

**CITY OF CLEWISTON**  
**Special Commission Meeting and Workshop**  
**December 7, 2020**

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The City of Clewiston City Commission held a Special Commission Meeting and Workshop in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, December 7, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Gardner. The audience joined in reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Commissioners Present:** Mayor Mali Gardner, Commissioner Melanie McGahee, Commissioner Kristine Petersen, Commissioner James Pittman and Commissioner Greg Thompson.

**Personnel Present:** City Manager Randy Martin, City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Community Development Director Travis Reese, Utilities Director Danny Williams, Public Works Director Sean Scheffler, Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay, Hope Wojack and Consulting Engineer Andy Tilton. City Attorney Gary Brandenburg attended via telephone.

**Visitors Present:** Terry Gardner

**Additions/Deletions/Changes and Approval of the Agenda – none**

**Public Comments – none**

- 1. Resolution No. 2020-84** – Resolution No. 2020-84 approves the endorsement of the following 2021 Legislative Priority Funding Requests before the Hendry County State Legislative Delegation Public Hearing on Friday, December 11, 2020: a) Additional funding needed for the C-21 Bridge Replacement Project; and b) Support of Hendry County's request for additional Airglades International Airport (AIA) wastewater force main funding.

Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-84 by title. City Consulting Engineer Andy Tilton updated the Commission on the C-21 Bridge Replacement Project. He reported that the bridge will be at the same elevation as the dike and will provide access across the canal and boating access under the bridge. He also reported that the permit allowing two-way traffic on top of the dike was just received from the South Florida Water Management District. He reviewed the cross section and color elevation of the bridge and stated that there will be a buffered bike lane and sidewalk in addition to the two 11foot lanes for vehicular traffic on the bridge. He explained that they were planning to evaluate doing an MSE wall with a colorized surface that will look like brick because brick is much more expensive and there is a lot of wall to cover. Commissioner McGahee suggested that we ask for quotes for both. Engineer Tilton stated that we could do it as a bid alternate. He then provided the clearance information and stated that the amount of clearance is typical for the type of boats that would be used on the lake. It was noted that the idea to use brick on the walls of the bridge came from the use of brick on the new city limit entrance signs and the brick on the U.S. Sugar Corporation building so that it would give the City a more unified look. Commissioner McGahee stated that the Commission has been working to try and unify the City and she wanted to accentuate an area of the City that she feels is under acknowledged. There was a brief discussion regarding the lighting on the bridge for pedestrian travel. Engineer Tilton stated that the lighting fixtures and pole design that is selected should be relatively common so that extra money is not spent but the look would still be unified. Manager Martin stated that Engineer Tilton was charged with, in preparation for the City's legislative request, to present a compelling story of why additional money is needed for this project. He stated that the City has received \$2,000,000 in funding for this project and now has a true depiction of what the real cost is likely to be based on the engineer's estimate. Engineer Tilton then reviewed the background information of the added cost summary. He explained that because FDOT is administering the funds, the project has to be done as if it were an FDOT maintained project which was not originally anticipated and because of FDOT's rules and regulations, the cost of the project could increase 50% to 100%. He stated that some of the

other things that caused the price of the bridge to go up include the bridge becoming wider; the addition of lighting and clear spanning for permit compliance. He noted the additional amount needed for the project was \$3,652,046.00. He stated that we may get the opportunity to start construction sometime in 2021 if the funds are available and the project would take approximately 6-12 months. He confirmed the construction would not affect the current dike access as long as the culverts under the S169 don't collapse. Commissioner McGahee stated that she would like the documents that are presented for this request to mention that this is a project that will connect the mainland to the Hoover Dike that surrounds Lake Okeechobee with Lake Okeechobee being the primary tourism attraction to rural City of Clewiston to help make them friendlier to the person that is reading it. Manager Martin stated that the plan is to present the request in summary form this Friday at the delegation public hearing at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Gardner stated that a summary was given two years ago and this is just additional information to supplement what legislators have already heard in terms of the justification for the project.

Manager Martin stated the second part of the request is to express the City's support for additional funding to Hendry County for the wastewater force main to serve the Airglades International Airport property and the areas between there and the City. He stated that Hendry County's previously prepared white paper for the project will be updated to reflect an additional \$970,000 that was allocated toward the project in the most recent legislative session for this fiscal year. He reported that it is anticipated that an additional \$2.285 million is needed to complete the extension of the wastewater project to the airport and that funding is being pursued from multiple sources including some grant applications. The only funds received so far on this project have been from the legislature through the County's initiation. He noted there was a change in the route of the force main because a property owner, U.S. Sugar Corporation, had future development interest in a parcel and that would prevent the wastewater line from dissecting their property so they have agreed to provide an easement and participate in the redesign to move the line to the edge of their property so that it would run parallel with Lewis Boulevard then parallel to US Highway 27 on the south side of the right of way all the way out to Airglades. The monies they have now would construct the line out to US Highway 27 and hopefully would construct the first lift station in that location.

Manager Martin stated that staff's recommendation is to adopt the resolution endorsing these priorities for presentation to the legislature and then work through the upcoming legislative budgeting process with the support of our lobbyist to acquire additional funding for each project. Mayor Gardner asked for the timeframe on Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the force main project. Engineer Tilton stated that the first portion is ready to bid; the county is waiting on some final details between the county attorney and U.S. Sugar attorneys over the easements. He also stated that it is his understanding that the County is going to build over to where the line turns north and bid an alternative to go partially north to the extent current funding is available. He further stated that he believes they have a 180 day construction period for the first phase and estimates the second phase would be similar.

**Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, to approve Resolution No. 2020-84. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays**

2. **Resolution No. 2020-85** – Resolution No. 2020-85 authorizes the purchase of the 2015 Crane Carrier Automated Side Loader Solid Waste Collection Truck from Container Systems & Equipment Co., Inc. in the amount of \$75,000.

Mayor Gardner read Resolution No. 2020-85 by title. Manager Martin explained that a replacement solid waste collection truck was put in our 5 year CIP plan for capital needs and we hoped to defer that purchase for a couple of years. Unfortunately, Public Works has had some significant equipment issues this year and an opportunity has recently presented itself to consider the acquisition of a gently used truck, we would like to proceed with the replacement at a much lower cost than a new truck purchase. This purchase would allow us to get some degree of normalcy back to our collection services and our current truck with which we have had mechanical issues would become a much more reliable backup after it is repaired. Mayor Gardner asked if there was any type of warranty and if the City had the funds available for this purchase. Finance Director Shari Howell stated that there is a line for a set aside of \$50,000 included in the budget and the balance would come from budgeted contingency. Public Works Director Scheffler stated that there is no warranty with this vehicle and noted that the warranty on a new vehicle is normally no more than one year. He

stated he thought it had approximately 60,000 miles and 8,000 hours on the engine and explained that he tries to get 10-15 years out of a truck; the mileage isn't something they focus on because these trucks move so slow and are only utilized within the city limits for collections. He confirmed the City's mechanic has evaluated and driven the truck and our staff is capable of doing most repairs on it and getting parts for the body and the truck is not an issue. He stated that he feels the side loader will clean up and speed up our operation and will provide the City another minimum of five years of active service. He then noted the original cost of the truck was \$249,000.

**Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve Resolution No. 2020-85. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays**

### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Petersen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays**

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Kristine Petersen, Mayor

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Mary K. Combass, City Clerk