

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
June 16, 2014

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, June 16, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Phillip Roland. Pastor John Hicks gave the invocation and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Phillip Roland, Commissioner Mali Gardner, Commissioner Kristine Petersen, and Commissioner Julio Rodriguez. Commissioner James Pittman was absent.

Personnel Present: City Manager Al Perry, Finance Director Ted Byrd, City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey, Community Development Director Reese, Library Director Ava Barrett, Public Works Director Sean Scheffler, Recreation Director Lance Ramer, Utilities Director Danny Williams, City Attorney Charles Schoech, City Engineer Tommy Perry, and Karen Moore.

Visitors Present: Jerry Cochrane, Terry Gardner, Denise Hatton, John Hicks, Christine Howell, Alan Koch, Belinda Smith, and John Wellslager.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – City Manager Perry asked that Gina Reynolds be added to the agenda as Item 4-A, Johnson Engineering Professional Services Supplemental Agreement be added as Item 4-B, and Main Lift Station discussion be added as Item 4-C. The Commission agreed.

Pastor John Hicks was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the City for his many years of service to the City. Mrs. Hicks was presented a bouquet of flowers.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. *City Commission Workshop Minutes – May 8, 2014*
- B. *City Commission/Hendry County Joint Workshop Minutes – May 13, 2014*
- C. *City Commission Workshop Minutes – May 15, 2014*
- D. *City Commission Minutes – May 19, 2014*
- E. *Event Application – Hispanic Month celebration – 9/13/14*

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve the consent agenda. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays. (Commissioner Pittman was absent.)

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2. Proclamation – Cecile Adele Thomas Day** - Ms. Thomas will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 26, 2014. City Manager Perry read the proclamation and Ms. Thomas' son was presented the Proclamation, along with flowers for Mrs. Thomas.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the Proclamation. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays. (Commissioner Pittman was absent.)

- 3. Air Conditioner Replacement at John Boy Auditorium Recommendation** - Bids were opened on May 29 with only two bidders participating. The lowest bid was \$44,984 and the highest bid was \$78,617. City Engineer Perry stated the low bid did not include the work for the roof so the two bids are not comparable. Mr. Perry recommended that the City reject both bids at this time and the City look at purchasing the equipment and consider other installation options. The Commission requested the air conditioner maintenance costs at the JBA over the last ten years.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to reject all bids. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays. (Commissioner Pittman was absent.)

- 4. Departmental Monthly Reports** – Presented for information only.

- 4A.** Gina Reynolds of the Florida Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative came forward to speak to the Commission. Ms. Reynolds stated the City Manager Perry is the chairman of the organization and Gregg Gilman also serves on the Board. Ms. Reynolds stated the purpose of the organization is to support local initiatives and the broadband project was recently completed. She stated the organization received a \$23.6 million grant to get the 15 county broadband project completed. Ms. Reynolds stated they have chosen Affiniti as the network operator and they are working on the extended lines. She stated the main purpose of the broadband is to serve local governments, libraries, hospitals, etc, and to work with internet service providers. Ms. Reynolds stated they are currently working with a company, Site Selection Group, that works with major businesses to find locations. She stated that each EDC in the 15 county area has sent their location profiles and Site Selection Group will help us with a marketing plan.
- 4B. Johnson Engineering Professional Services Supplemental Agreement** – City Manager Perry stated the amount to be paid will not exceed \$5,000. Mayor Roland stated the City is looking at this because of the cost of the water at the splash park. Commissioner Rodriguez stated he is concerned about the cost of water at the splash park and the fact that it is not recycled. City Attorney Schoech stated the agreement needs some clarification, particularly specifying the work to be done is for recreation.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to approve the Johnson Engineering Professional Services Supplemental Agreement with City Attorney Schoech's suggested changes specifying recreation in the scope of services. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays. (Commissioner Pittman was absent.)

- 4C. Main Lift Station Discussion** – City Manager Perry stated that our main lift station is failing. We were previously given the amount of approximately \$670,000 to replace the lift station. Mr. Perry stated we may qualify for a low interest loan through DEP and would request Commission approval to apply for the loan. Mr. Perry stated the City must also have a public hearing to discuss the issue. Commissioner Rodriguez stated he would like to see the City budget for large projects to eliminate borrowing money for them.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to authorize the Mayor to sign documents to apply for a low interest loan from DEP and to hire consultant Don Berryhill and AECOM to take the necessary steps to apply, at a cost not to exceed \$17,000; and authorize advertising a public hearing. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays. (Commissioner Pittman was absent.)

City Engineer Perry stated JPA is moving forward with the boat basin project. He stated they have identified the pavilion, similar to the one in Trinidad Park, that we want to use. Commissioner Gardner asked that JPA go back and look at paving more parking area versus the pavilion and then allow the Commission to decide which project best suits our needs.

Terry Gardner stated he was in a meeting with the Corp of Engineers when the possibility of putting a floating fishing dock in the rim canal was discussed. He suggested that possibility might be considered as a third option.

City Engineer Perry stated they continue moving forward on the industrial canal. He stated the golf course sign is out to bid and should be on the July agenda for award.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - At this time, any person will be allowed to speak on any matter that pertains to City business. John Hicks stated a little over 12 years ago when he was told he was coming to Clewiston, he had to look on a map to find out the location. He stated God opened the door for him that allowed him to have the ministers come together and pray for the City and the Commission and when you invest your heart into something, you want to see it move forward. Pastor Hicks stated he has the honor of sharing the news that the ministers in the community have asked Alan Koch to serve as the President of the Ministerial Association.

Jerry Cochrane stated that the Commission competed the City Manager's evaluation a couple of months ago and deferred any salary increase for him. He encouraged the Commission to reconsider the deferral of the increase and to move forward with it. Commissioner Gardner stated she appreciated Mr. Perry, but wants to look at the budget numbers before moving forward.

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER – City Manager Perry stated that he and several commissioners will be at the FMPA conference on July 17 when the workshop is scheduled. It was decided to have the workshop on July 14 with the regular meeting on the 21st. City Manager Perry stated the City is losing Aaron and Holly Bach who are moving closer to their family and they have been great community members.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY - none

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION – Commissioner Rodriguez stated he has received complaints of excessive speeding on Ventura and asked that speed limit signs be installed. He further stated that La Frontera is having issues getting deliveries because of the lift station construction and asked Utilities Director Williams to accompany him to look at the problem. Commissioner Gardner reminded everyone about the July 4th fireworks and again told Pastor Hicks how much she appreciated everything he has done. She stated that “Clewiston is a better place with the job he has done while he was here and we have benefitted from his wisdom and love of God”. Mayor Roland discussed the golf course revenues.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Phillip Roland, Mayor

Marilyn McCorvey, City Clerk