

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Special Commission Meeting
August 24, 2020

The City of Clewiston Commission held a Special Commission Meeting in the Beardsley Room at the John Boy Auditorium Monday, August 24, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Gardner. Mayor Gardner led the audience in reciting the Lord's Prayer and 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, Utilities Director Danny Williams, Compliance Manager Lynne Mila, Police Chief Aaron Angell, Assistant Police Chief Marci VanD'Huynslager and IT Administrator Justin Lucas.

Personnel in attendance by telephone: City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell and City Attorney Gary Brandenburg.

Others in attendance: Jerry Cochrane, Greg Thompson and Joaquin Almazan

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 - none

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution No. 2020-51** – Resolution No. 2020-51 approves an Interlocal Agreement between Hendry County and the City of Clewiston for CARES Act Funding.

Mayor Gardner summarized Resolution No. 2020-51. Manager Martin reviewed the agenda report and stated that action is needed to approve this resolution which will authorize the inter-local agreement to be executed so that the City can begin the process to be reimbursed by the County for eligible expenditures and provide for City funding to allow the purchase of items that include the communications equipment requested by the Police Department to make our system interoperable with all other agencies in the county and compliant with state

law. Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-51 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. 2020-51. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

2. **Resolution No. 2020-49** – Resolution No. 2020-49 authorizes the purchase of \$356,433.11 of equipment and services from Communications International to enable the City to use Florida's Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System.

Mayor Gardner summarized Resolution No. 2020-49. City Attorney Brandenburg stated the modification to the work order includes a federal requirement that was imposed on the City by the Interlocal Agreement. Manager Martin stated that this equipment will be part of the Florida SLERS. Police Chief Aaron Angell confirmed that he communicated directly with Communications International regarding the additional requirement. Manager Martin stated that there are other large scale expenditures being considered while the staff is pursuing identifying and requesting reimbursement for all eligible City expenditures up to or exceeding the amount earmarked for the City from the CARES allocation provided by the County within the next 45 days because the funds have to be expended by the end of December. He stated the City's and the County's goal is to expend all of this money and explained that if any of the other agencies are not able to spend all of their money, that money will be made available to others. The City will have our list ready to ask for more money. One of the potential items on that list that he has made the County aware of is a wastewater jet vacuum truck in the \$300,000 range necessary to address sewer line blockages related to COVID-19 as an example. He explained that this would be an eligible item because some wastewater pumps were damaged by people replacing toilet paper with towels, wipes and other items. Commissioner McGahee asked if the City will hold back a percentage of the communications equipment cost until we know that we are happy and satisfied with the equipment. Chief Angell explained that Communications International will not invoice the City until we have expressed our satisfaction that they have fulfilled the requirements. He then confirmed that this project would be turn-key and the Police Department would be 100% on the SLERS network. Mr. Greg Thompson came forward and asked who the vendor was for the equipment. Chief Angell explained that Harris has the state contract for the SLERS system and Communications International is the contractor that sells the Harris product. After hearing no further public comments, Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-49 by title.

Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Atkinson, to approve Resolution No. 2020-49. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

After the vote, Mayor Gardner added that she is thankful for the money for eligible expenditures that the City will receive from the federal and state government to be able to have the funding to meet this need. Commissioner Petersen expressed her appreciation to staff for getting this done. Chief Angell stated that we are looking at an approximate 45 day turnaround after the order is placed. He stated that after the system is built, we will go to Communications International for training to make sure the system is configured the exact way that we want it and then the system will be moved and installed at the police department. He added that we will implement the system once we are comfortable with it and everybody has been trained on how to use it. Mayor Gardner asked if all of the portables including the Fire Department will be delivered at the same time. Manager Martin stated the portables for the Fire Department will be ordered separately but are included in the list of items that will be recommended for acquisition once the City is reimbursed for the full amount of eligible expenditures by the County. He also stated that IT Administrator JD Lucas has the pricing of the list of items on the technology side that includes the Emergency Operations Center upgrade for the conference room in the Police Department. He then explained that because the City will have to front the money for these items, we want to immediately apply to the County for reimbursement of eligible expenditures. Chief Angell stated that when he and IT Administrator Lucas worked on the Police Department renovation, they made sure that redundancy was built in to all of the systems so that if there was a failure on one level, there is a secondary and even a tertiary form to maintain connectivity so that we will not experience the failure that we did during Hurricane Irma. Manager Martin then expressed his appreciation to Chief Angell and staff for their work on this in a timely manner and for the

County's leadership in taking the position to work with the City to reimburse for eligible expenditures which will help us meet the critical needs utilizing available funds. He also applauded the County Commission and the City Commission foresight and guidance to provide resources which allow staff to take care of this critical need. Chief Angell then expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Police Department staff to the Commission. Manager Martin noted that once the communications system upgrade is complete staff will bring back for consideration the interlocal agreement regarding interoperable communications that was previously shared with the Commission. Chief Angell stated that with the action taken the City Police Department will be able to meet the requirements of that agreement.

Comments from City Manager - none

Comments from City Attorney - none

Comments from the City Commission - none

Adjournment

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

Mali Gardner, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, City Clerk