

VIII. Intergovernmental Coordination Element

Governmental Structure

The elected City Commission is the policy-making body of the City. The City Manager is the chief administrative officer and is appointed by the City Commission.

The City Manager has responsibility for the daily operations of the City and supervises department administrators.

The City has appointed several Advisory Boards having specified responsibilities for advising the City Commission. These Boards are as follows:

- Planning
- Library
- Golf Course
- Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board

The City was incorporated in 1923 and has the powers and duties as provided under the Florida Home Rule Act.

Current Intergovernmental Coordination

Intergovernmental coordination activities are practiced by the City both on a formal and informal basis. The activities provide an effective relationship between the City, Hendry County, other municipalities, special districts such as the Clewiston Drainage District, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, and the State of Florida.

Coordination with other levels of government, special districts, and regional agencies and organizations is essential in the interest of effective, timely, and responsive provision of public services and regulatory processes. Table VIII.1 provides a listing of entities, both governmental and non-governmental with which the City has significant coordinating responsibilities.

The column entitled “Coordination Mechanism” indicates, by number, seven different mechanisms identified by the City of Clewiston. The numbering system is as follows:

1. Regulation and/or enforcement
2. Formal reporting of data, program status, or activities
3. Binding agreement; Interlocal agreement
4. Informal meetings and/or correspondence
5. Committee/Advisory Board
6. Information exchange
7. Services supplied directly to community residents

Table VIII.1			
Intergovernmental Coordination Activities			
City of Clewiston, Florida			
Coordination/ Agency Office	Nature of Relationship	Coordination Mechanism	Lead City Responsibility
Federal			
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Regulation of air quality, hazardous wastes and other environmental condition	1	Public Works
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Floodplain regulation and management	1	Building Official Community Development
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	Regulation of flood control structures at Lake Okeechobee	1	Public Works
State			
Department of Agriculture (DA)	Fire protection and civil defense	3	Fire
Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)	Planning assistance (contract). Floodplain management; energy requirements, housing assistance	1,2	Public Works Community Development
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Regulation, information, permitting, assistance	1,2,6	Utilities, Public Works Community Development
Department of Children & Families (DCF)	Regulation; enforcement of health care, social welfare group homes, and related services	1,2,3,6,7	City Manager
Department of Transportation	Airport resurfacing funding agreement, traffic signal maintenance agreement on SR 80 & SR 832, lighting system agreement & roadway improvements	1,2,3	Public Works

Table VIII.1			
Intergovernmental Coordination Activities			
City of Clewiston, Florida			
Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FFWC)	Regulation, enforcement, licensing, wildlife rescue/protection	1,2	Police Public Works Fire
State (Division of Historical Resources)(DHR)	Identification of historic sites	4,6	City Commission
Southwest Florida Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan (SFAHOP)	Housing	4,5,6,7	City Commission
Hendry County			
Area Housing Authority of Clewiston, LaBelle & Hendry County	Housing programs, i.e., Section 8 Housing	3	City Commission
Animal Control	Provide services outside City	3	Police
Fire Protection	Provide services outside City	3	Fire
Library	Provide services outside City	3	City Commission
Parks & Recreation	Programming facility usage; funding of recreation including auditorium	3	Recreation
Planning Department	Airport zoning, land use regulation, general planning	2,3,4,6	Bldg. Official City Manager Community Development
School Board	Public education facilities	3	City Commission Recreation
Sheriff's Office	Jail facilities and EMS	3	Police
Solid Waste	Solid waste disposal and recycling	3	Public Works
Community Development Block Grant	Sewer service to Harlem and City water system	3	Utilities
Tax Collector	Licenses, Revenue	3	Finance

Table VIII.1			
Intergovernmental Coordination Activities			
City of Clewiston, Florida			
Tax Assessor	Real and Personal Property	3	Finance
Regional			
SW Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)	DRI review and comment, planning policies, and coordination	3	Planning Board (LPA) Community Development
South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)	Water resource planning and management, permitting and enforcement of surface and groundwater usage/recharge	1	Public Works
Others			
Clewiston Drainage District (CDD)	Operation and management of primary drainage system	3	Public Works
Florida Power and Light (FPL)	Service	3	City Commission
Glades Electric Cooperative	Service agreement	3	City Commission
C&S FL Railroad	Sewer agreement and grade crossings	3	Public Works

Source: Gee & Jenson Engineers-Architects-Planners, Inc.

Effectiveness of Intergovernmental Coordination Mechanisms

Intergovernmental coordination is effective and timely between the City and other governmental agencies, special districts, and service providers. Interlocal agreements are a primary means of achieving mutually-acceptable and accountable sharing of responsibilities between the City and other entities. In the absence of formal agreements, the City relies on participation in joint studies, coordination meetings at staff levels, and information exchange for issues having a bearing on or of general interest to other entities. Major subject areas requiring continued effective intergovernmental coordination by the City are as follows:

Housing

The City recognizes the importance of providing its full support to the Housing Authority in joint programs aimed at meeting the housing needs of the City and surrounding area. Housing studies and needs assessments, based on the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau's Census of Housing data and other available information, can enable the preparation of a responsive action plan which includes technical assistance and financial incentives for housing conservation, rehabilitation, and redevelopment in the City.

The correction of housing in the Harlem neighborhood is of particular importance to the City due to the adjacency of that area to the City and the current practice of providing City services to the area.

Land Use Planning

The requirement for coordinating the development of public services and facilities concurrent with development will require a higher level of intergovernmental coordination of development permitting between Hendry County, LaBelle and Clewiston. While the rate of growth is not of such magnitude to indicate an imminent problem of maintaining level of service standards, the preparation of annual reports of facility loading, and remaining capacity will require closer coordination of planning and permitting which can be facilitated through regular information sharing between local governments.

Solid/Hazardous Waste Disposal and Recycling

The increasing emphasis on programs to reduce the amount of solid waste requiring disposal by landfilling, as opposed to recycling, requires increased and more effective intergovernmental/ interagency coordination and public information programs. Clewiston should make every effort to support environmentally-sound hazardous waste management and disposal programs. The City should participate in region-wide public information programs and support enforcement programs to minimize adverse effects resulting from the generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

Water Resource Management

Water resources is a matter of great concern throughout Florida. The regulatory environment is rapidly changing and the often conflicting news on technological aspects of water resource management leaves many small local governments uncertain and bewildered by the pronouncements, study results, regulatory proposals, and permitting/enforcement programs. The SFWMD, COE, DEP, and CDD are involved in various aspects of water resource management as it pertains to the City of Clewiston. The City of Clewiston cannot be expected to take the leadership in correcting the problems of jurisdictional issues, consistency and stability of policies and many other complex matters impacting the City's ability to plan and regulate urban development.

The City of Clewiston is committed to carrying out its obligations to the best of its ability and is committed to cooperating with and assisting other entities in a unified approach to water resource management. Regular communication between agencies and orderly, well conceived and clearly-articulated objectives, policies and programs by Federal, State and Regional agencies are a prerequisite for an effective response by the City of Clewiston. The City will assist in carrying out its responsibilities, but strongly believes improved coordination by all parties is necessary.

Regional Coordination

Clewiston lies within the jurisdiction of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC). This Comprehensive Plan sets forth areas of interest to the City which would benefit from improved regional coordination. There are no identified development phenomena within Clewiston which conflicts with the goals, objectives and policies of the SWFRPC Regional Policy Plan. To the extent that regional coordination is indicated in the Regional Policy Plan, the City is supportive of such coordination and, as the largest City in Hendry County, is aware of its responsibility to be mindful of the value of regional coordination in the many areas addressed in the Regional Policy Plan.

Intergovernmental Coordination Goals, Objectives, and Policies

- Goal 1:** To achieve greater governmental efficiency and resolve conflicts by coordinating development activities between the City of Clewiston and Hendry County, and relevant regional, state and federal entities.
- Objective 1.1:** The City shall continue to coordinate planning and development regulations with adjacent local governments and agencies to assure that impacts of proposed developments will not prevent achieving level of service standards, create land use conflicts or in any respect contribute to inconsistent and incompatible land development patterns.
- Policy 1.1.1:** The City shall continue to advise adjacent local governments of proposed development activities which might reasonably be expected to affect public facility service standards and review such projects from the standpoint of conformity with the plans of adjacent local governments, including annexations.
- Policy 1.1.2:** The City will assure that full consideration is given in its comprehensive plan and all amendments thereto concerning the relationship and consistency of its ongoing planning program to provide reasonable development compatibility across jurisdictional boundary lines.
- Policy 1.1.3:** In the event of conflict with other local units of government, the City shall work through the SWFRPC to achieve solutions through informal mediation.
- Policy 1.1.4:** The City will, in conjunction with issuance of all development orders within its boundaries, avoid adverse impacts of development on adjacent jurisdictions, regional service entities, and regional planning policies. Furthermore, the City will advise such entities of proposed development activities which may have an impact on their facilities, operations and policies in sufficient time to receive comments from those entities.
- Objective 1.2:** The City of Clewiston shall maintain mechanisms to address development issues proposed in its Comprehensive Plan, affecting Hendry County and other governmental jurisdictions.
- Policy 1.2.1:** The City shall continue to utilize the information mediation process established by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) to attempt to resolve land use conflicts with adjacent local governments.

Policy 1.2.2: On request and under the general direction of the City Commission, the City Manager shall continue to provide and exchange information pertaining to significant proposed development among the appropriate local and regional agencies.

Policy 1.2.3: For proposed development in the City which may have extra-jurisdictional impacts due to its size, character or location, the City shall establish procedures for review of comprehensive plans and comprehensive plan amendments which shall include:

1. Identifying intergovernmental issues and conflicts;
2. Identifying the impacts of capital projects listed in the Capital Improvements Element of the City of Clewiston Comprehensive Plan upon the provision of basic services; and
3. Determining the relationship of development proposed within the City of Clewiston Comprehensive Plan to the development proposed in the Comprehensive Plan or Comprehensive Plan Amendment of Hendry County and/or adjacent municipalities. This shall include distributing a copy of relevant proposed plan amendments to adjacent local governments.

Policy 1.2.4: The City of Clewiston shall, at least annually, implement the procedures established in Policy 1.2.3. If any issues or negative impacts are identified, the City shall implement Policy 1.2.1.

Policy 1.2.5: The City shall periodically review applications to Hendry County for zoning changes, major development orders, or proposed County Future Land Use map Amendments affecting the City of Clewiston's planning area, to ensure consistency with the City of Clewiston's Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 1.3: The City establishes level of service standards, service areas and phasing of improvements as set forth in the Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Drainage, and Potable Water Element.

Policy 1.3.1: Public facilities shall be in place or appropriate provisions made to maintain specified level of service standards to serve all development and redevelopment.

Objective 1.4: The City will assist the SWFRPC in achieving orderly and timely development of the region and supports regional coordination activities of the Council.

Policy 1.4.1: The City will adopt land development regulations which further the SWFRPC policies for physical, economic and social development of the region.

Policy 1.4.2: The City will coordinate its planning and development permitting with SWFRPC and other agencies, as well as local governments, to ensure orderly and timely development of Hendry County and the region.

Objective 1.5: The City shall, upon adoption of this objective, coordinate the Comprehensive Plan with the School Board Five-Year Facilities Plan.

Policy 1.5.1: The following procedure shall be used to ensure intergovernmental coordination with the School Board for the location of educational facilities within the City:

1. Upon receipt of a written notice from the School Board informing the City of the acquisition or leasing of property to be used for new public educational facilities, the City shall notify the School Board within sixty (60) days as to the consistency of the site with the Comprehensive Plan; and
2. Subsequent to a request by the School Board for a Comprehensive Plan determination, the City shall determine the consistency with the Comprehensive Plan of any proposed educational capital improvement projects.

Policy 1.5.2: The City of Clewiston shall use the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's dispute resolution process when necessary to mediate the resolution of conflicts with other local governments and regional agencies. The City may use alternative procedures whenever appropriate for the matter of imminent dispute, including agreements authorized by Section 163.3177, F.S., or other non-judicial approaches.

Goal 2: Collaborate and coordinate to ensure high quality public school facilities which meet the needs of the City’s existing and future population.

Objective 2.1: **School Interlocal Agreement**
The City will implement the Interlocal Agreement with the school board, and adjacent counties or special districts as applicable, providing for close coordination and evaluation of development proposals.

Policy 2.1.1: General types of provisions that will be included in the Interlocal Agreement in order to advise the school board, adjacent counties, special taxing districts and municipalities of proposed developments which would impact their jurisdiction include:

Provisions for a feedback process/information exchange of any potential adverse impacts(s) from proposed developments and/or conflicting planning activities through the Local Planning Agency as well as through public meetings with notices published in the weekly paper when required.

Policy 2.1.2: **Intergovernmental Coordination**
The City and the School Board shall maintain and enhance joint planning processes and procedures for coordination of public education facilities for planning and decision-making.

Policy 2.1.3: On an annual basis after the update of the Five Year Work Program, the School Board shall provide information for their five-year Capital Facilities Plan to determine the need for additional school facilities. The School Board shall provide the City each year, a general education facilities report. The educational facilities report shall contain information detailing existing facilities and their locations and projected needs. The report shall also contain the School Board's capital improvements plan, including planned facilities with funding representing the district's unmet needs.

Policy 2.1.4:

In order to coordinate the effective and efficient provision and siting of public educational facilities with associated infrastructure and services within the City the School Board shall meet jointly to develop mechanisms for coordination as provided in the Interlocal Agreement. Such efforts may include:

1. Coordinated submittal and review of the annual capital improvements program of the City, and the School Board's Annual Five Year Work Program update, any annual educational facilities report, and the Five-Year School Plant Study when updated or modified.
2. Coordinated review and assessment of the associated costs and expenditures of siting and developing schools with needed public infrastructure.
3. Coordinated review of residential planned developments or mixed use planned development involving residential development.
4. Use of a unified data base including population (forecasts of student population), land use and facilities.
5. Use of the planning staff from the City and the School Board, to review coordinated siting of schools with parks for multi-functional use. Directives resulting from the joint meeting shall be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Regulations, and other appropriate mechanisms as deemed necessary.

Policy 2.1.5:

School facilities should be co-located with other compatible types of public facilities such as parks, libraries and community centers.