

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
October 17, 2022

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its Regular Commission Meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, October 17, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Kristine Petersen. Commissioner James Pittman gave the invocation and the audience joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Personnel Present: City Manager Randy Martin, City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Director of Operations Danny Williams, Assistant Utilities Director Lynne Mila, Police Chief Thomas Lewis, Police Officer Rebecca Myers, Community Development Director Travis Reese, Consulting Engineer Joe DeBono and City Attorney Dylan Brandenburg.

Visitors Present: Jerry Cochrane, Terry Gardner, Pepe Lopez, Ian Stone and Barbara Edmonds.

Additions/Deletions/Changes and Approval of the Agenda – No additions, deletions or changes were made to the agenda.

Public Comments – There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

- A. *City Commission Tentative Budget Hearing and Special Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2022*
- B. *Event Application – Market on Bond – 11/19/2022, 12/17/2022, 1/21/2023, 2/18/2023, 3/18/2023 and 4/15/2023*
- C. *Proclamation – National Long Term Care Residents’ Rights Month – October 2022*
- D. *Revised Resolution No. 2022-089 – revised to reflect September 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. as the date and time of the City’s declaration of the State of Local Emergency*
- E. *Resolution No. 2022-091 – recognizing Florida City Government Week – October 17-23, 2022*
- F. *Resolution No. 2022-092 – approves the purchase of two police vehicles*
- G. *Resolution No. 2022-093 – approves the re-appointment of Laurencia “Laura” Centeno as the City’s representative on the Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County*
- H. *Resolution No. 2022-094 – Declaration of Surplus Equipment – 2013 Toro 4500-D Deck Mower*
- I. *Resolution No. 2022-095 – approves the Law Enforcement Accreditation Agreement with The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc.*
- J. *Resolution No. 2022-096 – approves Hinterland Group, Inc. Change Order No. 7 in the amount of \$4,661.28 for the East Ventura Avenue Project*

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

The order of discussion of Agenda Item Nos. 2 and 3 was changed to be consistent with the advertised time for the public hearing. Agenda Item No. 3 was discussed next.

PUBLIC HEARING

2. **Ordinance No. 2022-10 – Final Reading – 5:05 p.m.** - Ordinance No. 2022-10 related to zoning regulations, amends Article V, Chapter 110, entitled “Districts and District Regulations” of the City code, provides for enactment of Section 110-501 through Section 110-518, entitled “US 27 Commercial Corridor District Zoning Regulations”, amends Section 110-149 to add a new zoning district and amends Section 110-2 to add new definitions.

Mayor Petersen opened the public hearing and summarized and read Ordinance No. 2022-10 by title.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Thompson, to approve Ordinance No. 2022-10. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Before the vote, Mayor Petersen asked if there were any public comments. No comments from the public were heard. Commissioner Gardner stated that she felt this ordinance will help to make us more attractive and expressed her thanks to the City's Planning & Zoning Board, attorney, city manager and staff. Vice Mayor Thompson stated that even though this ordinance will most likely be a work in progress, he feels this is the most important step.

Agenda Item No. 4 was discussed next.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 3. Consideration of Auditor Selection** – The Auditor Selection Committee, appointed by the City Commission, met on June 24, 2022 to discuss their duties and to establish evaluation factors and ranking method to be used. The City requested proposals for professional auditing services on July 6, 2022. Four proposals were received and opened on September 16, 2022. The Auditor Selection Committee met on October 10, 2022 to evaluate and rank the proposals and recommended the City Commission follow the committee's rankings of the firms to award a contract for professional auditing services for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2022, 2023 and 2024 with 2 one-year renewal options.

Mayor Petersen reviewed the agenda item report. Manager Martin reported that the Auditor Selection Committee recommended that a contract be negotiated with the current firm used for auditing services by the City based on all of the ranking factors. He stated that he and Finance Director Howell gave their feedback to the committee that they were pleased with the current auditors and their performance and would endorse the committee's recommendation.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to follow the Auditor Selection Committee's rankings of the firms and award a contract for professional auditing services to Mauldin & Jenkins for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2022, 2023 and 2024 with two one-year renewal options. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Before the vote, Commissioner Pittman asked if the proposal was a fixed price for three years. Manager Martin's response was that it was a fixed price for the services rendered unless there were additional services outside the scope requested by the city.

Agenda Item No. 2 was discussed next.

- 4. Old Business** – Commissioner Gardner asked for an update on the flagpole project. Director Williams stated that one meeting already held but he wants to meet with the contractor who is ready to order the pole equipment. He stated the third-party funding is committed and the project planning is moving forward. He explained that he brought some contractors in that he is working with and confirmed that Mr. Joe Lee has been involved and updated.

Commissioner Hyslope asked if there was an update on the storm debris collection. Director Williams stated that initial collections are moving slow but the contractor expects they will be completed by the end of the month. He reported that the transfer stations are still down and we are planning to start picking up the small piles of other storm debris with city crews. Commissioner Gardner asked if there are specific sections of the community that they are lagging behind in. Director Williams explained that there was one truck on the north side that was not moving as fast but steady. They are working the entire jurisdiction. He also feels confident that they will be done by the end of the month. Commissioner Pittman mentioned that we may want to let everyone know the date they need to have their debris out by. Manager Martin stated that we will plan to do another media blast including social media postings to let people know that time is running short and encourage their efforts as well as provide a deadline when it is determined.

5. **Departmental Monthly Activity Reports** – Manager Martin stated that all of the reports are current even though the wrong month was included on the utilities report. He also stated that he will be polling the Commission for a date in early November for the next workshop.

Comments from City Manager – none

Comments from City Attorney – none

Comments from the City Commission – Commissioner Gardner stated that she is grateful for another successful harvest season for our community.

Commissioner Hyslope reported that there were nine legislative staffers in attendance at last week's South Florida Ag Foundation tour. She stated there was great representation from the City and thanked the Commissioners for taking the time to be there.

Vice Mayor Thompson stated that we need to keep an eye out for illegal dumping. He also stated that it seems the same offenders are continuing to illegally park commercial vehicles. He then asked when the contractor will begin aerial spraying for mosquitoes. Manager Martin's response was that it was done last week but there had been some weather issues. He believed that it will be done regularly with storm related efforts receiving approval for financial support from FEMA for the next few weeks with the county being responsible. Vice Mayor Thompson stated that he thinks the City's infrastructure investments paid off during the storm and will pay off for decades to come.

Commissioner Pittman asked Director Williams to look at the Saturday mosquito spray pattern because he heard the plane at 11:04 p.m. Director Williams stated that the City's contractor flew at the right time around 6:00 p.m. It was assumed that it must have been the FEMA contractor that flew around 11:00 p.m. Commissioner Pittman next asked if a structural report on the old police station was ever done. Manager Martin stated that a preliminary analysis was done. Commissioner Pittman stated that we need to decide what we are going to do with the building. Manager Martin agreed to provide a current update at a workshop.

Commissioner Gardner asked Chief Lewis to comment on how illegal parking of commercial vehicles is addressed. Chief Lewis stated that the illegal parking should be reported to the Police Department and they will address it.

Mayor Petersen asked if the frequency of the tow trucks coming through town hauling storm damaged vehicles to the nearby storage facility had decreased because she had received concern with their speed and ability to drive safely. Chief Lewis stated that the frequency has not decreased and that he will make sure the police department has an increased presence to monitor. Commissioner Gardner stated that she had recently seen the Sheriff's Office out there slowing traffic down on the east end of town in the vicinity of the access to the storage site. Chief Lewis noted that police officers have also been sitting out there as much as they can but with two officers on duty and with calls, their presence is going to be sporadic.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, City Clerk