

# **MARCH 25, 2010, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in a special meeting at 4:00 PM on March 25, 2010 in the City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Pro Tem Maxine Harris presided. Councilmembers Turlington, Stefanovich, and Strickland were present. Mayor Lew Starling and Councilmember Becton were absent. Also present were City Manager Connet, City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt.

Present from the Town of Faison were Commissioners Jane Hollingsworth and Charles King; from the Town of Newton Grove were Mayor Gerald Darden, Commissioners Barbara Burch, Brenda Raynor, Pamela Jackson, and Alan Herring; and from the Town of Turkey were Mayor Leon T. Clifton and Commissioners George Wright and Patricia Tew.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris called the special meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

City Clerk Hunt gave the invocation and introduced the webinar live presentation to the group. Ms. Hunt stated that in 2009 the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that requires elected officials to receive 2 clock hours of ethics training.

Eileen Youens and Fleming Bell were the presenters. The following seven objectives were discussed and scenarios were given focusing on these objectives:

1. Define ethics and ethical behavior.
2. Distinguish between legal and ethical standards.
3. Explain the effects of role conflicts and interest conflicts on ethical decision making.
4. Apply a process when making ethical decisions.
5. Describe how to develop a successful code of ethics.
6. Follow the laws governing conflicts in contracting.
7. Determine when you cannot vote and when you must vote on issues before your governing board.

Fleming Bell stated that NCGS 160A-86 is the statute that governs code of ethics. He stated that each governing body should also have a code of ethics policy before 2011. He further stated that the following three statutes are significant statutes to the various governing bodies:

- G.S. 14-234 – Conflicts of interest
- G.S. 14-234.1 - Misuse of secret information
- G.S. 133-32 – Gifts and favors

Ms. Youens stated that violation of these statutes can result in a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by up to 120 days imprisonment and a fine in an amount left to the judge's discretion.

Very pertinent information was given out in a handout to the group (see attached Exhibit A).

Following the 2 clock hours of ethics training, City Clerk Hunt distributed verification forms for the elected officials to sign affirming their attendance. These forms will be mailed to the appropriate town clerks to be placed in each person's personnel file.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Stefanovich, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, and unanimously passed, the meeting was continued until Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the City Hall Auditorium for the purpose of a CIP workshop.

ADJOURNED AT 6:11 PM.

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Elaine F. Hunt, City Clerk

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Maxine W. Harris, Mayor Pro Tem