. Councilmember Roth asked how does the Sales Tax Commission plan on distributing the thirty-five million dollars. Mr. Hughes stated that the Sales Tax Commission would look at each project and Clinton may have to make some concessions in order to get the project on the list. Councilmember Walsh stated that Council needs to come up with a list of projects and prioritize them. Mayor McLean stated that Councilmembers may wish to meet with the City Manager and get an idea of the projects the City would need and then come up with a list. Mayor McLean stated that some critical needs of the City are the DHEC Consent Order, and upgrading the Police and Fire Building. Councilmember Walsh asked if the Consent Order projects were budgeted. Mr. Cannon, City Manager, stated that the City is moving forward with the Consent Order. Mr. Cannon stated that the Consent Order would take several years to complete and the City just needs to keep on top of the required projects. Councilmember Walsh asked if the City was on track with the Consent Order and Mr. Cannon stated yes.

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Mr. Cannon stated that when he was hired the two critical projects at that time were a Recreation Complex and the Police and Fire Building. Mayor McLean stated that another critical project is the City streets and sidewalks. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he would be in favor of the proposed library. Councilmember Walsh stated that the necessary projects Council should work into the budget because these Capital Improvements would depend on the Referendum passing. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that these projects would be the City's wish list. Councilmember Jenkins stated that Council would need to know how much these projects would cost. Mayor McLean stated that Council would need a dollar amount from the County in order to determine which projects to submit. Mr. Hughes stated that the Sales Tax Commission would not give each City a certain amount but the Sales Tax Commission would look at all of the projects and then determine how to prioritize the project list. Mayor McLean stated that the funds need to be divided in such a manner that citizens from Clinton would vote for the Capital Improvement Projects. Mayor McLean stated that if citizens do not feel they are getting anything from the tax then citizens would not vote for the tax. Councilmember Walsh stated that would be the job of the Sales Tax Commission to make the projects appealing for all of the citizens in Laurens County. Councilmember Neal asked if Public Schools could be on the project list and Mr. Hughes stated he would have to look into that. Councilmember Walsh asked what project costs would Council wish for Mr. Cannon to give Council. Mayor Mclean stated that cost of a Police and Fire Building, the cost of renovating the Municipal Building, the cost of repairing streets and sidewalks, and the cost of a library. After some discussion Council decided to list their projects and come back as Council to discuss them. Council also determined to set a workshop date at the November Council meeting.

MILLERS FORK TRAIL

Mayor McLean stated that the next item on the agenda is Millers Fork Trail. Mayor McLean stated that the presentation from Susan Galloway at the last Council meeting caught Council off guard because Council did not know the Millers Fork Trail Project had been bid out. Mayor McLean stated that the last correspondence he received regarding the project was in April from Mr. Meadors, Public Works Director, stating if the City could not transfer the grant funds to the Clinton Canopy or Laurens County then the City would return the money. Mayor McLean stated that one problem with the project was Police jurisdiction but he and a group of citizens met with Sheriff Reynolds and have resolved that issue.

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Mayor McLean stated that Sheriff Reynolds stated in a letter that since Millers Fork Trail is in the County then the Laurens County Sheriff Department would patrol the area. Mayor McLean read the letter from Sheriff Reynolds. Mayor McLean stated that this matter is on the agenda because there is a January 31, 2020 deadline to meet the grant requirements and if approved the City needs to move forward with the project. Mayor McLean stated that the City received four bids in August for the Millers Fork Trail Project with the low bid from Elmore Land for \$111,800. Mayor McLean stated that the grant for the project is \$99,100 with a 20% match from the City. Mayor McLean stated that the total cost of the project is \$118,920. Mayor McLean stated that the City has already met the 20% match requirement but would have to spend an additional \$12,700 on the project. Mayor McLean stated that these additional funds would come from the Hospitality and Accommodation Taxes. Mr. Cannon stated that the City may be involved in some of the construction which would go toward the cost of the project. Mayor McLean stated that if Council looked dumb-founded at the last meeting it is because they were. Mayor McLean stated that Council did not know it had been bid out again. Councilmember Roth asked if the trail was .7 tenths of a mile with the expectation of going to a 3.5 mile trail and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Councilmember Roth asked if the City would be financially obligated to expand the trail and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Mayor McLean stated that the City would have to maintain the trail for twenty-five years. Councilmember Kuykendall asked if the City could request future grants to expand the trail and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Councilmember Roth asked if the City had plans and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Mr. Cannon stated that he would approve of the Millers Fork Trail Project since the Police jurisdiction has been resolved. Motion was made by Councilmember Kuykendall to approve the Millers Fork Trail Project and seconded by Councilmember Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

**COUNCILMEMBER'S
REPORT**

Councilmember Jenkins stated that the City has boarded up the Martha Dendy School. Councilmember Jenkins stated at the last meeting she requested if ATAX Funds could be used for the Martha Dendy Project but was told no by the Committee Chairman. Councilmember Jenkins stated that the Martha Dendy School is used twice a year for basketball tournaments that bring in people. Councilmember Jenkins stated that it is too late to apply for the funds but the Martha Dendy Project would be operational next year and would apply for the ATAX Funds.

Councilmember Neal thanked the Public Works Department for the Right of Way clearing in her Ward. Councilmember Neal stated that she enjoyed the Scots & Brats Festival.

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Councilmember Kuykendall asked if the City was still using the old trash truck and Mr. Cannon stated yes. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that he is getting a lot of questions pertaining to the garbage cart placement on the street. Mr. Cannon stated that this issue is a work in progress and Public Works is trying to find the right solution. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the City needs to get ready for the fall leaves. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the pending projects excite him and he hopes that these positive views are expressed in our newspaper as well. Councilmember Kuykendall stated that the City needs excitement because negativism hurts.

Councilmember Roth stated that Councilmember Cook was unable to attend the meeting because of a medical issue. Councilmember Roth stated that he hopes for a good recovery and he was missed at the meeting tonight.

Councilmember Walsh stated that she is also receiving comments about the trash pickup but the City should see the trash issue as a public relations opportunity. Councilmember Walsh stated that the City could use social media to educate the citizens about the trash pickup. Councilmember Walsh stated that this could be a way for citizens to get to know their neighbors, especially the elderly, by helping with the trash cans. Councilmember Walsh stated that she read the City's Comprehensive Plan and found it to be a good resource. Councilmember Walsh stated that the Comprehensive Plan was created by the Planning Commission. Councilmember Walsh asked how often does the Planning Commission meet and do they call their own meetings. Mr. Cannon stated that the Planning Commission calls their meetings. Councilmember Walsh stated that City staff could encourage the Planning Commission to meet more often so they could guide Council which would enable Council to be more pro-active in future projects.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McLean stated that last year a citizen in the Clinton Mill area complained about property in front of her house that had abandoned trailers on it. Mayor McLean stated that this citizen also complained about the rats and snakes on the property as well as children playing on the property. Mayor McLean stated that City staff told Council that the property would be cleaned in about two to three months and a year has passed and the trailers are still there. Mayor McLean stated that the property has saw dust on it and this may be a fire hazard. Mayor McLean stated that he is still receiving complaints about this matter. Mayor McLean stated that this problem needs to be addressed. Mayor McLean stated that he would not want to live across the street from this mess.

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Councilmember Neal stated that she has asked the Inspection Department to look into the mater. Mayor McLean stated that this citizen also complained about having to place her can across the street and that the trash cans are torn up. Mayor Mclean stated that if the trash truck tears up the cans then citizens should not be made to purchase new ones. Mayor McLean stated that both of the leaf trucks were broken last year for about four months. Mayor McLean asked City staff to make sure that both are working this year to prevent the same problems as last year.

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