

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Reorganization Commission Meeting
December 17, 2012

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its Reorganization meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, December 17, 2012. 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 Commissioner James Pittman, Commissioner Julio Rodriguez, and Commissioner Phillip Roland.

Personnel Present: Finance Director Ted Byrd, Police Chief Don Gutshall, City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey, Recreation Director Lance Ramer, Golf Course Director Adolfo Pena, Community Development Director Travis Reese, Public Works Director Sean Scheffler, City Attorney Charles Schoech, and Karen Moore.

Visitors Present: Cindy & Tracy Bethea, Jerry Cochran, Asa & Betty Godsey, Denise Hatton, John Hicks, Christine Howell, Donald Hughes, Pepe Lopez, Paula Pittman, John Polhill, Curtiss Pullen, Sherida Ridgill, Mercedes Vary, Christy Vaughan, and John Wellslager.

Commissioner Gardner requested that City Attorney Schoech discuss the City Charter. Mr. Schoech stated the Charter states under the new Charter adopted at the November election, it states during the first meeting in December an organizational meeting will be held where the Mayor and Vice Mayor would be selected. The Mayor has all of the rights of other commissioners and is the figurehead, but has no more power than any other commissioner. Mr. Schoech described the various types of city governments, stating Clewiston has the Commission/Manager form where the manager runs the day to day operations and the Commission sets the policy. Mr. Schoech further stated that under the Charter all of the legislative powers are the Commission's and the administrative powers are the City Manager's and the City Manager carries out the policies and procedures the Commission sets. Mr. Schoech stated the Commission shall in no manner dictate removal of department heads or give direction to employees directly or privately. However, Commissioners are allowed to talk to employees to gather information. Mr. Schoech stated the Commission must decide by majority directives to the City Manager.

Commissioner Gardner asked if Commissioners could be assigned to oversee certain departments. Mr. Schoech stated that primary areas of focus or interest are not prohibited, but Commissioners cannot go over and start running the department. Commissioners could oversee departments and bring their concerns to the full Commission to give direction to the City Manager.

Commissioner Gardner stated the Commission has been through a lot and with the recent election, the City has a new Commissioner. She stated that she has seen the new Commissioner out in the community and feels he is someone who loves this town and she believes Mr. Roland is the right person to be Mayor at this time. Commissioner Rodriguez stated his first choice for mayor would be Commissioner Gardner, but he agrees that the City needs someone who can bring a fresh face to the Commission and he believes Commissioner Roland would be a great mayor. Commissioner Miller stated that Commissioner Roland is brand new to the City Commission and feels it takes a Commissioner a period of time to learn the ropes and he has a great deal of concern with the selection.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to appoint Commissioner Phillip Roland as Mayor. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays. (Commissioner Miller voted nay)

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to appoint Commissioner James Pittman as Vice Mayor. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

Mayor Roland thanked the Commission for their confidence and stated he has the time and he will be seeing everyone as we go forward to hire a City Manager. Mayor Roland stated he would like to see the Commission focus on certain areas and allow the Commission to become involved in them.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Phillip Roland, Mayor

Marilyn McCorvey, City Clerk