

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
June 26, 2023

The Clewiston City Commission held its Regular Meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, June 26, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor James Pittman. Pastor Vargas offered an invocation. A moment of silence was observed for former Commissioner and Mayor Phillip Roland who passed away last week and then the audience joined Mayor Pittman in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor James Pittman, Commissioner Barbara Edmonds, Commissioner Mali Gardner and Commissioner Hillary Hyslope. Vice Mayor Greg Thompson was absent.

Personnel Present: City Manager Randy Martin, City Clerk Kathy Combass, Finance Director Shari Howell, Director of Operations Danny Williams, Police Chief Thomas Lewis, Fire Chief/Community Development Director Travis Reese, Assistant Utilities Director Lynne Mila, Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Director Lauren McGinnis, Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay, Consulting Engineer Joe DeBono and City Attorney Dylan Brandenburg.

Visitors Present: Terry Gardner, Pastor Vargas, Yvronise Brevil, Terri Garcia, Julie Collins, Roly Gonzalez, Pepe Lopez and Jerry Cochrane.

Additions/Deletions/Changes and Approval of the Agenda – Manager Martin recommended that Agenda Item No. 8 be modified so that the general electric services contract for each company is voted on separately since there are commissioners that will be abstaining from voting to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. He stated that Resolution Nos. 2023-058 and 2023-059 will be assigned for the additional actions.

Public Comments – Yvronise Brevil, Administrator of the Clewiston Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, came forward along with Terri Garcia, Director of Nursing, and Julie Collins, Director of Admissions, to thank the City of Clewiston staff for the outpouring of support that was given to them when the recent storm damaged their facility requiring evacuation of all their residents. She commented on renovation and repair efforts and stated they hope to begin returning residents to the facility as early as Friday.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. *Proclamation – National League of Cities Small Cities Month – June 2023*
- B. *Resolution No. 2023-045 – FDEP Change Order 1 to Grant Agreement LPQ0027*
- C. *Resolution No. 2023-046 – Flock Group, Inc. MOU*
- D. *Resolution No. 2023-047 – Designation of Voting Delegate for the Florida League of Cities' Annual Conference*
- E. *Resolution No. 2023-048 – Mader Electric Motors Invoice for emergency pump repair at Water Treatment Plant*
- F. *Resolution No. 2023-049 – All In One/Best Electric LLC Invoice for emergency repair at the Wastewater Treatment Plant*
- G. *Resolution No. 2023-050 – Pool Surface, Inc. Change Order to pool renovations agreement to include rehabilitation of pool decking*
- H. *Resolution No. 2023-051 – NVB Playgrounds d/b/a AAA State of Play for Park Rehabilitation – playground equipment*

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 2. Ordinance No. 2023-04 – PUBLIC HEARING - Final Reading – 5:05 p.m. - Ordinance No. 2023-04 amends Chapter 2, Article IV Firefighters Retirement System of the Clewiston Code of Ordinances.**

Mayor Pittman read Ordinance No. 2023-04 by title, opened the public hearing and asked for public comments. No public comments were heard.

Commissioner Edmonds made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to approve Ordinance No. 2023-04. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

3. **Resolution No. 2023-052 - PUBLIC HEARING – Interlocal Agreement with Hendry County for Distribution of the 2-Cent Fuel Tax** – Florida Statutes 336.025(1)(d) requires the City of Clewiston to hold a public hearing every two years regarding the interlocal agreement with Hendry County for the 2-cent fuel tax revenue distribution (Second Local Option Fuel Tax).

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2023-052 by title, opened the public hearing and asked for public comments. No public comments were heard.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve Resolution No. 2023-052. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

4. **PUBLIC HEARING – Interlocal Agreement with Hendry County for Distribution of the 6-Cent Fuel Tax** – Florida Statutes 336.025(1)(d) requires the City of Clewiston to hold a public hearing every two years regarding the interlocal agreement with Hendry County for the 6-cent fuel tax revenue distribution (Local Option Fuel Tax).

Mayor Pittman opened the public hearing and asked for public comments. No public comments were heard.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, as recommended to continue the current interlocal agreement with Hendry County for the 6-cent fuel tax revenue distribution (Local Option Fuel Tax). Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

RESOLUTIONS

5. **Resolution No. 2023-053** – Resolution No. 2023-053 approves State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Standard Grant Agreement Number LPA0266 in the amount of \$4,000,000.00 for the Clewiston Water System Infrastructure Improvements Project to serve areas west of the city limits along the U.S. 27 highway corridor to the Airglades Airport.

Manager Martin asked the Commission to approve the revised version of the resolution that includes the City Manager and Mayor as authorized signatories to comply with the form of the agreement. Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2023-053 by title. Consulting Engineer Joe DeBono commented on the timeframe of the project stating the project from start to finish should be about 1.5 to 2 years because they are trying to follow the same pathway as the wastewater force main from Airglades International Airport to the city limits. Manager Martin added that the City's intent is to connect the new water line to the County owned airport existing water tank. Staff and engineer have already had discussions and will continue working with the county to transfer that facility to the city system at some point.

Commissioner Hyslope made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to approve Resolution No. 2023-053. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

6. **Resolution No. 2023-054** – Resolution No. 2023-054 approves Johnson Engineering, Inc. Work Order No. 2020-22 in the amount of \$599,880.00 for the Airglades International Airport's Water Main Extension Project for professional services, including but not limited to, design, permitting, environmental impact studies, construction observation, and project management.

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2023-054 by title.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve Resolution No. 2023-054. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

After the vote, Manager Martin stated that with the construction of this project which was fully funded with an approved state legislative appropriation, the first action will be to engage the engineering and design aspects and permitting which will begin following execution of these documents. It is a good day for Clewiston to be able to get this important project started. He added that it will positively impact development opportunities in the affected area and improve the City's service delivery in the western section of the city where development activity is planned.

7. **Resolution No. 2023-055** – Resolution No. 2023-055 approves Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. Change Order No. 1 to Work Order No. 2020-1 in the amount of \$15,617.17 for Verification Testing (VT) for Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) Services for the Bridge Over C-21 Canal Project.

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2023-055 by title. In response to Commissioner Gardner's request, Consultant Engineer DeBono provided an update on the work that has been done on this project. He stated that the project is ahead of schedule; they are still on track to complete the project by December. He also stated that Zep Construction and Stantec are doing a really great job. He then mentioned that they will be working with the contractors and city staff on getting out any notifications for the closure on the dike road at the top of the berm which will limit vehicular access for a period to the recreation area. He stated there will still be pedestrian and bicycle traffic maintained through the public picnic area. Manager Martin clarified that vehicular traffic will be stopped only in the picnic area during that closure and the boat ramp area vehicular traffic will not be impacted. Engineer DeBono stated that they want to keep the closure under 4 weeks depending on the weather and the contractor's progress.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Edmonds, to approve Resolution No. 2023-055. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

Before the vote, Consulting Engineer DeBono confirmed they do not anticipate any other change orders from Stantec for testing and that sufficient funds are available within the approved state grant funding for this change order.

8. **Resolution No. 2023-056** – Resolution No. 2023-056 approves the award of contracts for General Electrical Services to All In One Best Electric LLC, Jimmy Pittman Electrical, Inc. and Central Electric Corporation.

Mayor Pittman stated that Resolution No. 2023-056 will be amended to approve the award of a contract for general electrical services to All In One Best Electric LLC and similar resolutions for the approval of contracts for general electrical services to each of Jimmy Pittman Electrical, Inc. and Central Electric Corporation will be considered due to interests by commissioners to certain listed contractors. It was noted that Resolution No. 2023-058 would be associated with Jimmy Pittman Electrical, Inc. and Resolution No. 2023-059 would be associated with Central Electric Corporation. Mayor Pittman read amended Resolution No. 2023-056 by title.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve Resolution No. 2023-056 for the award of a contract for general electrical services to All In One Best Electric LLC. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

After the vote, Manager Martin mentioned for the record that proposals and qualifications of each contractor were received and ranked. He stated that the ranking committee, comprised of Director of Operations Danny Williams, Assistant Utilities Director Lynne Mila and Utilities Superintendent Michael Cox, felt an affiliation with all three contractors was needed to procure the services when they are needed based upon contractor availability and other relevant factors.

Mayor Pittman then read Resolution No. 2023-058 by title and stated that he will be abstaining from voting on this resolution for the award of a contract to Jimmy Pittman Electrical, Inc. because he still currently has an interest in the company.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve Resolution No. 2023-058 for the award of a contract for General Electrical Services to Jimmy Pittman Electrical, Inc. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent and Mayor Pittman abstained from voting.)

Mayor Pittman then read Resolution No. 2023-059 by title. Commissioner Gardner stated that she will be abstaining from any discussion or voting on this resolution for the award of a contract to Central Electric Corporation because of her familial relationship and the Code of Ethics.

Commissioner Hyslope made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Edmonds, to approve Resolution No. 2023-059 for the award of a contract for General Electrical services to Central Electric Corporation. Vote 3 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent and Commissioner Gardner abstained from voting.)

- 9. Resolution No. 2023-057** – Resolution No. 2023-057 approves Change Order 1 to the Florida Municipal Power Agency Owner’s Engineering Support Services Agreement for the AMI Deployment Phase 3 Project.

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2023-057 by title.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve Resolution No. 2023-057. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

After the vote, Director Williams stated that based upon anticipated new metering equipment delivery schedules, deployment of the electric meters is expected to take 3-6 months and begin in August, 2023. The contractors will then begin the deployment of the water meters, which in total could take as long as a couple of years to fully complete because a number of the installation locations are in concrete and asphalt especially commercial accounts. Director Williams stated that City staff will be working to get out in front of the water meter installation contractor to address anything that the metering contractor is not responsible for such as those requiring replacement water meter box installations.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 10. Appointments to the Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Advisory Board** – Mayor Pittman reminded the board that it was discussed and previously determined that each commissioner will nominate one person from among the interested applicants and then after any discussion, there will be one motion to approve all five members. Mayor Pittman then nominated Ian Stone; Manager Martin next reported that Vice Mayor Thompson had verbally communicated prior to the meeting his nomination is Dusty McDuffie; Commissioner Edmonds nominated Jamie Redish; Commissioner Hyslope nominated Ryan Duffy; and Commissioner Gardner nominated Joe Foote.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve as selected by the Commission, the appointments of Ian Stone, Dusty McDuffie, Jamie Redish, Ryan Duffy and Joe Foote to serve on the Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Advisory Board. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

Manager Martin stated that staff will notify the members and arrange an organizational meeting. He asked that Attorney Brandenburg be available to give the board members their charge in terms of serving as public officials. They will then set a meeting schedule. The Manager will review duties of the advisory board as described in the creation policy ordinance that was adopted by the Commission stipulating their role in city government. The

Manager will also have staff get their ideas and feedback in the near term on program recommendations and share input regarding the upcoming budget development process.

- 11. Golf Course Irrigation System Project & Schedule** – Manager Martin updated the Commission and the public on the proposed total upgrade of the golf course irrigation system. He reviewed his memo with the Board and stated that the schedule was developed and proposals are due by July 28 with a recommendation for the award at a meeting scheduled for Monday, July 31. He stated that the goal is to have it completed in FY 2023-2024. The only action needed at this time is for the Commission to authorize management to proceed with the process as outlined on the schedule. He noted that he also has the plans and specifications available tonight for review.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to authorize management to proceed with this process as outlined on the schedule described in the memo for the golf course irrigation project. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent.)

- 12. Old Business** – There were no comments.
- 13. Departmental Monthly Activity Reports** – There were no comments.
- 14. Comments from City Manager** – There were no comments from the City Manager.
- 15. Comments from City Attorney** – Attorney Brandenburg confirmed that he is working on an update on legislative actions from the recently completed state legislative session and will likely present it at the next meeting.
- 16. Comments from the City Commission** – Commissioner Gardner asked when Manager Martin anticipates the next workshop to be scheduled. Manager Martin stated that a budget workshop is scheduled after the regular meeting on July 17 and any additional items could be added. He stated that budget workshops were also scheduled on July 24 and after the Special Commission Meeting on July 31. Commissioner Gardner then thanked Senator Passidomo and Representative Melo for their hard work on our behalf to bring funding back to us for the future growth of the community. Manager Martin then announced for the public that the City was approved in the recently adopted state budget to receive \$11,000,000 in grant funding to provide additional funding to upgrade and expand the capacity of the Clewiston wastewater treatment plant. Commissioner Gardner stated that she also appreciates the work of Screven Watson the City's lobbyist. She then noted that the City has a lot of activities planned for the afternoon of July 4th before the fireworks. She stated that we are blessed and God Bless America. Director McGinnis then reviewed details of the noted activities planned for July 4th. She also commented on the use of the pool since it has opened and upcoming activities including swimming lessons and water aerobics. Commissioner Gardner expressed her appreciation to Lori Forshee, Director Williams and his crew, and U.S. Sugar for their efforts to make the pool rehabilitation and re-opening project happen.

Mayor Pittman expressed his appreciation to the citizens and City staff and other agencies that helped when the unexpected transfer of patients had to be done from the nursing home facility due to storm related damages.

Adjournment

Commissioner Hyslope made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. Vote 4 yeas, 0 nays (Vice Mayor Thompson was absent).

James Pittman, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, City Clerk