

**CITY OF CLEWISTON**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**May 23, 2016**

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The City of Clewiston City Commission reconvened the May 16, 2016 Commission Meeting on May 23, 2016 in the City Hall Commission Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Phillip Roland.

**Commissioners Present:** Mayor Phillip Roland, Vice Mayor Kristine Petersen, Commissioner Mali Gardner, Commissioner Sherida Ridgill, and Commissioner Julio Rodriguez

**Personnel Present:** City Manager Al Perry, Interim City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Police Chief Don Gutshall, Community Director Travis Reese, Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil, Recreation Director Lance Ramer, IT Administrator JD Lucas, Director of Golf Robbie Rush, Golf Course Consultant Jeff Kent, and Attorney Charles Schoech via telephone

**Visitors Present:** Karl Larsen, Fred Thomas, Robbie Castellanos, Joe David, Jerry Cochrane, Carol Giddens and Steve Conrad

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

City Manager Perry requested the consideration of accepting a surety bond as a utility deposit for the two utility accounts of the nursing home located at 301 South Gloria Street be added as Agenda Item No. 3 because it was tabled to a time certain at the April 18, 2016 Commission Meeting. City Manager Perry stated there is no new information regarding the matter and it will need to be tabled again.

**Commissioner Ridgill made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Petersen to add the consideration of accepting a surety bond as a utility deposit for the two utility accounts of the nursing home located at 301 South Gloria Street as Agenda Item No. 3 to the Agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays**

- 1. Discussion - Consideration of utilizing Golf Course Capital Improvement Fees to fund a capital improvement project of redoing the Golf Course greens during FY 2015-16 –** The Golf Course Advisory Board has submitted a letter of request for Commission consideration of a capital improvement project to redo the Golf Course greens during FY 2015-16 with funds derived from Golf Course Capital Improvement Fees.

City Manager Perry stated Golf Course Superintendent Jeff Kent had a presentation for the Commission regarding the greens replacement process. Mr. Kent presented a slideshow for the Commission and explained the no till renovation process. Mr. Kent stated the contractors for the no till renovation are sole source providers. The project would begin tomorrow if it is approved by the Commission today and the process takes approximately 10 weeks.

City Manager Perry explained to the Commission there were two options regarding funding for this project. One option is to use the funds in the Capital Improvement Fund and the other option is to obtain a low interest loan from First Bank with a note that would renew each year for approximately 5 years so the City could appropriate the funds for this project further than one year.

Commissioner Gardner questioned Finance Director Shari Howell regarding her recommendation regarding the payment options City Manager Perry described. Finance Director Howell stated her opinion was it would be better to obtain the low interest loan and make the annual payments because the City would be pledging future capital improvement fees instead of depleting the much needed reserves.

Commissioner Gardner stated the golf course provides a tremendous benefit to the community with the funds raised in the golf tournaments.

Commissioner Ridgill stated the financial reports show Director of Golf Robbie Rush has increased play and minimized expenses at the Golf Course. She will support this project because she believes the project will increase play.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated Director Rush has done a great job with the Golf Course and his decision will not be based on his performance. He feels the Golf Course does not have enough employees to take care of the greens. He congratulated Mayor Roland on his efforts in bringing in additional revenue. He stated his concern is with the continued audit finding for the condition of the City's undesignated fund balance and the required response to the State Legislative Auditing Committee concerning the finding and corrective measures being taken to resolve the issue. He does not feel the City should continue to borrow money. He stated he will not support the greens replacement project at this time.

Mayor Roland stated the funds were raised by the Golf Course. The only issue is the City didn't appropriate the funds to redo the greens. He stated if the Golf Course had not raised the funds, he would not support this project. He stated the funds are in the Capital Improvement Fund for the Golf Course and those funds can only be used for the Golf Course.

Commissioner Gardner stated the memo given to the Commission by Finance Director Howell was very helpful. Vice Mayor Petersen agreed and stated she previously was not sure what her decision would be, but stated she had decided to support this project once she heard about the money that is raised for scholarships and non-profit agencies through tournaments held at the Golf Course.

Mayor Roland stated he feels the City should fund the project with the low interest loan from First Bank.

Commissioner Gardner questioned Mr. Schoech if it would be a conflict of interest if she voted because she is an employee of First Bank. Attorney Schoech responded stating she could vote because she disclosed that she was an employee of First Bank and this project did not affect her employment.

**Commissioner Ridgill made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, the City of Clewiston complete the Capital Improvement Project of redoing the Golf Course greens during FY 2015-16. Vote 4 yeas, 1 nay (Commissioner Rodriguez voted nay)**

Commissioner Ridgill stated she feels the City should use the funds presently in the Capital Improvement Fund to fund this project. She appreciates First Bank's offers. She also noted there will be a discussion regarding the sale of property in the Commerce Park on next month's agenda.

Finance Director Howell stated, for the record, the Commission had been made aware of the continued audit finding and response required to the State Legislative Auditing Committee. She said she felt adequate information had been supplied to the Commission in order to make an informative decision on the matter being considered.

Commissioner Gardner asked Attorney Schoech if the issue regarding the funding of this project could be approved at the next Commission Meeting on June 20, 2016. Attorney Schoech responded stating the Commission could wait because the City does have the funds in the capital reserves and therefore would not be deficit financing. Attorney Schoech also stated the best recommendation would be input from the Finance Director.

Mr. Steve Conrad addressed the Commission questioning what would happen if the perfect storm came at the wrong time and if approximately 10 inches of rain would damage the greens during this renovation. Golf Course Consultant Kent responded stating the rain would not damage the greens. Staff would put the sprigs back in place.

It was the general consensus of the Commission to approve one of the funding options for this project at the next Commission Meeting on June 20, 2016.

**2. Approval of final payment in the amount of \$3,530 to MCM Paint & Flooring for the 2016 Building Painting Project– City Manager Perry**

**Exhibit:** Agenda Item Report No. 13A

**Recommendation:** Recommended motion is to approve final payment of \$3,530 to MCM Paint & Flooring pending Staff and City Manager approval of job and final release of lien.

Commissioner Gardner stated her only issue is that one wall is not complete. She also stated the reason the wall is not complete is not the contractor's fault. City Manager Perry stated there is approximately 600 square feet of the Utilities Building that has not been painted because the City is replacing some of the windows in that building. He feels the contractor would be finished with the project if the City was not holding him up and he is confident once the windows are replaced the contractor will finish the job.

**Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Petersen, to approve final payment of \$3,530 to MCM Paint & Flooring pending Staff and City Manager approval of job and final release of lien. Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays**

**3. Consideration of accepting a surety bond as a utility deposit for the two utility accounts of the nursing home located at 301 South Gloria Street.**

**Vice Mayor Petersen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to table the consideration of accepting a surety bond as a utility deposit for the two utility accounts of the nursing home located at 301 South Gloria Street. Vote 5 years, 0 nays**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There were no public comments.

**COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER** - none

**COMMENTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY** - none

**COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION** – Commissioner Ridgill questioned if the fiscal year 2017 budget workshops had been scheduled. Finance Director Shari Howell stated they had been scheduled and staff would supply the Commission with the schedule. Commissioner Gardner stated City staff had been preparing to plant a tree in honor/memory of long- time resident Ms. Jean Anderson. The tree planting ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2016 in the Civic Park behind the library. Vice Mayor Petersen stated the Memorial Day ceremony will be at 9:30 a.m. on May 30, 2016 at the Ridgelawn Cemetery.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

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Phillip Roland, Mayor

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Kathy Combass, Interim City Clerk