

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
May 16, 2011

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, May 16, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Richard Miller. Pastor Mike Hall gave the invocation and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

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

Personnel Present: City Manager Steve McKown, Police Chief Don Gutshall, City Utilities Director Kevin McCarthy, City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey, City Engineer Tommy Perry, Recreation Director Lance Ramer, Library Director Eric Tommerdahl, and City Attorney Charles Schoech.

Visitors Present: Gregg Gillman, Mike Hall, Denise Hatton, John Hicks, Christine Howell, Romeo Holligan, Forest Michael, Ernie Redish and Madelen Rivera.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – City Manager McKown asked that the National Police Week Proclamation be added as Item G under the Consent Agenda. The Commission agreed.

Public Comments – Ernie Redish came forward to speak about the City's policy on inspecting rental property. Mr. Redish feels the process is time consuming, costly and should be simplified. Mr. Redish suggested that the City use a letter to notify owners that their property is in violation and not penalize the people that are trying to get into a home. Mayor Miller stated that it is the ultimate responsibility of the landlords to have their property inspected, and that they can get it pre-inspected when the property is vacant. Mayor Miller further stated that he feels City personnel do a good job helping our citizens.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. *City Commission Workshop Minutes – April 14, 2011*
- B. *City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2011*
- C. *Request for funds from the Hendry County Boater Improvement Fund*
- D. *Request for Hendry County to increase recreation funding*
- E. *Proclamation – Neuro-fibroma-tosis Awareness Month Across Florida*
- F. *Approval of Mary Thomas to Library Board replacing Kathy Pittman*
- G. *Proclamation - National Police Week*

Mayor Miller read the National Police Week Proclamation and thanked the Police Department for their tireless work.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays. Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Joseph Miller were absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 2. Vehicle for Hire License Approvals** – Mayor Miller stated the purpose of the public hearing is to discuss and accept input from interested parties relative to the issuance of vehicle for hire licenses to two parties, Richard Trejo and Madelen Rivera. City Manager McKown stated the official notice of the public hearing was advertised in the Clewiston News on May 5, 2011. In addition, registered vehicle for hire owners were sent a letter announcing the public hearing.

Mr. Romeo Holligan came forward and stated that he has a problem with the illegal taxis in Clewiston. He stated the licenses are being given to people who have violated the City ordinance for several months and he feels there should be some type of penalty for operating illegally before they are issued a license. Mr. Holligan stated that he felt the operator should have to wait a certain length of time after operating illegally to get a City license. Commissioner Pittman stated that we do not have an ordinance that would authorize the penalty

and as long as the applicant has the proper documentation at the time they apply, they will be considered. Mayor Miller stated that as long as applicants meet the criteria for applying for a license, the free market system will work. There being no further comments, Mayor Miller closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the vehicle for hire licenses to Richard Trejo, d.b.a. Taxi-Mex and Madelen Rivera, d.b.a. Amigo Taxi. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays. Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Joseph Miller were absent.

RESOLUTION

3. **Resolution – USSC 80th Anniversary** – Mayor Miller read Resolution No. 2011-06 which honors the United States Sugar Corporation’s 80th Anniversary and presented it to Duncan McDonald of USSC.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve Resolution No. 2011-06. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays. Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Joseph Miller were absent.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. **Clewiston Country Club Lease Renewal** – Mayor Miller stated that the Country Club was built by the Country Club and given to the City so the lease is acceptable to the City.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the Clewiston Country Club lease renewal. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays. Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Joseph Miller were absent.

5. **Approval of Forest Michael’s Agreement for Planning Services for FWC Boating Improvement Program** – Forest Michael stated that former Commissioner Frank Jones reinitiated the interest in the Clewiston Waterfront project. He stated that we finally have a grant that will pay for the latest step in that effort. Mr. Michael stated that the FWC grant will be paid for with gas taxes. Mr. Michael stated this step will expand the boat ramps and the parking lot and the City will benefit economically from these expansions by more people coming to our facilities. Mr. Michael stated the planning, the user survey and some of the design work will be included in the Year One grant.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve Mr. Michael’s Agreement for Planning Services for the FWC Boating Improvement Program. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays. Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Joseph Miller were absent.

6. **License from Department of the Army**– City Manager McKown stated this is a renewal of this license and allows the City to have our equipment on the ACOE tower.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the Department of the Army license. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays. Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Joseph Miller were absent.

7. **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the City and the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development** – City Manager McKown stated that this is a renewal of our MOA for our designation of a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern. Mr. McKown introduced the new EDC Director, Gregg Gillman.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the MOA between the City and the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays. Commissioner Gardner and Commissioner Joseph Miller were absent.

8. **Discussion of Section 50 of the City Codes Regarding Mobile Homes, Mobile Home Parks, Recreational Vehicles and Recreational Vehicle Parks and Commercial Vehicles** – The Commission will discuss this item at a later date.

- 9. Departmental Monthly Activity Reports** – Presented for information only.
- 10. Finance Departmental Presentation – Director Ted Byrd** – Mr. Byrd gave an informative update on projects in his department.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR – Finance Director Byrd stated that we are still ahead in the budget game.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER – City Manager McKown stated that he could see a potential problem with changing the rental inspections to the way Mr. Redish stated. Mr. McKown stated that electrical power should never be turned on at property that has not been inspected. The inspections are for the renter’s protection.

REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY – None

REPORTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION – Commissioner Pittman stated that he heard no complaints about Sugar Festival and congratulated City staff for doing a great job. Mayor Miller stated that he agreed everyone went above and beyond for Sugar Festival and also thanked Pastor John Hicks for his efforts in making the National Day of Prayer a success. Recreation Director Ramer gave a brief description of the “Fish Camp”. The City will have two camps which will give 20 young people at each camp a chance to learn about boating, boating safety, different species of fish, etc.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Richard Miller, Mayor

Marilyn McCorvey, City Clerk