

For Your Information

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

June 19, 2020

Dates to Remember

July 1, 2020 – Virtual Planning & Zoning Board Meeting - Virtual meeting instructions on how to watch and/or participate in the virtual meeting will be included with the meeting agenda announcement.

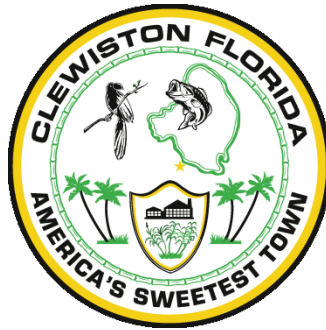
July 20, 2020 – City Commission Meeting – It has not yet been determined if this meeting will be virtual or in-person. If it is virtual, instructions on how to watch and/or participate in the virtual meeting will be included with the meeting agenda announcement. If the City resumes scheduling in-person City meetings, an announcement will be made.

Office of the City Manager:

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

Today Clewiston hosted in the rain at Civic Park the area's first Juneteenth celebration commemorating the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation. I along with a number of City, County and other regional officials attended the event which included a walk from the Harlem Community to the park. The Police Department assisted with traffic control to ensure the safety of participants. The event was authorized by the City Commission on June 15th in their regular meeting. The event was entirely planned and conducted by a small group of volunteer citizens. Despite the less than favorable weather conditions, a large number of citizens participated and attended to mark this historic event. My congratulations to the organizers for a job well done!

Included below is an update in the form of a press release regarding changes to City operations in the days and weeks ahead related to the ongoing COVID-19 virus response. As referenced in the release, the situation remains fluid so everyone should regularly monitor the City website and social media platforms to stay current.



PRESS RELEASE: The City of Clewiston is announcing some changes to its operations related to the COVID-19 virus. In light of recent executive order modifications issued by the Governor, these changes from the actions previously taken by the City are being implemented. The public is still advised that COVID-19 confirmed case numbers continue to increase. Citizens and businesses are strongly encouraged to adhere to CDC and health department recommended guidance to limit the continued spread of the virus. Particularly important are implementation of safe sanitation practices, social distancing and the proper use of face coverings when interacting with others.

Effective immediately, the City has reopened for public use the ballfields at Sugarland Sports Complex and all other outdoor areas and play facilities at park locations including picnic pavilions and congregate picnic table locations with the exception of the Herbert Hoover Dike recreation area which is closed for previously planned U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction activities.

Effective July 1, 2020, the City will reopen the splash pad facility and begin the availability for public activities and rentals of indoor facilities including the Youth Center and the John Boy Auditorium. Proper safety precautions will need to be followed by users in these facilities as well.

The Senior Citizen Center will remain closed until the reopening is coordinated with program providers and service agencies. A separate announcement will be forthcoming on this facility.

Given the increasing trend of children testing positive and the limited time to plan and conduct a program at this date on the calendar, the City has made the difficult decision to cancel the City sponsored youth summer recreation program for this fiscal year. Likewise, the City swimming pool will remain closed for the season.

Working in cooperation with the other branches in the Hendry County Library Cooperative, the Clewiston Public Library will be developing and separately announcing a phased reopening plan likely beginning with appointments for patrons with a limit on the number of people allowed in the facility at any given time for the safety of patrons and staff. The Library summer programs currently underway will continue virtually for the season.

Safety precautions will continue in place at the Clewiston Golf Course Pro Shop. The June Youth Golf Camp has been cancelled, but a Youth Golf Camp is planned for July 20-24, 2020 with recommended social distancing & other appropriate health & safety guidelines.

Unfortunately, out of an abundance of caution, the City's July 4th fireworks event has been cancelled for this year.

As for reopening to the public other city facilities, the City has been engaged in planning activities and making necessary improvements for the safety of visitors and staff working in each of the facilities. The City is awaiting delivery of back-ordered materials to complete installation of recommended safety shields/barriers (i.e. sneeze guards, etc.) and other modifications in remaining facilities. Therefore, as of this announcement, a full reopening schedule has not been finalized. The tentative plan is to reopen, with limitations or in phases, the remaining public buildings in July. The City will also likely resume a schedule of in-person meetings including meetings of the City Commission and advisory boards in July as well. In the meantime, be assured that your city employees continue to work diligently to maintain essential city services and are available to assist you in any feasible manner.

In closing, these changes are deemed prudent at this time, however, the City and state continue to operate in a declared state of emergency until further notice. The situation remains fluid and the public is encouraged to closely monitor future announcements of additional changes or schedule modifications that may become necessary. City officials sincerely apologize for any inconvenience these changes and limitations have imposed. The City also needs every citizen and business to continue to help slow further spread of the virus by doing your part. Most importantly, citizens should seek medical attention including available testing opportunities and otherwise stay home when exposed to others or personally experiencing symptoms of the virus. By all accounts, most citizens have taken this public health emergency situation seriously and for that your community thanks you.

Randy Martin, Clewiston City Manager

Release: June 19, 2020

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In closing, I thank each of you for your continued support and interest in the City of Clewiston.

Randy Martin

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- New flood maps went into effect May 15th. The new maps bring many homeowners out of the special flood hazard zone, allowing them to save money on insurance. To see if this applies to you check <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home> or call the Community Development office at 863-983-1500.
- Construction on the Hampton Inn is nearing completion and is expected to open in the next 60 days. The contractor is working on interior finishes and landscaping.
- Construction has begun on 2 additional apartment buildings in the Sweet Lake Villas complex. When completed, there will be 20 new apartments averaging 1487 sq ft each, doubling the size of the development.

Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:

- The library remains closed at this time in terms of ability for patrons to access the facility due to the pandemic but remains open to phone, website, and patron account assistance from noon until 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday. The library is currently creating a plan for a phased reopening to occur by early July.
- Looking for a virtual summer program for your child...check out the Clewiston and Barron Library Facebook pages. There you will find a link to join the summer reading program presented by Page Turner Adventures. Simply click on the link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CLEWISTONandBARRONLIBRARIES/> to join the group and you will have weekly access to daily interactive activities, stories, crafts and much more (supplies for crafts are not provided). This wonderful program is brought to you and paid for by our partnership with the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN).
- Library staff are busy with various duties at this time which range from filling patron requests for materials, conducting inventory of each item in the library, planning and providing online digital programs, as well as virtual storytimes. Mrs. Diana is doing an amazing job with creating the libraries digital arts and crafts programs as well as keeping our Facebook page updated and full of fun things to do and read. This month, the digital craft was “Kawaii Cupcake Charm!” All materials for the event are provided by the library in the form of a small kit. Patrons pick up the kits on a designated day and time to ensure contactless transactions. Patrons will then logon to our Facebook page and join the fun through Zoom. Mrs. Maria is doing an excellent job with bringing stories alive through her virtual storytimes. All events are listed on our Facebook page.
- Staff is also working diligently to ensure a sanitary, safe environment for our patrons upon reopening. When items are returned in the drop box, they are placed in a quarantined area for 5 days and then wiped down with disinfectant solution. After that process is complete, the items are checked in, any late fees waived and placed back into circulation.
- Curbside service is provided to patrons who have placed holds for items.
 - Process for placing holds
 - Visit hendrylibraries.org and login to your account by entering your library card number and pin number.
 - Click on Search Catalog (be sure to limit your search by selecting the Clewiston Location)
 - Once you find your item be sure that it indicates “Available” and then press on the icon “Place a Hold”
 - Staff runs the holds report each morning. Staff will then call you to schedule a pick up date and time.
- The library director is working with SWFLN (Southwest Florida Library Network) to bring another exciting virtual summer program to our community since we are unable to host our usual summer face to face programs. SWFLN is currently finalizing the agreement with the company and we will be sure to advertise and jump start the program as soon as we get the green light to do so. If you are interested in checking it out, please visit their webpage at <http://pageturneradventures.com/virtual-storyology-summer/>.
- 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.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- June is Tree Trimming Amnesty Month. The City will haul trimmings from trees that are trimmed on residential properties and offered for collection at the curb free of charge. Trimmings must be cut in lengths no longer than four feet and four inches across and must be stacked in an orderly manner so that the grab loaders can pick them up quickly and efficiently. Sorry no commercial properties. For questions, call 983-1471 and ask for Jay.
- Levee access is closed until at least the end of October due to contractor work associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dike rehabilitation project.
- **Mosquito Control:** Trap counts over last three weeks:
Okeechobee Blvd. 300 – 450; Saginaw 200 – 276; and Golf Course 274 – 500.
The helicopter is scheduled to fly Friday night, June 19, 2020.
- **Grant & Project Updates:**
 - New sidewalk projects from Wendy’s to San Luiz, San Luiz to Alverde & McDonalds to Berner Road funded by FDOT are being planned with projected construction start dates of FY 2022/2023. Staff is seeking funding for ¾ of a mile of other sidewalk improvements through a FDOT Safe Route To Schools grant program for needed sidewalk sections near school sites.
 - The Ventura Avenue Rebuild Project is scheduled for 2020 construction. 60% plans and a permit application have been sent to SFWMD for review and permitting.
- **Parks Department Activities:**
 - Outfields in the Sports Complex were sprayed for broadleaf weeds.
 - Morris Ridgill donated an operator and a use of a machine to remove the “build-up lip” along base paths and between infields and outfields.
- **Street Division Activities:**
 - Weeds on Bond Street were sprayed and will not be covered until we see that we have better control. A felt ground cover will be put in place and river rock and stone will be used to enhance the area.
 - Five dead palms were removed.
 - Staff is painting street markings. Please be aware and careful when crews are working in the street. Avoid the area when possible until the paint dries completely.
 - Pothole repairs were run two days this cycle.
 - All guardrails were cleaned up this mowing cycle.
- **Facility Maintenance:**
 - Leaking roofs on the City Hall and Library were quickly taken care of. The drains had plugged with leaves causing water to back up.
 - Housekeeping reported several flushers not working properly. They were cleaned out and are back in service.
 - The back gate at the Animal Control Facility was having trouble maintaining a charge in the battery back-up. Staff installed a solar charger to correct the problem.

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. 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 Golf Course will be open July 4th, 2020. We will be operating under normal business hours.
- Clewiston Golf Course Junior Golf Camp has been scheduled for July 20-24, 2020. For more information contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Golf Course is closed on Monday's now for the Summer.
- Summer Memberships are available. Contact the golf shop for more information.
- Summer Rates are now in at the club. If you pay for 18 holes you can play as many as you want in that same day. Summer Rates started May 15, 2020 and go until September 30, 2020.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:45am-6:00pm. The first tee time is 8:00am.
- Golf Carts have to be in at 7:00pm.
- Walking play is permitted all day at the golf course now.
- Clewiston Golf Course has a driving range. The driving range has lights which means you can hit golf balls after (Night Time) hours. Tokens for the range ball machine can be purchased in the golf shop or at the Clewiston Police Department.
- **For more information, call the golf shop at 863-983-1448.**

Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil reports:

Hurricane Season June 1 until November 30
Remove or enclose in a building all Openly Stored Items on Your Property
before a Storm is Named

City of Clewiston Ordinance

- **Sec. 18-422. - Duty to obtain and display numbers.**

The Importance of House Numbers

When responding to an emergency, minutes matter. House numbers are not only convenient for finding addresses but necessary for emergency responders to locate those in need. So be sure that fire, ambulance, and police personnel can easily and quickly find your address.

The Clewiston Code of Ordinances requires the following in Section 18-422. – Duty to obtain and display numbers:

- The owner or occupant of any building or structure, residential or commercial, designated a number shall affix such number in a conspicuous place above, on or at the side of said building or structure, or to a permanent fixture located in the front yard of the property on which the building or structure is located. Whenever any building or structure is situated

more than 50 feet from the street line, such number shall be affixed to a permanent fixture located near the front walk, driveway, or common entrance to such building or structure.

- The number required to be affixed as provided in this section shall be not less than four inches in height in residential districts and six inches in height in all other districts, shall be of a color that contrasts with the color of the part of the building or structure or other fixture to which such number is affixed, and shall be located in a position to be easily discernible from the street fronting the building, structure or mobile home lot. Once the number is affixed as provided herein, it shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of any building or structure, and the duty of every mobile home park owner or manager, to replace such number if the same is removed therefrom for any reason.

If you have any questions you may contact the Community Improvement Division at 141 Central Avenue, Clewiston Utilities Building. The public is encouraged to report code violations by contacting us at the above address, calling 983-1454 or online at <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/egov/apps/action/center.egov>

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- **Electric Crew Activities**
 - Repaired sparking pole on Ridgewood;
 - repaired underground service to apartment building;
 - repaired service to residential customer;
 - repaired jumper wire on N Francisco;
 - removed banner and poles from park;
 - assisted contractor with transformer testing at substation;
 - repaired street lights;
 - replaced customer's transformer;
 - responded to power outages;
 - removed vegetation from power lines;
 - installed new electric plug in park;
 - assisted water crew to relocate lift station electrical panel on Francisco St.;
 - installed new breaker box for traffic light at intersection of WC Owen & Ventura Ave.
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities**
 - Repaired five water breaks;
 - performed repairs and replacement on two pumps on collection system lift station, reset two pumps.

Clewiston Utilities wants to remind everyone that certain items should not be flushed down the toilet, as it can clog and damage sewer systems in the community. For some, toilet paper supply at home is low during the coronavirus pandemic. However, if you are using items other than toilet paper in the restroom, please do not flush them. This includes "flushable wipes". Despite the flushable claim on the container, the wipes shouldn't be flushed.

- **Customer Service Department**

- The public Utilities building drive-through service will remain open to customers during normal office hours.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational service 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.
- *IT'S LIGHTNING SEASON!* Don't forget to sign up for your meter based surge protection! Visit our office today.
- ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.