

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Special Commission Meeting
August 23, 2021

The City of Clewiston City Commission held a Special Commission Meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers on Monday, August 23, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Petersen. Commissioner Pittman gave the invocation and the audience joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Kristine Petersen, Vice Mayor Greg Thompson, Commissioner Hillary Hyslope and Commissioner James Pittman. Commissioner Mali Gardner attended via telephone.

Personnel Present: City Manager Randy Martin, City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Interim Police Chief Tom Lewis, Utilities Director Danny Williams and Compliance Manager Lynne Mila. City Attorney Gary Brandenburg attended via telephone.

Visitors Present: Gloria Rosen and Roly Gonzalez

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

Public Comments - none

1. Selection of Provider for Employee Health & Supplemental Insurance Benefit

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commission Hyslope, to select and approve health and supplemental dental and vision insurance coverage with Blue Cross Blue Care based upon the plan offerings for FY2022. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Before the vote, Mayor Petersen summarized the agenda item and announced that Commissioner Gardner was on the phone. Manager Martin reported that Ms. Gloria Rosen had previously provided health insurance coverage for the City and has submitted a proposal. As he had mentioned at the last workshop, information from the City's current provider, United Healthcare through the Florida League of Cities, had already been received. He pointed out that Ms. Rosen also represents Reliance Standard which currently provides the City's supplemental coverages. He then stated there is a change in his memorandum to the Commission regarding supplemental coverages. He recommended that we add Blue Care as our primary carrier for health, dental and vision insurance as the dental and vision plans are very attractive options that come as a package with the health insurance. However, based upon Ms. Rosen's latest advice in consideration of additional carrier feedback, he now recommended that the City keep the disability and life insurance supplemental coverages with Reliance Standard and look at other options for future years. He stated that Blue Care is the most attractive in terms of rates; it gives the employees the most options and the coverage is beneficial and a better option for the City than the offering from United Healthcare. He stated that a decision is needed as quickly as possible to ensure timely renewal. He added that the United Healthcare rates were received much later this year than customary, and Ms. Rosen was not asked to provide comparison rates until after the United Healthcare rates were received indicating a substantial increase. The Manager thanked Ms. Rosen and Blue Care for providing the quotes in a very timely manner. Commissioner Gardner mentioned that the deductible has gone up but it is good to see that the co-pays have stayed low. Manager Martin stated that with Blue Care's proposal, the City would be giving employees three plan options with the primary difference between the options being the deductible. Mayor Petersen stated that she feels the employees need to have a raise and we should not take it away in order to keep a low deductible. Ms. Rosen then reviewed details of the coverages for each of the three health plans offered. Manager Martin pointed out that the City offers 60% toward the amount of coverage for family members. It was noted that the Blue Care plans did not cover out-of-network expenses. Ms. Rosen's response was that all the major hospitals and places on the main network are in-network. Commissioner Gardner asked Manager Martin and Finance Director Shari Howell to look at reducing disparity among

employees on the insurance premium for the next budget year. Manager Martin stated that he and staff have discussed evaluating various options well in advance of next year's renewal date to identify all the different coverage options available. It was noted the deductibles for Plans 59 and 67 only apply to ambulance services, Plan 67 is the recommended base plan and Plans 59 and 55 are the recommended buy up plans. Manager Martin added that the Blue Care Dental and Vision plans are more attractive than the existing dental and vision plans as well.

Adjournment

Commissioner Hyslope made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Kristine Petersen, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, City Clerk