

FEBRUARY 21, 2012, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING CIP WORKSHOP

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in a special meeting at 6:00 PM on February 21, 2012 in the City Hall Training Room. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Becton, Turlington, Stefanovich, Strickland, and Mayor Pro Tem Harris were present. Also present were City Manager Connet, Deputy Fire Chief Todd Solice, Interim Fire Chief Robert Swiger, Planning Director Mary Rose, City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt, Human Resource Manager Lisa Carter, Police Chief Mike Brim, Recreation Director Judi Nicholson, Public Works Director Jeff Vreugdenhil, and Assistant City Manager-Finance Director Shawn Purvis.

City Manager Connet gave the invocation.

City Manager Connet introduced Interim Fire Chief Robert Swiger to the group. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss CIPs and to update City Council on the happenings of the Fire Department. He stated discussion regarding annexation has been removed from the agenda. Mr. Connet asked Assistant City Manager-Finance Director Shawn Purvis to make his presentation.

Mr. Purvis presented to Mayor and City Council a Capital Improvement Plan Development for 2012-2017 via a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment A)**. He stated that currently, the city is in strong financial standing. He stated that sustainability is the issue facing the city's General Fund.

Mr. Purvis reviewed the proposed primary General Fund projects: (1) City Hall generator - \$75,000 (General Fund \$37,500; Water \$37,500) (2) fire truck - \$650,000 (3) police vehicles (4) police vehicle cameras - \$40,000 - \$50,000 yr (5) police station - \$3,000,000+ (6) sanitation vehicles - \$40,000-\$50,000 yr (7) street vehicles (8) street resurfacing - \$225,000 (9) NC 24 sidewalks – City's portion \$53,000 (10) Royal Lane Park renovations - \$1,000,000 and (11) Newkirk Park improvements - \$15,000-\$20,000 yr. He stated that the last fiscal year payment for our current fire truck(s) will be in 2012-2013.

Assistant City Manager-Finance Director Purvis briefed all regarding the water and sewer fund fiscal indicators. He stated that the Water & Sewer Fund is in excellent financial condition. He stated that although a number of capital projects are on the horizon, projections indicate a stable financial condition for the fund which is primarily due to the \$770,000 of debt service being retired over the next three years. He further stated that the biggest project is the doubling of the water production facility at approximately \$7 million and the annual debt service for this project is approximately \$350,000.

Mr. Purvis reviewed the proposed primary Water & Sewer Fund projects: (1) Eliza Lane CDBG (2) WWTP SCADA Upgrade (3) vehicle replacement (4)

well site generators - \$40,000 (two more sites need generators) (5) Deer Track water loop and (6) Water Production expansion - \$7,000,000.

Councilmember Stefanovich brought up the brown water problem. Public Works Director Vreugdenhil stated that 100 miles of old water lines are the reason for this problem.

It was stated that the leak study was very beneficial to the City of Clinton. It was further stated that it helped to identify many problems and currently, we have our meter program in place.

A brief discussion took place regarding Mr. Purvis' presentation and then, City Manager Connet spoke regarding the Fire Department updates. Mr. Connet stated that over 60 applications have been received for the fire chief position. He stated that the applications will be reviewed and an assessment center will be conducted for the top five applicants. He further stated that a new fire chief should be in place by June.

Mr. Swiger, Interim Fire Chief, spoke regarding the value of assessments. He stated that when an assessment is done, it is not to focus on the individual, but to focus on the program to see where weaknesses lie.

Mr. Connet stated that he and Mr. Swiger met with most of the firefighters. He stated that currently, there are 11 full-time and 17 part-time firefighters. Mr. Connet stated that recently, an evaluation of staffing needs was performed and the major concerns among the Fire Department staff are: leadership, communication, standard operating guidelines, and equipment.

ISO Rating(s) were discussed. Mr. Swiger stated that these ratings dictate the amount that residential property owners pay for insurance. He stated that in 2001, the ISO Rating was based on staffing at Beaman Street Fire Station and currently, there is no staffing at this location. It was noted that 40% of the fire calls are outside the city limits. A distribution study of the hydrants was completed in February 2012.

Mr. Swiger and the Clinton Fire Department are asking City Council to consider purchasing a quint—a piece of equipment which will serve a dual purpose—as a pumper and as a ladder truck. The cost for this truck is \$625,000.

A handout was distributed to everyone with more detailed information regarding the Clinton Fire Department. **(See Attachment B).**

After a brief discussion, City Manager Connet dismissed all with the exception of Mayor, City Council, Assistant City Manager-Finance Director Purvis, and City Clerk Hunt.

City Manager Connet presented memorandums to the Mayor and City Council regarding building a sustainable Clinton. A brief discussion was held regarding possible program cuts, reorganizations, and revenue enhancements.

The meeting concluded with a discussion regarding how the City has weathered the storm; however, tough decisions must be made to ensure a strong future.

Being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Elaine F. Hunt, MMC, City Clerk

Lew Starling, Mayor