

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
August 17, 2020

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission Meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, August 17, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Gardner. Pastor Jeff Smith of the First United Methodist Church on behalf of the Clewiston Ministerial Association gave the invocation and the audience joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Personnel Present: City Manager Randy Martin, Community Development Director Travis Reese, Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil, Police Chief Aaron Angell, Asst. Police Chief Marci VanD’Huynslager, Hope Wojack, City Consulting Engineer Andy Tilton and City Attorney Gary Brandenburg.

Personnel in attendance by telephone: City Clerk Kathy Combass

Visitors Present: Pastor Jeff Smith, James Pittman, Laura Smith, Maranda Wyatt, Dr. Leonard Carroll and Jerry Cochrane.

Others in attendance by telephone: Angelina Wilson, Lisa Turk, Mindy Avatoy, Lisa Ronan, Belyn Grisco and Melissa York.

Telephone Conference Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate:

The City of Clewiston City Commission Meeting will be live on the City’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofclewiston> and the City’s website at <http://clewiston-fl.gov/meetings>. Public comments or questions may be submitted via email to the City Clerk at cityclerk@clewiston-fl.gov for the Commission’s consideration up until 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Public comments will also be allowed via telephone (863-254-4038, Conference ID 994729 #) at the time the agenda item is being considered when the Mayor invites public comments. Members of the public, when addressing the Commission, via email or telephone, must state his or her name, address, contact information and agenda item they wish to speak about. Be advised that the Commission may take action on items not listed on the agenda. If this occurs, public comments will be received at the time the item is considered provided you speak up indicating your desire to speak when the Mayor invites public comments.

Statement of the Mayor regarding Virtual Public City Commission Meeting:

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-69, issued by the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis on March 20, 2020, as extended by Executive Order No. 20-112, Executive Order No. 20-123, Executive Order No. 20-139, Executive Order No. 20-150, Executive Order No. 20-179 and Executive Order No. 20-193, municipalities may conduct meetings of their governing boards without having a quorum of its members present physically or at any specific location, and utilizing communications media technology such as telephonic or video conferencing, as provided by Section 120.54(5)(b)2, Florida Statutes.

Additions/Deletions/Changes and Approval of the Agenda - none

Public Comments – Angelina Wilson of Loxahatchee, Florida, Lisa Turk of Pompano Beach, Florida, Mindy Avatoy of Lehigh Acres, Florida, and Lisa Ronan of Ocala, Florida, called in via telephone regarding the removal of Kathy Irey as a volunteer for Clewiston Animal Control. They requested that her removal be reconsidered and expressed that they feel Ms. Irey’s services are very much needed.

Maranda Wyatt of Ft. Myers, Florida, came forward and also expressed that she feels Ms. Irey’s termination should be reconsidered. She stated that she has worked with Ms. Irey since 2014 and

feels that Clewiston Animal Control would be a “train wreck” without her. She added that Ms. Irey does what needs to be done on her own.

Mayor Gardner stated that Manager Martin as the City Manager is tasked with dealing with issues related to employees and volunteers on a day to day basis. She knows that he has heard the comments and will take all of this into consideration. Manager Martin confirmed that is what he plans to do. He stated that he has already had some interviews and has consulted with the leadership at the Police Department.

1. Consent Agenda

A. *City Manager Performance Evaluation*

B. *Resolution No. 2020-44 approving Multi-Jurisdictional Traffic Task Force Voluntary Cooperation Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement*

C. *Resolution No. 2020-45 – approving the new State Plan of Operations and Memorandum*

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

PUBLIC HEARING

2. **Ordinance No. 2020-02 – PUBLIC HEARING – Final Reading – 5:05 p.m.** – Ordinance No. 2020-02 provides for the registration of vacant commercial and/or industrial buildings.

Mayor Gardner opened the public hearing and summarized and read Ordinance No. 2020-02 by title. Commissioner Rodriguez raised questions regarding the method of operation. Manager Martin stated that Code Enforcement would be responsible for the registration and the plan is to first reach out and communicate with the owners of the property. Commissioner McGahee expressed that she feels the fees regarding the re-occupancy inspection are unclear and should be cleaned up. Vice Mayor Atkinson stated that he is not in favor of adopting this ordinance after looking at it further. He feels that some of the issues would be fixed once the US 27 Corridor is addressed. Commissioner Petersen suggested that this matter be included in the ordinance for the US 27 Corridor. Commissioner McGahee stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to try to encourage development in the City in a favorable way and asked why Vice Mayor Atkinson was now not in favor. Vice Mayor Atkinson explained that he feels that this could be incorporated into the ordinance for the US 27 Corridor. Mayor Gardner expressed that she feels the biggest hindrance on US Highway 27 is the vacant buildings and the vacant stand-alone buildings need to be addressed especially. Commissioner McGahee stated that she was in favor of this ordinance because she thought it would help the code enforcement officer do her job, but she is not so inclined because there are so many ordinances that are not enforced. She stated that code enforcement is the City’s best tool to address concerns along the US 27 Corridor and feels that we fail to use it. After further discussion, Commissioner McGahee asked if it would be possible to bring this issue back next month combined with the US 27 Corridor ordinance. Manager Martin stated that will depend on how quickly the P & Z Board can reach a consensus on the US 27 Corridor ordinance. He explained that because the P&Z Board Meetings were curtailed for much of the spring, they have not completed their review. Attorney Brandenburg stated the US 27 Corridor ordinance needs a lot of work and will require two to four P & Z Board Meetings as there are a lot of important details in that ordinance and it will also take a while for the Commission to digest once they receive it to understand how it relates to the existing buildings and the existing ordinance before it is adopted. He also stated that there is nothing in the US 27 Corridor ordinance about vacant buildings but it does talk about how the buildings should look. He confirmed that you could incorporate the vacant building ordinance into the US 27 Corridor ordinance as Vice Mayor Atkinson suggested. Mayor Gardner stated that she feels it will take at least one year if it is done that way. Mrs. Laura Smith came forward and stated that, as a business owner and realtor in the City of Clewiston, she does not believe any additional fees associated with buildings in Clewiston should be even considered; she believes the City’s current ordinances are sufficient if they are cleaned up and better focused, if code enforcement is given “longer teeth” and if the magistrate would be a little bit more to the point with people who don’t comply. She added that a lot of people have said the business climate in Clewiston is one level off of nonexistent right now. She stated the economy is not good but there are certain

things that can be fixed up and cleaned up to make ourselves look a whole lot more presentable to those coming in and to businesses that want to settle here. She added that she also speaks for other realtors. Mayor Gardner noted that this ordinance was brought to the Commission by the City's Code Enforcement Officer in order to address vacant buildings. Mr. James Pittman came forward and stated this ordinance addresses the same things that we already have in other ordinances. He feels the real purpose of this ordinance is to try to get these vacant buildings occupied and suggested that it should be revisited if the Commission wants to register buildings and collect a fee. He stated that some cities don't charge a fee but do make you come into compliance. He feels that no additional burden should be put on businesses and building owners but he does agree the buildings should be safe and should look nice. He suggested that we talk to the property owners and ask them what their intentions are. He knows that some businesses don't have room for parking and some may not have room to come into compliance for what they want to do. Commissioner Rodriguez agreed with Mr. Pittman. He feels we need to partner with the property owners; we have to let them know there are issues with their buildings and we want them to come into compliance. He feels code enforcement efforts get the owners' attention. Commissioner McGahee stated that she thinks a lot of time was wasted on this ordinance and is embarrassed that she didn't stand up and say that she does not necessarily agree that it is the right thing to do. She asked who supervises code enforcement and why only five code cases were opened this week. Manager Martin stated that he currently supervises code enforcement and explained that there are a lot of code cases pending and part of the reason for that is because we have not been able to hold a magistrate hearing for several months. He stated a hearing is scheduled for September. Commissioner McGahee stated that she can't imagine that only five notices were issued when the majority of cases are resolved with just sending a notice. Manager Martin stated that he will check that and reminded the Commission there is a process; the property owner is notified first and then if they fail to comply, it gets calendared and the property owner is cited and a new case is opened. He also stated that we need to improve our reporting format and give a more detailed report to the Commission. He added that during the pandemic, Code Enforcement was directed to enforce violations of the CDC orders and guidelines; staff's schedules were altered and that was 99% of their focus for March through July. Commissioner McGahee suggested that we ask the P & Z Board to commit to once a week meetings to get the US 27 Corridor ordinance passed. Manager Martin stated he hopes the P & Z Board will commit to a more aggressive schedule to get that done; he has discussed that with Community Development Director Travis Reese and anticipates that will happen. Mayor Gardner stated that we have gone through that process before and feels we have got to come up with a way to deal with it because the P & Z Board will make recommendations and then when the Commission looks at it and listens to public comment, they push it off. She feels the Commission is not able to make decisions on difficult matters. Commissioner McGahee asked if the vacant building ordinance could be adopted and then later incorporated with the US 27 Corridor ordinance. Attorney Brandenburg stated that could be done. The vacant building ordinance has many purposes that include having a local contact person that can be contacted immediately if there are problems and a sliding scale so that it gives the property owner more of an incentive to work hard to fill up that spot so they don't have to pay so much for the registration. He stated that there is concern about the burden of the fees, those fees could be adjusted by the Commission, and the registration fee could be much less. He noted that when this was first brought to the P & Z Board, the fees were much less and he was asked to make the fees much more substantial which is what he did and now he is hearing the fees are too much and we shouldn't be putting any extra burden on the people in the community. Commissioner McGahee asked Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil if she could use the City's current ordinances to make a vacant building look presentable on US 27. Officer McNeil stated that she has every tool to address the look of the building but not the vacancy. She noted that she did not ask for this ordinance; she asked for a rental inspection property ordinance with a foreclosure section. Mayor Gardner asked if mattresses that covered a window could be addressed. Officer McNeil stated that no ordinance addresses that at this time. Attorney Brandenburg explained that this ordinance will give the Commission a list of owners and contact information so that you can contact them when there are problems with a building that is vacant or in the event of an emergency and it gives the owners of those vacant buildings a financial incentive to move forward to do something with the building. Mayor Gardner stated that they have discussed the look of U.S. Highway 27 and how to address the issues with vacant buildings; if our current code isn't getting us to where we need to be, and this ordinance will not get us to where we need to be, then we need to come up with something that will address it because mattresses covering up a window on a vacant

building, to her, is not acceptable for Highway 27. Dr. Leonard Carroll came forward and stated that he owns vacant buildings on Highway 27 but the taxes are paid, the windows are clean and the grass is cut. He asked if he could leave them empty. Mayor Gardner's response was that there is nothing to make him occupy his buildings. She stated that in other communities that have standards that are maintained, you can't even tell if a building is vacant or not. Commissioner McGahee stated that we need to make a commitment to address the US 27 Corridor ordinance and get it passed. Manager Martin stated the Commission needs to clarify the role of the P & Z Board because they are supposed to make a recommendation to the Commission so at what point does the Commission inject itself into that discussion process. Commissioner McGahee stated the Commission should take the lead and make a commitment to meet twice a month with the CRA Advisory Board and P & Z Board until it is resolved. Mr. Jerry Cochrane came forward and expressed his frustration with code enforcement. He stated that it seems the only code enforcement is when a complaint is made; we don't need more ordinances, we need strict code enforcement. He stated the owner of the building with the mattresses in the window would probably move them if we contact them. Mayor Gardner asked for public comments via telephone. None were heard regarding this ordinance. Attorney Brandenburg stated there does not seem to be any consensus on adoption of this ordinance or with respect to how to modify it and suggested the Commission table this item until someone wants to bring it up in the future, whether it be at the time the U.S. 27 Corridor ordinance is considered or at some other time. Mayor Gardner then closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to table this item to a workshop to be discussed with the U.S. 27 Corridor ordinance. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Manager Martin stated that he will work with Director Reese to get a meeting scheduled to move the U.S. 27 Corridor ordinance review forward.

RESOLUTIONS

3. **Resolution No. 2020-46** – Resolution No. 2020-46 authorizes and approves an Interlocal Agreement between Hendry County and the City of Clewiston regarding the distribution of Local Option Fuel Tax Proceeds.

Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-46 by title. Manager Martin stated the Commission held a public hearing on this matter in July of 2019 and explained that this agreement will renew the base agreement.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve Resolution No. 2020-46. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

4. **Resolution No. 2020-47** – Resolution No. 2020-47 authorizes a service contract between the City of Clewiston and Southern Switch & Contacts for certain repairs at the Clewiston Substation in the amount not to exceed \$49,784.

Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-47 by title.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve Resolution No. 2020-47. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

5. **Resolution No. 2020-48** – Resolution No. 2020-48 adjusts the monthly electric rates according to the recommendations in the Financial Analysis and Rate Stabilization Policy Study dated August 2020.

Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-48 by title. Manager Martin reviewed the agenda report and stated there are three different versions of a resolution provided. He asked the Commission to consider the options and stated that we need to make a timely decision so that the customers can be notified since the rates would be effective October 1. He reminded the Commission that, at the most recent budget workshop, board members mentioned wanting to see what an additional amount would be in terms of 2%, 3% and 5% so that information is provided. He stated the administrative recommendation is to approve the option that

recovers either 2% or 3%, and commit to review again for Fiscal Year 2022 to see if any additional increase is warranted. He stated the provision regarding the CPI adjustment recommendation was deleted after consulting with FMPA and the Commission will be asked to consider the power cost adjustment and rate stabilization policy in September. Mayor Gardner read the recommendation and asked for public comments. Mr. Jerry Cochrane came forward and questioned where the balance of the 5% shortfall would come from. Manager Martin stated that it would not be subsidized by another fund; it would be found within the electric fund. He added that efficiencies and anticipated costs are being looked at and we also anticipate some other adjustment and potentially other impacts such as using a portion of CARES Act dollars to help us close the gap. There is also the potential to use some portion of the reserves to cover any unexpected costs. Mayor Gardner then asked for public comments via telephone regarding Resolution No. 2020-48. None were heard.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to approve the version of Resolution No. 2020-48 that recovers 3% of the estimated shortfall in the upcoming FY2021 budget. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

After the vote, Attorney Brandenburg stated the power cost adjustment, a formula by which the rates each month go up or down, has been in place and utilized for a long time. He explained that the City has never documented that process in its rates and it is being recommended that it be laid out in the rate schedule along with the rate stabilization fund, which is what Manager Martin is recommending that we bring back in September and then once the new rates are adopted, they should be filed with the Public Service Commission.

6. **Resolution No. 2020-49** – Resolution No. 2020-49 authorizes the purchase of communications equipment from Communications International using revenues to be received from the city's allocation of CARES Act funding through Hendry County in the total amount of \$356,433.11.

Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-49 by title. Manager Martin stated that he just received a copy of a proposed interlocal agreement between the city and the county for CARES Act funding today and will review it with the Commission at tonight's workshop. Attorney Brandenburg stated that federal funding requirements include that certain specific language be placed in any contract utilizing CARES Act dollars and the person providing those items agree to that language. In addition, the money cannot be spent until it is received. Because the work order for this purchase needs to be modified to include that specific language and Communications International will need to agree to the language, he suggested a special meeting be scheduled for Manager Martin to present the items to the Commission at that time. Manager Martin stated that Police Chief Angell will communicate with the contractor in order to get this equipment in place so that we're fully interoperable with emergency agencies and fully compliant with the state requirement with our partners in the county. He stated that a budget workshop is already scheduled for Monday, August 24 and recommended a special meeting be scheduled at 5:00 p.m. on Monday before the budget workshop. Mayor Gardner stated that Resolution No. 2020-49 will be brought back to the Commission at a special meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner McGahee asked if we know the charges for installation and programming. Attorney Brandenburg stated those charges are included unless it is otherwise stated in the work order. Manager Martin stated that our expectation is that this is turn-key; annual maintenance fees are the only other cost once the warranty period ends. Chief Angell stated that installation includes programming.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to call a special meeting for Monday, August 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the approval of the Interlocal Agreement with Hendry County and to authorize the purchase of the communications equipment. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

7. **Resolution No. 2020-50** – Resolution No. 2020-50 recommends Hendry County proceed with the public hearing process to adopt a new wind speed map for Risk Category IV depicting 170 MPH only for all of Hendry County, Florida.

Manager Martin reviewed the agenda report for this item with the Commission. He stated that Hendry County will schedule a public hearing on this matter. Manager Martin then recognized Community Development Director Travis Reese who reviewed the changes in the

new wind speed map with the Commission and the types of construction and uses impacted. Manager Martin stated that the county is asking for the City Commission's expression of support. Mayor Gardner clarified that this new wind speed map is for new construction only. She then read Resolution No. 2020-50 by title and asked for public comments. No public comments were heard.

Vice Mayor Atkinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve Resolution No. 2020-50. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Selection of Provider for Employee Health Insurance Benefit

Manager Martin reviewed the agenda report for this item with the Commission. He stated that comparison details of the two plan options that have been offered to us from United Healthcare and the Blue Cross option available are provided and management's recommendation is that the Commission approve the continuation of the health insurance coverage with the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust based upon the revised plan offerings for FY2021. He noted that he could not in good conscious recommend switching carriers for a little over a 1% difference in cost. He also noted the Blue Care option does not cover out of network care. He stated that he plans to try to consider other offerings for next year that will be beneficial to our employees and which could potentially result in the benefit of lowering the city cost. Commissioner McGahee stated that otherwise it looks like the Blue Cross option is more favorable. Mayor Gardner stated that the reason why the City ended up going to the Florida League of Cities is because the percentage increases on the Blue Cross premiums had over the years increased so much. She added that the Florida League of Cities is a pooled network. Commissioner McGahee asked if we have the ability to negotiate that rate lock. Manager Martin stated that he asked and was told that it is not available under the Blue Cross option at this time but he hopes to look at health savings accounts and various other options and see if the Florida League of Cities would be interested in that going forward. Commissioner McGahee stated that she feels the city got a teaser rate with the Florida League of Cities last year. Manager Martin explained that there were multiple cases of six figure costs in our small pool over the past two years and if our experience improves our future rates will be impacted positively. Commissioner McGahee stated that is the very argument of us being pooled; so that our experience would not work against us. Manager Martin stated that is the reason why the League was willing to lower some of the rates despite our experience. He feels both plans offer attractive wellness options and we should do a better job collectively educating our employees to be mindful of how they can manage their healthcare costs to help us lower future premiums for dependent care and for the city as employees. He plans to initiate an active personnel advisory committee to promote wellness and make our employees more comfortable and encourage them to make healthier choices. Commissioner McGahee stated she feels we should not have had to argue with the League for the reduction; we already had the benefit of the pool. Mayor Gardner expressed that she feels one of the ways to reduce the impact to the budget would be to waive the health insurance benefit for the Commission.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to approve continuing health insurance coverage with the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust based upon the revised plan offerings for FY2021. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

9. Discussion Regarding Sale of Old Police Department Building – City Manager Randy Martin recommends this item be reviewed during budget work sessions to allow more time to evaluate alternatives and develop a recommendation.

Mayor Gardner asked Manager Martin if this discussion could be added to Monday's workshop. Manager Martin stated that if not then, it could be added to another workshop. Commissioner McGahee stated that she would like to go ahead and get an appraisal on the building. Manager Martin stated that there may have been an appraisal done in the grant process and would check to see if an actual appraisal or engineer's assessment of the structural integrity of the building was done. Manager Martin then reported that the new Police Department building project grant was closed out.

10. COVID-19 Update and CARES Act Interlocal Agreement Discussion – City Manager Randy Martin

Manager Martin stated that he is still waiting for today's update and reported that we continue to see growth in cases; it was averaging 15 cases per day for the last several weeks. Before today, there were 1879 cases countywide; 162 hospitalizations; and 39 deaths. He then encouraged businesses and individuals impacted to apply for CARES Act assistance.

11. Old Business – Manager Martin stated that items that have been completed were removed from the list and noted that we still have a cumulative listing.

12. Departmental Monthly Activity Reports - Presented for information only.

Mayor Gardner asked for public comments and stated that previous public comments were heard and noted that our City Manager is tasked with the administrative responsibilities of the city and welcomed any additional comments. She noted that written comments to the City Manager are also welcome.

Ms. Belyn Grisco of Sanibel, Florida thanked the Commission for allowing her to speak on behalf of Kathy Irey. She stated that she is an animal welfare consultant and certified animal cruelty investigator in Lee County. She commented on Ms. Irey's work ethic, volunteerism and her ability to effectively and compassionately communicate with all areas of the public. She stated that she was surprised to hear that Ms. Irey had been terminated from her position and feels it was a mistake or misunderstanding. She asked the Commission for their undivided and thoughtful attention and assistance in this matter and thanked the Commission for their service.

Comments from City Manager – Manager Martin stated that he didn't want the Police Department's six month crime data in the Departmental Monthly Activity Reports to go unnoticed as staff had previously indicated that we would bring the six month crime data back to the Commission on a regular basis. He felt the crime report was very favorable for Clewiston. Mayor Gardner agreed and stated that she also appreciated the memorandum in the FYI as it was very good information for the Commission to know what is going on in the community. Manager Martin confirmed the report will be provided to the Commission every six months going forward. Mayor Gardner asked where we could share the information on the Uniform Crime Report with the public. Chief Angell stated the information on the Uniform Crime Report is available through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the FBI's website along with many other statistics related to crime in our community. He also stated the information could be shared anywhere that Manager Martin sees fit. Manager Martin stated that the information was included with the agenda package on our website and he does not have any problem with it being shared on the Police Department's page of the City's website.

Manager Martin informed the Commission that staff is preparing to address revisions to the stormwater regulatory ordinance and consideration of an ordinance regulating the use of certain types of fertilizer and the use of those certain types of materials. The staff has also been asked to give input on consideration of an ordinance regarding irrigation limitations that was recommended by the South Florida Water Management District. He stated that we are also pursuing a South Florida Water Management District grant and will get an update on what we estimate the cost to be to specifically focus on the stormwater and related improvements along Ventura that we can't fund under our FDOT SCOP grant. He then announced he found out today that there may be an opportunity to lower the 50% match dramatically because of our economic factors. He added that we are pursuing the resurfacing of Ventura as high priority to get that out to bid.

Comments from City Attorney - none

Comments from the City Commission – Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he was thinking that because Kathy Irey was a volunteer, the Commission could help the City Manager resolve the situation. Attorney Brandenburg explained that because the department in question is run by the City Manager and he has control over how that program runs and whether they use volunteers or not, he feels the matter is in the City Manager's purview.

Mrs. Laura Smith came forward and expressed that she is disappointed in the way the matter regarding Kathy Irey was handled but has faith in Manager Martin that he will take care of it and resolve whatever occurred. She stated that she will always be a volunteer for Clewiston Animal Control and applauds Ms. Irey in her efforts in the rescues. She then asked Manager Martin if he knew if Clewiston Utilities was made a vendor for the CARES money for individuals who are having trouble paying their utility bills. Manager Martin stated that he is aware that the county is doing cash awards to individuals but the City would be glad to become a vendor. He also stated that the City will work with individuals to help them and we have encouraged them to apply for the assistance. Mrs. Smith stated that she didn't know how far the county is in the review process. Manager Martin agreed to ask the county on Thursday when they expect the dollars to start flowing. Mrs. Smith then expressed her concern with the speed of traffic through San Luiz along Aztec, down Olympia and onto Sonora. She noted there is no speed limit sign on San Luiz and there are cars going in excess of 55-60 mph. Manager Martin stated that he will look at the signage and alert the Police Department.

Ms. Melissa York expressed her concern with the termination of Kathy Irey as a volunteer at Clewiston Animal Control. She mentioned that Ms. Irey personally trapped several dogs due to the unwillingness of the Clewiston Animal Control Officer and saved the lives of newborn kittens after they were left in the shelter for the evening with no nursing mother. She stated Ms. Irey does animal control's job for free on a daily basis and does not understand why she is fired with no warning. She also stated that Ms. Irey has always networked the animals of Clewiston but when the new officer came in, she was removed from doing that and all networking stopped. She feels Ms. Irey's termination is a terrible outcome for all of the animals of Clewiston and only the animals are going to suffer unless the termination is overturned. Mayor Gardner thanked Ms. York for her personal opinion.

Adjournment

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Mali Gardner, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, City Clerk