

**CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
September 9, 2019**

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission Meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, September 9, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Vice Mayor Atkinson. Commissioner Petersen gave the invocation and the audience joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Personnel Present: City Manager Randy Martin, Interim City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Police Chief Aaron Angell, Utilities Director Danny Williams, Community Development Director Travis Reese, Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil and City Attorney Gary Brandenburg.

Visitors Present: Asa and Betty Godsey, Laura Smith, Darryl Moore, Pepe Lopez, Donnie Hughes, Jerry Cochrane and Raoul Bataller.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

PUBLIC HEARING - First Public Hearing of the FY 2019-2020 Budget – 5:05 p.m.

1. **A. Resolution No. 2019-54** – Resolution No. 2019-54 adopts a tentative millage rate for the levy of ad valorem taxes for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The proposed millage rate is 6.5314 mills.

Vice Mayor Atkinson stated the purpose of this public hearing was to accept input from all interested parties relative to the discussion, consideration and tentative approval of the City's 2019-2020 proposed millage rate and operating budget. Finance Director Shari Howell stated the Clewiston City Commission proposes a tentative millage rate of 6.5314 mills, which reflects a percentage change of 3.53% over the rolled-back rate of 6.3086. She stated the Certified Gross Taxable Value received from the Hendry County Property Appraiser totals \$242,873,778. She also stated the City Commission proposes a tentative capital and operating budget of \$28,999,351 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Vice Mayor Atkinson opened the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Tentative Budget Hearing for discussion. There were no comments from the public or the City Commission.

Director Howell stated the Clewiston City Commission, as Taxing Authority, proposes a tentative tax on all property within the City of Clewiston, Florida, at the rate of 6.5314 mills for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. She also stated the rate of 6.5314 mills represents a 3.53% increase over the 6.3086 rolled-back millage rate as defined by the Florida Statutes.

Director Howell read Resolution No. 2019-54 by title.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McGahee, to approve Resolution No. 2019-54. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Mayor Gardner was absent.)

- B. Resolution No. 2019-55** – Resolution No. 2019-55 adopts the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Director Howell read Resolution No. 2019-55 by title.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McGahee, to approve Resolution No. 2019-55. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Mayor Gardner was absent.)

Vice Mayor Atkinson closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTIONS

- 2. Resolution No. 2019-56** – Resolution No. 2019-56 declares the City’s support for the development of Airglades International Airport.

Manager Martin stated the information received by the Commission is included with this agenda item and the resolution declares the City’s support for the development of the airport. He also stated that the public is invited to submit comments and Hendry County is approving a similar resolution.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve Resolution No. 2019-56. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Mayor Gardner was absent.)

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 3. Approval for City of Clewiston to be added to the list of entities signing on to the letter requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider the proposed 2019 planned deviation to the Lake Okeechobee’s Water Control Plan** – Mayor Gardner requested this item be placed on this agenda as it is time sensitive.

Manager Martin explained that Mayor Gardner received an email requesting that approval be offered for consideration by the City Commission. He stated that any comments need to be in quick if we are going to take a position on this matter.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve the addition of the City of Clewiston to the list of entities signing on to the letter requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider the proposed 2019 planned deviation to the Lake Okeechobee’s Water Control Plan. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Mayor Gardner was absent.)

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER - none

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY - none

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION – Vice Mayor Atkinson thanked the City employees for their work during Hurricane Dorian.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Mali Gardner, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, Interim City Clerk