

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
January 31, 2020



The 2019 Employees of the Year were recognized at the January 27, 2020 City Commission Meeting. The 2019 Employees of the Year were Michael Cox, Axel Navarro and Adelys Valles.

Dates to Remember

February 17, 2020 – City Commission Meeting
February 20, 2020 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
February 21, 2020 – Auditor Selection Committee Meeting
February 27, 2020 – Special Commission Meeting

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

The City Commission held a workshop meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd as previously announced to discuss priorities/goals for the coming year. I have covered much of the information suggested by management to assist the Commission in their consideration of municipal priorities in previous FYI remarks and in other forms of communication so I will not repeat those comments here. I do want to provide an update on progress and next steps.

From my perspective, this was a very important exercise and a very productive meeting for the City, and I encourage anyone interested to view the recorded meeting which can be accessed

from the City's website or social media platforms. I will not restate or detail the healthy discussions on various topics in this writing, but the Commission did make significant progress towards reaching consensus on top priorities. Topics discussed at this meeting were management's suggested priorities and the documentation provided to the Commission on each topic. Specifically, the infrastructure needs of the City were discussed with a consensus that from a planning perspective the City needs to update its Capital Improvements Planning documents with emphasis on priority items expected within the next five years. The goal is to update plans which will be available for consideration during the upcoming fiscal year budget development process that will begin later this year.

A considerable amount of the workshop discussion also focused on economic development priorities. Unfortunately, the allotted time for this workshop did not allow completion of discussion on the broad range of suggested topics. Consideration on revitalization/redevelopment efforts with emphasis on the U.S. Highway 27 corridor and older areas of the City business district were a primary focus for the discussion that did occur. The strong consensus was that this be a primary priority for the City. It was also acknowledged that considerable studies and plans had been developed over the years, and those documents could be used to sufficiently develop updated plans. Follow up discussions will be held on this priority in the coming weeks as management pursues details and reports progress to the Commission. This discussion also focused on code enforcement efforts and any additional tools needed to efficiently and effectively address issues which adversely impact on the corridor improvements desired.

To continue the dialogue on these and the other suggested priorities, the Commission has agreed to meet again on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 5:00 pm in the Commission Chambers. A number of citizens attended the January 22nd meeting and some gave input during the public comments section. Hopefully, more citizens will follow these discussions, watch the meetings if unable to attend, and provide additional feedback to the Commission as the priority setting process continues.

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

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- The library was closed Monday, January 20th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Lego Club was held on January 16th and 23rd with a total of 13 participants.
- Sewing Club for Tweens and Teens was held on the 14th. Those who participated (10) provided positive feedback and look forward to learning additional skills in upcoming classes.
- Storytime (ages birth to early elementary) was held on the 15th and 22nd. The children enjoyed the stories as well as the hands on activities and songs. While the children visit for storytime, they also visit the computer lab (with parental assistance) to access another

reading program we offer, Lexia, or they may practice their gross motor skills while playing on abcmouse.com. Storytime was enjoyed by 22 participants, Lexia (online reading program) had 13 participants, and abcmouse.com was accessed by 5 children.

- Be sure to read the current Adult Book Club selection, *How to Walk Away* by Katherine Center and join in on the next discussion which will occur on February 24th at 5:30 p.m.
- After school homework help continues to be a success. Ms. Bautista provided homework assistance to 27 students on the 13th, 16th and 27th of January. As all spots are currently filled, we encourage parents to still register their child and place them on the waiting list as demands and attendance will fluctuate. This will help us quickly refill vacant student positions and allow us to serve as many students as possible in the community.
- On January 27, 2020, our **FREE TAX PREPARATION PROGRAM** began with IRS Certified Volunteers providing volunteer income tax assistance (**VITA**). It's open and free to the public. Interested taxpayers can call and make an appointment with any library staff in order to have their taxes completed at the library. Please call 863-983-1493 to book your appointment.
- Please be 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.
- Upcoming Events: Homework help on Mondays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m.; Library Cooperative Board Meeting February 6th at 5 p.m. at the Clewiston Public Library; Black History Month Students of Excellence Awards will be held on February 27th at 5:30 p.m.; Clewiston Library Advisory Board Meeting March 5th at 5 p.m. Additional events, locations and times are displayed online on the calendar as well. Hope to see you all here...

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:** We seem to have a new batch of mosquitoes coming off this month surprisingly. Trap counts on January 14th are: Saginaw 200; Okeechobee Blvd. 545; Alverde 400; Golf Course 216; Harlem 168. These numbers reflect activity drawn to the trap over a twelve hour period.
- **Grant & Project Updates:**
 - A 90% walk through was done on January 15th on the Ventura sidewalk. A couple of minor issues were noted and will be addressed. This project is now scheduled for completion for first of February.
 - Work on the levee cut off wall has been stopped for a time while inspections and testing of the test portion are performed. The big trucks have stopped so stay cautious.
 - Sidewalks on the south side of US27 from Wendy's to San Luiz and from San Luiz to Alverde 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. Staff is seeking quotes.
- **Parks Department Activities:**
 - The new picnic tables purchased by the Lions Club were delivered on January 28th. Staff will install them the next week in Civic/Memorial Park.
 - The corner posts, braces and the last two gates were repaired, straightened and welded in place at the tennis courts behind the Youth Center. All looks good and is working properly. We will look to replace the fencing next year.
- **Street Division Activities:**
 - 20 feet of drainage culvert was replaced on West Haiti.
 - Staff is cleaning out drainage culverts on Crescent. 23.43 tons of silt was removed from 5,310 feet of culvert including inlets.
 - The garbage receptacles on Bond Street were pulled, washed and painted.
 - Staff assisted the Police Department in building shelves in the property room.
 - This year's dumpster order came in and staff spent half a day putting them together.
 - Lights in facilities in the Sports Complex were inspected and repairs were made where necessary.
 - The Bottlebrush trees on Hoover Dike Road were mulched and are coming out nicely.
 - New 30 mph speed limit signs were installed on North Francisco.
- **NOTICE:** Our Sports Complex is one of the finest in the area. Football, baseball, softball, soccer and basketball are the sports that are currently offered. A sand volleyball court will be the next sporting opportunity offered. Come out and watch our small athletes play.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

- Get all information of what's going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- Get on our E-mail list by going to the City of Clewiston website www.clewiston-fl.gov. Go to the golf course division and at the bottom of the page you can sign-up on Constant Contact and get all Clewiston Golf Course information.
- Congratulations!! John Perry, Jr. and Glen Baxter won the Men's Club Championship on December 28, 2019.
- 2020 9th Annual HCSO Deputy Brian Haas Memorial took place on Saturday, January 18, 2020. They raised money for Criminal Justice scholarships. The winners of the event with a score of 61 were Jude Kurtz, Dave Jackson, Davis Witt and Mark Linder.
- The Men's Senior Club Championship is scheduled to take place on February 4th and 5th, 2020. The golf course will be open for regular play all day both days. The defending 2019 champions are Glen Baxter and Sam Todd.
- The LPGA AGA Sugar Bowl Ladies Golf Tournament is scheduled for February 8, 2020. Women from all over Florida will be here competing. The golf course will be closed for regular play until 2:00pm. This event will be hosted by the Clewiston Women's Golf Association.
- The Clewiston Women's Golf Association will be conducting their Annual Women's Invitational on February 18, 2020. Again women from all over Florida will be coming to compete. The golf course will be closed for regular play until 2:00pm.
- The Clewiston Sugar Festival Glow Ball Tournament is scheduled for Friday night, February 21, 2020. Sign-up is in the golf shop.
- The Clewiston Women's Golf Association's 11th Annual Rally for the Cure Mixed Scramble is scheduled for February 29, 2020.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am.
- Golf Carts must be in by 5:45pm.
- Walking is permitted all day at the golf course now. Tee time is a must.
- For more information, call the golf shop at 863-983-1448.

Police Chief Aaron Angell reports:

- The following is a brief synopsis of activity over the course of the week ending 1/24/2020.
 - Officers made a total of 11 arrests
 - Officers responded to 520 Calls for service (Includes officer-initiated activity)
 - We responded to and investigated 4 traffic crashes
 - Officers conducted 124 business and 107 residential security checks
 - Average officer response time to calls for service, 00:00:46
- The following is a brief synopsis of activity over the course of the week ending 1/31/2020.
 - Officers made a total of 9 arrests
 - Officers responded to 374 Calls for service (Includes officer-initiated activity)
 - We responded to and investigated 1 traffic crashes
 - Officers conducted 46 business and 56 residential security checks
 - Average officer response time to calls for service, 00:03:41

Thanks to everyone and have a great weekend!

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **Electric Crew Activities**
 - Installed new current transformer on a meter can on Del Monte to replace old can,
 - straightened a pole at the fertilizer plant,
 - installed banners for fair,
 - repaired street lights,
 - assisted contractor install potential transformer on transformer # 1 in substation,
 - rewired some of the underground utilities for Sugar Festival,
 - replaced feeder 3 cross arms at two locations Aztec & Corona,
 - repaired pole on Kentucky St. due to fire,
 - responded to two pole fires on distribution feeder lines,
 - supervised contractor repairs to 138kV transmission line,
 - replaced customer fuse,
 - replaced cutout on pole on Crescent Dr.,
 - reconnected service drop to pole on Alverdez Ave. following residential fire repairs,
 - completed 17 underground utilities locate requests,
 - replaced 4 electric meters,
 - disconnected electric service to residence as a result of house fire,
 - reset timers for city tennis court sports lighting and set clock on Central Avenue.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
 - Repaired sewer line break,
 - repaired three water line breaks,
 - installed water distribution line to RV park at boat basin.
- **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.