

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

January 10, 2020

Dates to Remember

January 13, 2020 – Planning & Zoning Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

January 16, 2020 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting – 11:00 a.m.

January 20, 2020 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – City Offices Closed

January 22, 2020 – City Commission Workshop – 5:00 p.m.

January 27, 2020 – City Commission Meeting – 5:00 p.m.

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

As I prepare the Manager's first report for 2020, I am pleased to advise that the City Commission now has a workshop scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 5:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall to have a discussion and hopefully reach consensus on their top priorities/goals for the coming year. These priorities once agreed upon will establish the focus for the City administration to develop strategies to optimize progress in the near term and in some cases for subsequent adoption by the Commission. In the case of municipal infrastructure for example, these priorities will also provide a template for updating and developing 5 year and as appropriate longer term plans for items like street improvements, sidewalk expansion priorities, drainage upgrades, utility system enhancements and other public facility needs including parks, recreation and the full range of services provided by the City. Having these discussions prior to the next budget preparation cycle will provide valuable guidance on allocation of limited resources going forward as well.

Having been on the job for almost 6 months, I will be providing input to the Commission from professional experience, personal observations during my tenure thus far and feedback received to date from various sources including Commission members to assist in their prioritization discussions. The basic range of topics prepared to date that I will be presenting for consideration are; a) **INFRASTRUCTURE** needs including: wastewater collection/treatment system upgrades, streets & drainage systems & overall public facility resiliency; b) evaluating & prioritizing **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** strategies including: industrial/commercial business recruitment and expansion to maximize private investment & job creation (e.g. Airglades, Park of Commerce); facilitating private investment to meet residential housing needs (e.g. infill housing scattered site and on larger undeveloped properties in and around the City) particularly workforce housing and to provide adequate scale and a full range of options to meet demand; revitalization/redevelopment efforts with particular emphasis on the U.S. Highway 27 corridor & older areas of the City (e.g. tools including "Downtown" Revitalization/Main Street program participation consideration, enforcement efforts/adoption of additional tools, incentive

programs, business incubator/accelerator type programs) utilizing as a guide previously prepared documents like the US 27 Corridor Policy prepared circa 2015; and, tourism enhancement efforts (e.g. Lake “O” promotion, facility enhancements, parks, recreation & leisure facility upgrades with a focus on a broader range of attractions/programs to meet targeted needs of all age groups, event planning & promotion in cooperation with private/nonprofit organizations); and, c) **BRAND ENHANCEMENT & MARKETING** discussion on how to enhance the regional/national recognition and appeal of “America’s Sweetest Town” which I believe is an excellent label to build upon (e.g. define/refine what the full spectrum of meaning could be and how our operations and the public’s perception should reflect the desired image – “business friendly/citizen engaged & responsive culture” cultivation, - “own it/live it/show it” type approach. Examples are offered for discussion purposes only and to trigger the suggestion of other potential tag lines, etc.).

I previously discussed in this publication details of some of these suggested priorities. It will also be a fact that the City will need to continue to build upon recent successes in developing strong collaborative partners to make our priorities a reality. If the Commission agrees with any or all of these suggestions, the public will hear much more detail about options and strategies in the months ahead. I hope all interested parties will follow the Commission’s discussion and give us feedback as we go forward with our efforts to make Clewiston the best it can be.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the City of Clewiston,
Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- We had our ISO audit on August 28; this audit occurs every 3 years. The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) is how a community is graded. It assesses the building codes in effect in a particular community and how the community enforces its building codes, with special emphasis on mitigation of losses from natural hazards. Municipalities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes should demonstrate better loss experience, and insurance rates can reflect that. The BCEGS program assigns each municipality a grade of 1-3 (exemplary commitment to building code enforcement), 4-7, 8-9 and 10. ISO develops advisory rating credits that apply to ranges. We received a grade of 3 for residential buildings and a 3 for commercial buildings. Over the years we have worked hard to continually improve our score, taking it from a 9 (15 years ago) to a 3. We are pleased that we have continued our exemplary rating for residential and improved our commercial rating from the previous audit and we look forward to continuing our quality of service for the citizens of the City of Clewiston.

Police Chief Aaron Angell reports:

- The following is a brief synopsis of activity over the course of the past week.
 - Officers made a total of 20 arrests
 - Officers responded to 455 Calls for service (Includes officer-initiated activity)
 - We responded to and investigated 2 traffic crashes
 - Officers conducted 96 business and 103 residential security checks
 - Average officer response time to calls for service, 00:01:30



CLEWISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE AARON ANGELL

Crime Trends By Month

Report Date: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019

Unfounded Reports Not Included

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Forcible Sodomy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Forcible Fondling	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Robbery	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
Agg Assault	2	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	4	1	18
Burglary	3	2	5	7	13	12	4	10	1	4	9	3	73
Pocket Picking	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Purse Snatching	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shop Lifting	2	4	4	0	2	1	3	4	2	3	1	3	29
Theft / Building	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	9
Theft / Coin Op	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Theft / Mot Veh	2	3	0	3	4	4	9	6	3	1	2	1	38
Mot Veh Parts	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Bicycles	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Other Larceny	6	7	2	2	4	6	2	0	5	3	1	7	45
Motor Veh Theft	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	10
FORCED SEX TOTAL:	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	7
LARCENY TOTAL:	13	16	6	5	12	16	14	13	10	10	6	12	133
ALL PART 1 OFFENSES:	37	46	43	45	46	55	41	47	40	63	70	65	598
PART 1 CLEARANCES:	19	18	20	16	16	18	18	23	23	38	40	38	287
CLEARANCE PERCENT:	51.4	39.1	46.5	35.6	34.8	32.7	43.9	48.9	57.5	60.3	57.1	58.5	48.0

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- The library was closed on December 24th and 25th for Christmas and January 1st for New Years Day.
- Christmas Storytime with Santa was a huge hit this year. It was held on December 19th from 6 to 8 p.m. Stories were read by Santa, pictures taken in front of a beautiful backdrop, crafts made throughout the library such as gingerbread houses and candy canes, as well as light refreshments being served.
- On Saturday, December 28th the library hosted a Kwanzaa program. This was an exciting program as it included four separate stations throughout the library. In the classroom, participants learned a traditional African dance. The conference room was used for teaching African drumming (Djembe). One section of the library provided space for authentic African jewelry making with various colors of string and shells, while the other section of the library was used for creating booklets describing Kwanzaa and allowed the participants to decorate the booklet as they chose to do so. Participants spent 30 minutes at each station. The program concluded with all participants showing off their dancing skills they had just learned. Lastly, patrons enjoyed traditional foods such as Melva pudding with cool whip, cupcakes decorated to highlight the colors of Africa, a sweet ham, and a delish dish consisting of rice and chicken. I cannot thank Mrs. Monique Greaves, Ms. Denishesha Thorpe and Mr. Antonio Perkins for bringing such an interactive, educational program to the library.
- Lego Club was held on December 26th and January 9th with a total of 16 participants.
- The Book Club met on Monday, January 6th and discussed their latest book and have decided to begin reading *How to Walk Away* by Katherine Center. The next meeting will occur on February 24th at 5:30.
- The Clewiston Library Advisory Board met on January 9th at 5 p.m. for their bi-monthly meeting.
- The Friends of the Clewiston Library also met on January 9th at 4 p.m. Plans are currently being made to prepare for their annual booksale and raffle which will occur during the Sugar Festival on March 21st.
- Be please advised that as of February 1, 2020, the Clewiston Public Library will adjust their late night hours. Currently, on Mondays and Thursdays the library is open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Due to very little traffic, and at time no traffic at all, the library will be closing at 7 p.m. instead of 8. This will not affect any programming that would require us to remain open later, but those events will be considered “special events” such as Christmas Storytime with Santa, Family Movie Nights, etc. and we will ensure those programs and others still occur throughout the year. Therefore, beginning February 1, 2020, the library’s hours of operation will be: Monday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Natasha Hayes, Library Director at any time at 863-983-1493 or natasha.hayes@clewiston-fl.gov.
- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization’s/company’s training? The Clewiston Library does have a classroom and computer lab available with a total of 16 computers for use. For more information or to secure the room, please stop in or call the library at any time.
- Remember you can get your e-books free at www.hendrylibraries.org.

- If you have not done so already, please join our Facebook page (Clewiston Public Library) in order to remain up to date on the library's events and programs.
- The library has worked hard and developed a cooperative wide calendar of activities which can be found on our website www.hendrylibraries.org underneath Calendar of Events. Here you will find events from all three libraries within the county. This is a great way to see what is upcoming throughout the cooperative as each library hosts different events.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- **If you have any recreational needs or questions, please drop by City Hall from 8:00am to 5:00pm or call 863-983-1484.**
- **Mosquito Control:** All traps are not catching enough mosquitoes to support another treatment. We have now using two traps instead of five because certain areas have stopped producing mosquitoes. The golf course and boat basin area are still being treated.
- **Project Updates:**
 - The new Ventura Sidewalk and Welcome Sign Project is scheduled for a 90% walk through on January 15. The project is projected to be finished by the end of this month.
 - Work on the levee cut off wall has begun. Please be aware of a lot of big dump trucks.
 - Sidewalks on the south side of US27 from Wendy's to San Luiz and from San Luiz to Alverdez and on the north side of US27 from McDonalds to Berner Road have a projected construction start date of FY 2022/2023.
 - Staff is seeking ¾ of a mile of sidewalk through a FDOT SRTS grant.
 - The Ventura Avenue Rebuild Project is in design phase and scheduled for 2020 construction. The City's engineer is preparing design plans to accommodate under the road infrastructure before paving begins.
 - Other sidewalk projects included in the Florida DOT 5 year plan are being considered for the design phase. The City is in the process of reviewing priorities for future sidewalk construction and will be developing a 5 year plan for FDOT consideration.
 - Plans for the new Clewiston Commerce Park sign are complete and will go to review.
- **Parks Department Activities:**
 - Staff started work at the Boat Basin to prepare for this season's fishing tournaments. We will start with power washing docks, aprons and pavement markings.
 - A local welding contractor has been given the "go ahead" to repair and square all posts around the tennis courts behind the Youth Center.
 - We are waiting for a quote to build a collar to fit the top of a light pole on the tennis courts. This collar will include a bracket to support two lights. New LEDs will go in all around the court.
 - Painted and repaired the picnic tables at the lake.
- **Street Division Activities:**
 - Installed the new ADA water fountain in the Trinidad Park between the picnic pavilion and bathrooms.
 - Repaired signs.
 - Searched for and repaired pot holes.

- Installed and painted two bollards to protect the front corners of the Police Department dumpster enclosure.
- The Police Department generator is ready for the first fire up. A service tech from the generator manufacturer, the electrician that did the “tie in” and City staff will be on site when this is done.
- Repaired a roof on one of the lake picnic tables.
- Sand blasted and painted a fresh new “safety yellow” on the gates at the levee.
- **NOTICE:** The reconstruction of South W.C. Owen is scheduled to start January 27, 2020. Weekley Asphalt is the contractor. The contract is for 180 days. Sidewalks will be repaired and brought into ADA compliance. The street travel surface will be milled back to original design grade and new asphalt will be applied. New signage and street markings will complete the project.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- Get all information of what’s going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- **Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am.**
- **Golf Carts must be in at 5:45pm.**
- **Walking is permitted all day at the golf course now. Tee Time is a must.**
- **For more information call golf shop 863-983-1448.**

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **Electric Crew Activities**
 - Repaired street lights; installed lights on El Paso and at city tennis court complex;
 - removed vegetation from power lines;
 - installed last underground primary cable at Sonny’s for feed loop;
 - repaired underground service at fairgrounds;
 - installed underground service to lift station near Harlem Gardens;
 - installed anchors on new police department emergency generator;
 - removed and repaired golf course roof;
 - removed poles at levee in preparation for contractor work;
 - installed sign at lake parking lot.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
 - Repaired lift station pump at lift stations;
 - responded to customer’s sewer backup;
 - repaired three water line breaks.
- **Customer Service Department**
 - We offer several bill paying options; please visit or call the office at 983-1454 if you’d like to learn more!
 - **Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911).** This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City’s website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
 - If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a **rebate program** for those items. Most local contractors participate in the

program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.

- **Don't forget to sign up for your meter based surge protection!** Visit our office today.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.**
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.**
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.**

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam, please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.