

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
March 18, 2019

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission Meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, March 18, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Gardner. Pastor Gayle of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Clewiston Ministerial Association gave the invocation and the audience joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Personnel Present: Interim City Manager Wendell Johnson, Interim City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Police Sergeant Demetrius Scruggs, Public Works Director Sean Scheffler, Utilities Director Danny Williams, Community Development Director Travis Reese, Compliance Manager Lynne Mila and City Engineer Scott Jones. City Attorney Gary Brandenburg attended via telephone.

Visitors Present: Steve Schneider, Laura Smith, Jerry Cochrane, Donnie Hughes, Asa and Betty Godsey, Melkiah Gilliam, Pepe Lopez, Andy Tilton and Terry Gardner.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Agenda Item No. 2 was deleted from the agenda.

1. Consent Agenda

A. Proclamation – Donate Life Month – April 2019

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

RESOLUTIONS

- 2. Deleted - Resolution No. 2019-11** – Resolution No. 2019-11 approves Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 to Agreement No. 4600003609 Between the South Florida Water Management District and City of Clewiston.
- 3. Resolution No. 2019-12** – Resolution No. 2019-12 authorizes the Mayor to apply for FDOT Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) grant funds for Phase 2 of the East Ventura Avenue Project for the East Ventura Avenue Rebuild.

Mayor Gardner summarized and read Resolution No. 2019-12 by title.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to approve Resolution No. 2019-12. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4. Approval of FDOT Exhibit A to the Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement** – Pursuant to Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Contract Agreement No. ARX79 between the FL Department of Transportation and City of Clewiston, approval of Exhibit A is required in order to set the compensation to the City for the maintenance of traffic signals and other devices for FY 2019/2020.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to approve Exhibit A to the Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Contract Agreement No. ARX79. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Before the vote, there was a general discussion regarding the billing process for this item. Finance Director Shari Howell explained that the City bills DOT at the end of the state's fiscal year and the entire payment amount is submitted to us at one time. She clarified that this is for the traffic signal maintenance on US Highway 27 and is for Fiscal Year 2020.

5. **Approval of Change Order Number CO-08 for the Clewiston Police Department Building Renovation Project** – This Change Order in the amount of \$4,301.00 is needed for additional receptacles and communication connection points in the Dispatch Office Room 110.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to deny Change Order Number CO-08 for the Clewiston Police Department Building Renovation Project. Vote 5 years, 0 nays

6. **Approval of Change Order Number CO-09 for the Clewiston Police Department Building Renovation Project** – This Change Order in the amount of \$337.09 is needed in order to provide a cap on sprinkler stub in the server room and install two fire extinguishers with wall hangers.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve Change Order Number CO-09 for the Clewiston Police Department Building Renovation Project. Vote 5 years, 0 nays

7. **Appointment of City of Clewiston Representative of the Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County** – The Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County will have a vacancy due to the resignation of Don Shivers, effective March 31, 2019. Mr. Shivers recommends the appointment of Laurencia Centeno to fill the vacancy.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to accept the resignation of Don Shivers and approve the appointment of Laurencia Centeno as a City of Clewiston Representative on the Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County to be effective on March 31, 2019. Vote 5 years, 0 nays

Mayor Gardner confirmed that Laurencia Centeno lives in the City limits of Clewiston.

8. **Re-appointment of City of Clewiston Representative of the Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County** – The term of City of Clewiston Representative Lewell Hughes expires on August 21, 2019. Mr. Hughes has agreed to serve another four-year term.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to approve the re-appointment of Lewell Hughes to the Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County for an additional four-year term. Vote 5 years, 0 nays

9. **Request for City to sign a consortium letter regarding Lake Okeechobee Discharges** – The Florida Farm Bureau Federation is assisting in formalizing a consortium letter addressed to the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District regarding Lake Okeechobee discharges.

Mayor Gardner stated that the letter attached as part of this agenda is a draft and a new letter will be received. Commissioner Petersen stated that she feels a resolution is needed. Staff agreed to review Hendry County's resolution and prepare a resolution for approval at the next meeting on April 1, 2019.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson to approve the signing of the consortium letter regarding Lake Okeechobee discharges. Vote 5 years, 0 nays

10. **Departmental Monthly Activity Reports** - Presented for information only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mrs. Laura Smith addressed the Commission and expressed how proud she was to see how our city stood up and prepared for the Sugar Festival. She also Commissioner McGahee stated that everything looked great. Mayor Gardner stated that with Mr. and Mrs. Buker and Mary Ann Martin at the opening ceremony, we really had the best of what Clewiston represents which is farming and fishing. She also said it was a day for Clewiston to be proud.

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER - Manager Johnson informed the Commission that the brochure for the City Manager search had been published and the Commission will be receiving a list of candidates sometime around the first of April. Mayor Gardner reviewed the timeline of the City Manager project schedule. He then asked the Commission to start thinking about the reception for the final candidates which will probably be held sometime in early May and encouraged the audience to also attend that reception. He explained the purpose of the reception is for the public to meet and greet the candidates. He then stated the consultant suggested that the Commission narrow the list of candidates down to five for the reception and interviews. After Commissioner McGahee expressed that she would like Manager Johnson to give his input on the candidates, Manager Johnson stated that the Commission will have to trust the consultant, the “one-on-ones”, the public and their interviews with the candidates. He stated that he feels the information that is given to the Commission will make them confident in their selection. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that we have to trust the process. There was a brief discussion as to whether the Commission should narrow the list of candidates provided to them by the search consultant down to three or five. Commissioner Rodriguez expressed that he feels the Commission should narrow the list down to the three best candidates and Commissioner McGahee expressed that she feels it should be narrowed down to the best five and then reduced to three if they want. Manager Johnson stated that he will follow up with the search consultant to see what he thinks and then get back to the Commission. Mr. Melkiah Gilliam asked Manager Johnson if he is planning to weigh in on this process. Manager Johnson stated that he will observe and weigh in on the process but will not weigh in on the relationship with the potential candidates. Mr. Steve Schneider asked if there will be a probationary period for the City Manager. Manager Johnson stated that there will be an employment agreement that will contain an escape clause and provisions specifying the expectations.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY - none

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION – Commissioner Rodriguez asked if there were any updates regarding the livestreaming of the meetings. Mayor Gardner stated that the issue is that the City was not meeting the requirements under the federal regulations and until that is settled, we cannot continue to livestream under the advice of the City Attorney. Manager Johnson stated that he has been watching for feedback from the Florida League of Cities regarding the issue. City Attorney Brandenburg clarified that the City does not have to livestream but if you do, you have to be ADA compliant. He stated there are companies that will do that for cities. Mayor Gardner asked that staff have more information on this matter at the next meeting.

Mayor Gardner requested the Clewiston Municipal Golf Course be renamed to the J. Nelson Fairbanks Municipal Golf Course. She stated that with the renaming, a memorial gift will be made to the City on behalf of United States Sugar Corporation and corporate donors to honor Mr. Fairbanks for his dedication and devotion to the Ag industry and to the City of Clewiston. She then asked that this request be approved formally at the April 1, 2019 Commission Meeting. She also asked that the Golf Course Advisory Board make a recommendation to the Commission of the investment of the funds that will be given to the City.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Mali Gardner, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, Interim City Clerk