

FEBRUARY 12, 2008, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in a special meeting at 6:00 PM on February 12, 2008 at city hall auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Becton, Turlington, Stefanovich, and Strickland were present. Councilmember Harris was absent. Also present were police chief Mike Brim, city manager Connet, fire chief Philip Miller, public works director Chris Doherty, planning director Jeff Vreugdenhil, finance director Betty Brewer, and city clerk Elaine F. Hunt.

City clerk Hunt gave the invocation.

PROJECTS UPDATE

City Manager Connet updated City Council regarding the current projects of the city. He stated that the All-America City Committee continues to meet to develop ways to market our All-America City Award. He stated the appointments to the newly amended All-America City Committee will be ready for the March meeting. He further stated that District 5 Steering Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and will be meeting in March. Crime issues will continue to be top priority of the group.

Discussion continued with City Manager Connet informing City Council that the Fisher Drive Stream Restoration is complete. Drawings have been sent to Army Corps of Engineers and a five-year monitoring period began on February 1, 2008. According to City Manager Connet, Hamilton Beach/Procter Silex has completed the initial site assessment and is in the process of completing a comprehensive site assessment. He explained that once this comprehensive site assessment is complete, a remediation/clean-up plan will be developed. Mr. Connet informed City Council that NCDENR must review and approve each document before proceeding to the next phase. He further stated that Hamilton Beach/Procter Silex is handling all costs for testing and sampling.

City Manager Connet continued with updates of city projects. The scope of the Highway 701/24 Connector Road Project continues to be refined and potential funding sources evaluated. Funding is being sought for this project. Mr. Connet asked City Council if they wanted to allocate funding for this project.

Councilmember Stefanovich stated that the Highway 701/24 Connector Road Project would create a huge tax base for the City of Clinton. Councilmember Stefanovich further stated that although it was the intent of this project to create a safer route for the students and citizens of Clinton, tax base wise, this project would be very beneficial.

Planning director Vreugdenhil encouraged City Council to establish a long range capital improvement project. He stated to obtain good roads, it will certainly cost and also it will cost to tie water and sewer into this area. Mr. Vreugdenhil recommended obtaining private funding or partnership and/or

putting this item on the bond referendum. City Manager Connet recommended looking at re-evaluation.

After a brief discussion regarding increasing the tax rate, City Manager Connet proceeded to give projects update. Completed projects include: Downtown Revitalization Project – Phase II, Kaleel’s Building Restoration, Kerr School Drainage Repair, and Tram Road Sewer Project. Mr. Connet stated that the Lundy’s Sewer Replacement Phase II is approximately 80% complete and the Wastewater Treatment Plant – Interference Issues are being monitored. He further stated that there have been no significant interference issues in the past six months.

Mr. Connet stated that the Fire Department equipment truck has been ordered and should arrive in July 2008. He stated that the current status of the Clinton High School Pump Station, Carolina/Underwood Street Drainage, Jail Demolition, and the Lafayette Street Drainage is complete. He further told City Council that the Pugh Road Sewer Extension Project has been bid, and the easements for the force main along Pugh Road are being obtained. Grant opportunities are being sought to install gravity sewer to Russell Street and Pugh Road. He added that Mr. Edwards has agreed to contribute the property for the pump station, easements to the adjoining property, and \$23,000.

City Manager Connet told City Council about a new project to repair drainage line in Fisher Drive Park which will serve Sampson Regional Medical Center’s new diagnostic center. He further updated Council regarding Lundy’s Sewer Project Phase III. He stated that the sewer line that runs under the bypass is in the same condition as the other portions of the Lundy’s sewer line. Funding alternatives are being evaluated for this project. Mr. Connet mentioned the Raleigh Road Sewer Project and the Downtown Revitalization Project Phase III. He stated a Request for Proposals for Engineering Services for design and construction administration is being developed. After the design is complete, City Manager Connet stated the project will be bid.

BEAVER/STREAM MANAGEMENT

City Manager Connet stated that Ms. Edna Norris and Mr. Michael Shook called regarding the beavers issue. Public works director Chris Doherty stated that dams had been found and dissolved. He also stated that he will contact the Army Corps of Engineers to see if permits are needed to manage the stream. City Manager Connet stated that we will work with the Corps of Engineers regarding this matter.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

City Manager Connet stated that the city performed a loan closing with USDA regarding the Downtown Revitalization Project on Friday, February 8, 2008.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Becton, the following Budget Ordinance Amendment #2008.02.07 was unanimously passed:

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Clinton, NC, that the following amendments be made to the Annual Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and amended on February 5, 2008:

Section 1. To amend General Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

Account #	Account Title	Increase	Decrease
103910.0400	From Downtown Phase II	\$ 46,500	
103990.0000	Fund Balance App.		\$ 46,500
		_____	_____
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 46,500	\$ 46,500

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the City Clerk, City Manager, and Finance Director for their direction.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Becton, the following Budget Ordinance Amendment #2008.02.08 was unanimously passed:

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Clinton, NC, that the following amendments be made to the Annual Budget Ordinance adopted June 7, 2005, and amended September 5, 2006; June 12, 2007; and February 5, 2008, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. To amend the Community Development Fund, the expenditures for the project are changed as follows:

Account #	Account Title	Increase	Decrease
534970.7300	Downtown Revital. Proj	\$ 143,500	

	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 143,500	

Section 2. The revenues anticipated to be available to complete this project are changed as follows:

Account #	Account Title	Increase	Decrease
533040.0000	From Downtown Phase II	\$ 143,500	

TOTAL REVENUES \$ 143,500

Section 3. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the City Clerk, City Manager, and Finance Director for their direction.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Becton, the following Budget Ordinance Amendment #2008.02.09 was unanimously passed:

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following capital project ordinance adopted June 6, 2006, and amended on September 5, 2006, and November 8, 2007, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. To amend the Capital Project Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account #	Account Title	Increase	Decrease
554970.7500	Trans Other Sources		\$ 190,000
554970.7600	Trans to Com Dev Fund	\$ 143,500	
554970.7700	Trans to General Fund	46,500	
		_____	_____
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000

Section 2. The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project.

Account #	Account Title	Increase	Decrease
553010.0000	From General Fund		\$ 46,500
553020.0000	From Com Dev Fund		143,500
553990.0000	Fund Bal Approp	\$ 190,000	
		_____	_____
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000

Section 3. Copies of this amendment shall be furnished to the City Clerk, City Manager, and Finance Director for their direction.

PRIVATE LIFT STATIONS

Public works director Chris Doherty updated City Council on private lift stations. He stated that there are approximately 40 private lift stations in the city that customers use for their sewer service. He further stated that lift stations cost \$3,000- \$6,000 per station. Doherty stated there are questions that need answers: Who is responsible to pay for maintenance of these private lift stations? Is the 2" force main adequate in the Fox Lake area? Where is the line drawn on where sewer service is provided by the city?

UPCOMING CHALLENGES

City Manager Connet stated that in the upcoming years, the city will be confronted with several challenges. One challenge being, collective bargaining. The National Labor Board will govern collective bargaining. Municipalities will be required to negotiate contracts with unions.

He further stated that an increase in minimum wage which is now \$6.15 per hour will affect part-time firefighters. Another upcoming challenge will be funding of post-retirement benefits. Inflation is ever present. It can be seen in the fuel.

City Manager Connet stated that it appears NC DOT is running out of money. It is being discussed to turn over the maintenance and care of primary roads to cities and counties. Powell bills are being discussed to take back monies from municipalities. Governor's landfill tipping fee will begin July 1, 2008. Therefore, garbage fees will increase.

LONG-RANGE PRIORITIES

City Manager told City Council that space is needed in the Administration Department and security needs improving in the front section of city hall. He stated that he would like to expand the conference room and eventually have the assistant city manager's office in the existing conference room. He further stated that City Council needs to decide whether or not to rent the Best Building.

City Manager Connet stated that the Recreation Department is the first priority. It is being recommended that the Putt Putt Building be converted into a main office. Also it was recommended by City Manager Connet that someone from the outside come in, review the spacing of the building(s), and make a recommendation.

City Manager Connet asked City Council to give suggestions for sidewalk repairs and improvements. Councilmember Stefanovich suggested making improvements on Beaman Street.

Regarding long-range priorities, Mr. Connet vowed to continue providing good benefits for employees.

PRIORITIES FUNDING

How to fund our priorities? City Manager Connet stated re-evaluations are a great possibility. There will be a 30% growth in the property tax base in 2011. He further stated that he would like to fund a true capital improvement program. He urged City Council to consider this funding of priorities.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Stefanovich, seconded by Councilmember Becton, and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

City Clerk

Mayor