

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Special Commission Meeting
May 30, 2017

The City of Clewiston City Commission held a Special Commission Meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Tuesday, May 30, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Mayor Gardner. The audience joined in reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Mali Gardner, Vice Mayor Michael Atkinson, Commissioner Kristine Petersen, Commissioner Julio Rodriguez and Commissioner Phillip Roland.

Personnel Present: Interim City Clerk Mary K. Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Police Officer Demetrius Scruggs, Utilities Director Danny Williams, City Engineers Tommy Perry and Scott Jones. City Attorney Brandenburg attended via telephone.

Visitors Present: Terry Gardner

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - none

- 1. Consideration of South Florida Water Management District Agreement No. 460003609** – This Agreement, through funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, provides \$350,000 in funding assistance to the City for preliminary planning, site selection and final design of a new C-21 bridge for vehicle and pedestrian access.

Mayor Gardner opened the discussion and stated that City Engineer Tommy Perry would provide a recap of this project to the Commission once he arrives to this workshop. City Attorney Brandenburg confirmed that he had reviewed this agreement. Mayor Gardner expressed her concern that there would be no access to the levee if the City is not able to obtain the funding for the bridge because the existing access would be removed. She stated that her understanding is that the \$350,000 to be contributed by the South Florida Water Management District is for the engineering development of the site plan and the final design of the bridge structure but does not cover the cost of the bridge, which would be the City's responsibility. Attorney Brandenburg stated that he will need an explanation from the engineer.

City Engineer Tommy Perry joined the workshop and explained that the South Florida Water Management District is replacing S169 with S169 West and the grant is for the City to install a new crossing over the canal to take the place of the crossing on S169. He also stated the City previously signed an agreement which stated the City would build a replacement canal crossing, which crossing does not have to be a bridge. He explained this agreement does not obligate the City to move forward with the design that is being considered at this time. He also clarified the City is responsible for providing access to the levee and reviewed the required tasks for this agreement. He stated if the City is not able to obtain funding to construct the bridge, a culvert crossing, which is the least expensive, would then be considered.

Engineer Perry next displayed a map depicting five different locations for the new crossing. Mayor Gardner noted that approval of the site selection shall be a public process and Engineer Perry stated that he feels the public process for approval would be at a City Commission Meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the process of the project and the estimated date that the bridge construction could begin.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he feels the City should have another plan in case funding is not obtained.

City Engineer Perry stated that he feels the City could meet the deliverables and Finance Director Shari Howell stated that she did not have any issues with the finance requirements of this agreement. She also stated this agreement is the first with the South Florida Water

Management District where the funds would be expended and then reimbursed by the District rather than being given upfront. She further stated that she feels the City could not continue to handle the cash flow for so many grants and suggested the Commission discuss this matter and maybe consider some type of bridge funding.

City Engineer Perry and the Commission next discussed the suggested locations for the bridge. Commissioner Roland suggested the area just west of the water retention area. Mayor Gardner stated that as Commissioner Petersen pointed out, there are only three additional Commission meetings to make a decision. Commissioner Roland feels we should communicate with the South Florida Water Management District to see if we can encroach onto the wetlands with a road. City Engineer Perry stated that he feels we can encroach onto the wetlands but there will be a cost associated with the encroachment.

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested consideration be given to the shortest route over the canal to reduce the cost of the bridge. Commissioner Roland stated that he feels if we are not able to obtain funding for a bridge at a desired height and location, we would not be able to get the funding for a bridge at that same height at a location with a shorter span. Mayor Gardner asked staff to communicate with the US Army Corps of Engineers to see if the fill that has been put in on the North side of the C21 Canal could be left so that it would make the span a little shorter.

Commissioner Atkinson noted there would be an extra cost to widen the dike to make room for two way traffic at some locations. City Engineer Perry stated that he feels the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be receptive of adding materials to the levee on the land side. Mayor Gardner requested that we ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to leave the dirt that they have added for their culvert replacement project and asked City Engineer Perry to get clarification on the dates for the deliverables.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked City Engineer Perry if he would be providing the engineering for the bridge or if it would be subbed out. City Engineer Perry stated that he will do the engineering for part of the project and other parts will be subbed out. Mayor Gardner asked if he was able to directly hire someone for the work to be subbed out or if they had to go out for bids. City Engineer Perry stated that he is able to directly select someone to work for them.

Commissioner Atkinson requested that the City apply for additional funding to make sure there is enough funds to cover any work that needs to be done to the top of the dike.

City Engineer Perry agreed to coordinate a timeframe with staff to determine the site location.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Roland to approve South Florida Water Management District Agreement No. 4600003609. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested the new South Florida Water Management District representative be invited to a Commission Meeting to provide an update on what is happening with the District so that we can make sure she is aware of this project. Mayor Gardner asked Interim City Clerk Kathy Combass to ask City Manager Perry to reach out to our new representative with the District with an invitation to a Commission Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER - none

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION - none

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Mali Gardner, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, Interim City Clerk