

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

February 14, 2020

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 City Commission Meeting and Workshop

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

In the upcoming Commission meeting on Monday, February 17, 2020, several topics of interest will be addressed. The entire agenda is available on the City's website for review. Of particular interest to all city utility customers is an interim report that will be presented to the City Commissioners on the benefit-cost analysis of the City pursuing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project to upgrade all the City's utility meters utilized in billing City electric, water and sewer services. I encourage all customers of the City's utility systems to review the particulars of this analysis. The City Commission had required this analysis as part of the initial phase of the AMI project deployment. The agenda information details the AMI deployment and the various stages of the proposed project so I will not review those details in this update except to summarize the pertinent recommendations.

In partnership with the Florida Municipal Power Association (FMPA) of which the City is a member, a consulting firm with expertise in this particular operational area has been engaged for several weeks to assist the City in preparing an analysis and all the steps necessary for the City to seek proposals from qualified industry professionals to provide and install new meters to replace this aspect of the City's aging utility infrastructure with modern more efficient and accurate equipment. As a review of the benefit-cost analysis illustrates, the benefits are significant for the City and its customers to pursue the AMI project and to do so with the use of borrowed funds which have a short return on investment in terms of the conservatively projected annual savings that offset the debt service costs. Either way, the City needs to replace the vast majority of its meters in the next few years due to age and obsolescence of some of the equipment. Based upon the results of the analysis, management recommends completion of the identified elements to wrap up all aspects of the consultant's engagement so that the City can proceed to complete all next phases of the deployment including seeking formal bids for the project.

Simultaneous to the AMI analysis, the City has also been engaged in utility rate studies to assess the impact of operational and capital outlay needs projected for the utility systems. As recommended, the Commission authorized the rate studies during last fall's fiscal year 2019-2020 municipal budget development process so that informed decisions could be made heading

into the next budget cycle for fiscal year 2020-2021 which will begin in the next few months. The utility rate studies take into consideration projected AMI project costs and efficiencies anticipated. Last month, the Commission received an update on the electric utility rate analysis and expects to get completed rate study reports on the electric, water and sewer services in the weeks ahead preceding the budget development process.

Bottom line, the ultimate goal for all of this effort is to provide the highest quality and most reliable level of utility services to our entire customer base at the least responsible cost possible while maintaining the City's facilities and critical utility system infrastructure for future generations. Please stay engaged in this process as it goes forward, and do not hesitate to inquire if you have questions.

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

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- Hampton Inn is currently installing curbing and signage. Construction is progressing and we are expecting completion early summer.
- Hendry County Fair inspections were completed this week. Everyone come out to enjoy the festivities.
- Premia Fitness is now open and offering fitness classes, located at 114 E. Sugarland Hwy.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- Over the past two weeks, the Library was accessed for normal operating business and meeting space for the community. There were a total of 60 individual meetings held.
- The Hendry County Library Cooperative Board met on Thursday, February 5th at Noon for their quarterly meeting.
- Library staff provided ready reference assistance directly to 138 patrons along with daily routine services which included circulation of materials, computer assistance, and programming.
- On February 5th, 6th and 12th we held Storytime sessions at 9:30 a.m. There were a total of 80 preschoolers from Discovery Day, Little Disciples Preschool and Covenant Academy Preschool. The children also worked in the computer lab on the reading program (i.e., Lexia and abcmouse.com). These programs enhance and contribute to their fluency along with providing hands on practice with computers.
- Lego Club was held on February 6th with a total of 9 participants. Lego Club is held each Thursday from 3:30 -4:30 p.m. Library staff is continuing to bring in additional Lego Kits and building supplies.
- The library's computer lab was accessed and used by a total of 15 patrons. Patrons needing a quiet place to use the computers are welcomed to use the computer lab along with the computers located on the main floor of the library.

- On February 11th Tweens & Teens was held at 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. with a total of 8 participants, 6 children and 2 adults.
- The Adult Book Club has selected, *How to Walk Away* by Katherine Center. Come and join in on the next discussion scheduled on February 24th at 5:30 p.m.
- On January 27th, we started offering FREE TAX PREPARATION with IRS Certified Volunteers providing income tax assistance. It's open and free to the public. Please call 863-983-1493 to book your appointment with any staff member.
- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization's/company's training? The Clewiston Library offers a classroom and computer lab 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.
- 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.
- Reminder: As of February 1st, the Clewiston Public Library changed their late night hours. The new hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Upcoming Events: Homework help on Mondays from 4:00 p.m. - 6 p.m., Play-Doh-Play date will be held on February 18th at 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Board Game Bonanza will be held on February 19th at 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Black History Month Students of Excellence Awards will be held on February 27th at 5:30 p.m., Clewiston Advisory Board Meeting March 5th at 5p.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:** Two Public Works employees received training in Mosquito Control with the intent of getting them licensed in Public Health.
- **Grant & Project Updates:**
 - After review of the “Welcome” signs, four issues were pointed out and are being addressed.
 - Work on the levee cut off wall has been stopped for a time while inspections and testing of the test portion are performed.
 - A survey crew was in Clewiston this week surveying portions of US27 and San Luiz, which is required for the proper location of the sidewalks on the south side of US27 from Wendy's to San Luiz and from San Luiz to Alverde. Sidewalks 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.
- After review of the plans for the new Clewiston Commerce Park sign, staff recognized architectural features were needed and are working on the design.
- **Parks Department Activities:**
 - The new picnic tables purchased by the Lions Club are scheduled for installation next week in Civic/Memorial Park.
 - The grout and tile in the back room of the Youth Center has been cleaned and sealed.
 - The office area of the John Boy Auditorium has been cleaned out and painted.
 - Hedges around the Youth Center, Library and John Boy Auditorium were trimmed.
 - Six basketball goals are being cleaned and painted and rims found unsafe are being replaced.
 - A new pole cap and LED lights for one of the damaged lights at the tennis courts have been repaired. The rest of the (old) lights were replaced with LEDs.
- **Street Division Activities:**
 - The garbage receptacles on Bond Street were pulled, washed and painted and returned.
 - One of our truck drivers reported what appeared to be an oil spill behind Sonny's BBQ on Tuesday. The manager was made aware of the issue. We will follow up on this the end of the week.
 - Lights in bathroom facilities in the Sports Complex were inspected and repairs made where necessary.
 - The Bottle Brush trees on Hoover Dike Road were mulched and are coming out nicely.
 - Four new 30 MPH speed limit signs were installed on North Francisco.
 - A new exhaust fan was installed in the Police Department Evidence Room and a "Bull Nose" was built in the parking lot to stop motorists from cutting the corner upon exiting the Seacoast ATM machine.
 - Minor cabinet repairs and a plumbing check were done in the big quad concession stand.
 - The DOT had a contractor in town cleaning and videoing the drainage trunk line under US27.
 - Staff started the guardrail installation on South Berner this week. The parking lot "bull nose" will be poured at the same time the guardrail posts are set in concrete.
 - The irrigation system on US27 watering the palms was checked and three repairs were made.
 - **NOTICE:** It only takes one gallon of water to pollute one million gallons of water. Be mindful of what you are dumping and where. Call (863) 983-1471 if you have a question about the disposal of any waste you are unsure about.

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.

- 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.

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **Electric Crew Activities**
 - repaired street lights;
 - removed vegetation from power lines;
 - installed new breaker boxes, lights and underground connectors for plugs in preparation for Sugar Fest;
 - coordinated services for contractor repairs to two residences;
 - installed disconnect elbows on primary line by Sonny's;
 - reinstalled service to repaired residence from house fire;
 - installed all new lights on tennis court behind youth center;
 - repaired current transformer wire for church on Deane Duff Avenue;
 - repaired connectors on pole for lift station at Clewiston High School;
 - installed new distribution pole on Lopez Street;
 - repaired flag pole rope at Police Department headquarters;
 - removed temporary service at Hampton Inn;
 - repaired neutral tie wire on feeder 4;
 - repaired underground service in Harlem Gardens;
 - changed connectors on house service on Via Del Aqua;
 - had a great week working with good people
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
 - Repaired three water line breaks;
 - serviced lift station at the Christian School;
 - recorded weekly data at all 50 lift stations;
 - replaced lift station pump.
- **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.