

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
April 18, 2011

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, April 18, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Richard Miller. Pastor John Hicks gave the invocation and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Mayor Richard Miller, Commissioner Mali Gardner, Commissioner Joseph Miller, Commissioner James Pittman and Commissioner Julio Rodriguez.

Personnel Present: City Manager Steve McKown, Police Chief Don Gutshall, City Utilities Director Kevin McCarthy, City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey, Golf Course Director Adolfo Pena, City Engineer Tommy Perry, Recreation Director Lance Ramer, Public Works Director Sean Scheffler, Library Director Eric Tommerdahl, Code Enforcement Officer Pete Garcia, and City Attorney Charles Schoech.

Visitors Present: Phil Flood of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Rev. John Hicks of First United Methodist Church, and Jillian Sparks, the newly appointed Chamber of Commerce Director.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – City Manager McKown asked that the approval of a Letter of Recommendation to the Governor for Tommy Perry’s appointment to SFWMD Governing Board be added as Item C under the Consent Agenda. The Commission agreed.

Public Comments – Pastor John Hicks came forward to thank the City for the support it gives to the community Easter Egg Hunt. Pastor Hicks stated that the area churches were pitching in to add some other things to the event. Pastor Hicks also stated the Ministerial Association is sponsoring a sunrise service and the First United Methodist Church would be the host this year. He stated the Ministerial Association has revitalized their scholarship program this year and will have two \$500 scholarships available which will be based on spirit and inspiration. Pastor Hicks thanked the City for their support for the Sugar Festival and helping to expand it.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. *City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2011*
- B. *Budget Workshop Calendar Approval*
- C. *Approval of Letter of Recommendation to Governor Rick Scott for Tommy Perry’s appointment to the SFWMD Governing Board*

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

PROCLAMATIONS

- 2. Proclamation – National Day of Prayer** - Commissioner Pittman requested this proclamation at the March meeting. City Manager McKown read the proclamation proclaiming May 5, 2011 as the National Day of Prayer.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the National Day of Prayer Proclamation. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 3. Proclamation – Water Conservation Month** – South Florida Water Management District requested this proclamation. City Manager McKown read the proclamation proclaiming April as Water Conservation Month. Phil Flood of the SFWMD came forward to accept the proclamation and thanked the City for helping enforce the water restrictions that are now in place. Mr. Flood was asked how the SFWMD decides what restrictions to put in place. Mr. Flood stated the District monitors the aquifer and lake water levels and they have thresholds which dictate which restrictions are put in place. Mr. Flood also stated that the study for the relocation of the S-169 structure is still ongoing.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to approve the Water Conservation Month Proclamation. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 4. Proclamation – Seminole Heritage Day** – Mayor Miller read the proclamation proclaiming the Thursday before the Sugar Festival as Seminole Heritage Day and stated the proclamation will be presented to the Tribe at the Clewiston Museum ceremony on April 28.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Joseph Miller, to approve the Seminole Heritage Day Proclamation. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 5. Proclamation – National Kids to Parks Day** – This proclamation is part of the Let's Move Cities and Towns campaign.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to approve the National Kids to Parks Day Proclamation. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 6. Proclamation – Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Month** – This proclamation proclaims April 2011 as Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Month.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Month Proclamation. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7. Hay Lease Extension** - As part of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) operations, the City currently leases the hay fields (+/- 220.5 acres) around the WWTP for \$7,590 per year. The current lease expires on April 30, 2011. The production and maintenance of this area are critical to our permit because the removal of the hay from the fields is what keeps our phosphorus and nitrogen discharges within limits. The lessee is also responsible for maintenance around our spray heads so that we can get proper field rotation and coverage. The current lessee has done a very good job cleaning up the fields, removing trees that the previous lessee had allowed to grow in the fields and improving hay production, thereby helping our permit compliance. Our current lease stipulates that the lease may be extended for an additional five year term at the discretion of the City. Utilities Director McCarthy recommends that this lease be extended for another 5 year term to the current lessee. This item was tabled at the March 18, 2011 meeting awaiting a full Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to extend the spray field hay lease to the current lessee for five years, ending on April 30, 2016. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 8. Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant Agreement** – This agreement is between the City and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission for the Clewiston Marina Renovation. City Attorney Schoech has reviewed the agreement for legal sufficiency.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Joseph Miller, to approve the Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant Agreement. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 9. Departmental Monthly Activity Reports** – Presented for information only.

- 10. Library Departmental Presentation – Director Eric Tommerdahl** – Mr. Tommerdahl gave an update on projects in his department.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR – Finance Director Byrd stated that as of the halfway mark, the City has received 44% of its revenues and only spent 38% of our budget.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER – City Manager McKown stated that we have contacted Egov about designing a new web site for the City. Mr. McKown was very impressed with the examples he has looked at and the cost is very reasonable. Mr. McKown stated the street sweeper should be delivered by the end of May. He stated members of the Fire Department have visited the factory and discussed the fire truck specifications. The fire truck should be delivered in 7 – 8 months. Mr. McKown stated that Spring Cleaning went well, even with a lot of other events going on at the same time. Mr. McKown thanked Police Chief Gutshall for making the Rotary presentation.

REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY – None

REPORTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION – Commissioner Pittman asked what the time line for this year’s paving project was. City Manager McKown stated we are going to try to do some longer pulls this year and will probably start in a month. Commissioner Gardner also thanked Chief Gutshall for his information presentation at Rotary. Mayor Miller stated that he really appreciates the Police Department and their involvement in the Explorer program. He also thanked City personnel who participated in Spring Cleaning. Mayor Miller stated that the ball fields look great and that everyone should be proud of our facilities. Mayor Miller welcomed new Chamber of Commerce Director, Jillian Sparks.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Richard Miller, Mayor

Marilyn McCorvey, City Clerk