

**MAY 17, 2011, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION**

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in a special budget workshop at 7:00 PM on May 17, 2011 in the City Hall Training Room. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Strickland, Turlington, Stefanovich, Becton, and Mayor Pro Tem Harris were present.

Also present were City Manager Connet; Assistant City Manager – Finance Director Shawn Purvis; Police Chief Mike Brim; Fire Chief Todd Solice; Human Resource Manager Lisa Carter; Public Works Director Jeff Vreugdenhil; Planning and Zoning Director Mary Rose; Recreation Director Judi Nicholson; and City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt.

Chris Berendt, of the Sampson Independent, was also present.

Councilmember Marcus Becton gave the invocation.

**JOHN STREET CLOSING – ALIVE AFTER FIVE EVENTS**

Planning Director Mary Rose asked City Council to close John Street between Lisbon and Graham Streets beginning at 4:30 PM until 9:00 PM on May 19, June 16, July 21, and August 18, 2011 for the “Alive after Five” events. Ms. Rose stated that the Committee is very excited about the upcoming events and these events will be free to the public.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Becton, and unanimously passed, John Street between Lisbon and Graham Streets beginning at 4:30 PM until 9:00 PM on May 19, June 16, July 21, and August 18, 2011, is to be closed in order to hold the “Alive after Five” events.

**TAKE-HOME CAR PLAN – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Mike Brim stated that after the May 10, 2011 planning session, he, Captain Jay Tilley, and Lt. Timothy King met to discuss the vehicles within the Police Department. He stated that several vehicles have been in accidents. He stated that eight years ago, the Police Department had a fleet consisting of 21 cars and 1 truck for Animal Control; however, presently, there are 31 cars and 1 truck for Animal Control.

Chief Brim stated that research shows the costs and benefits of a take-home fleet outweigh those of a rotating fleet. He further stated that after the initial cost of acquiring the additional cars to make a take-home fleet is absorbed, the operating costs of a take-home fleet are less. Chief Brim stated that each sworn member of the Police Department is assigned an individual squad car. He declared that the squad car is driven to and from work, to and from court only, and is stored at the officer’s residence while off duty. He stated that the officer is required to live within 15 miles of the city limits of Clinton in order to keep the car at his/her home. He stated that there is not a policy that states a vehicle must be

deadline at a specific point; however, the optimum time to replace a vehicle is when its total costs, averaged over the vehicle's lifetime, are at a maximum.

Chief Brim stated currently, there are 7 highway patrol vehicles. He stated the costs of the various vehicles: Crown Victoria - \$21,438; Charger - \$22,000; and Chevy Impala - \$19,366; citing the Chevy Impalas being the most fuel efficient. He informed City Council that the maintenance cost has declined since the implementation of one officer driving one vehicle, along with, the take-home car program. In conclusion, Chief Brim pointed out two benefits of the take-home plan: (1) Residents like it because there is a police presence in the neighborhood and (2) An increase in the department's ability to deploy officers in an emergency state such as the disaster of April 16, 2011. He stated three vehicles were purchased this year, three vehicles are being requested in this FY2011-2012; however, he foresees in the future not having to purchase cars yearly.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Brim told City Council that Clarence McPherson, Animal Control Officer resigned on March 31, 2011. He requested that this position be upgraded to a sworn position. He stated that the 911 Center receives approximately 80 calls per month and the animal control officer is required to drive rabid animals to Raleigh, NC. He stated that presently, the equipment used is outdated and the County is responding to the City's calls. He further stated that if this remains as a non-sworn position, the equipment will require upgrading.

Councilmember Strickland asked if it was typical for an animal control officer to be a sworn officer to which Chief Brim responded that it is typical. Chief Brim stated if Council approves upgrading this position to a sworn state, the salary will increase approximately \$1,400.

### **BUDGET**

Assistant City Manager Purvis distributed a handout and presented a PowerPoint concerning the FY 2011-2012 Budget. He stated the outline that he would present which included: (1) Goals overview (2) General Fund scenarios (3) Water & Sewer Fund scenarios (4) Downtown Special Tax District overview (5) Planning Department's fee recommendations and (6) Key dates.

Mr. Purvis presented four (4) General Fund scenarios:

<b><u>Tax Rate Scenarios</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated Revenues</u></b>
A. \$.38	\$ 8,079,924
B. \$.39	\$ 8,141,880
C. \$.40	\$ 8,204,736
D. \$.41	\$ 8,267,592

**Scenario A** included: Compensation Study \$58,700; 2 Police vehicles \$50,000, Reduced paving \$175,000; Playgrounds \$22,000; Reduced storm drainage \$25,000; Expenditures \$8,079,448; Revenues \$8,079,924; and a deficiency of \$476.

**Scenario B** included: Compensation Study \$58,700; 2 Police vehicles \$50,000, Fire SCBAs \$18,000; Reduced paving \$195,000; Playgrounds \$22,000; Grounds truck \$24,000; Reduced storm drainage \$25,000; Expenditures \$8,141,448; Revenues \$8,141,880; and a deficiency of \$432.

**Scenario C** included: Compensation Study \$58,700; 2 Police vehicles \$50,000, Fire SCBAs \$18,000; Reduced paving \$195,000; 311 System \$27,500; Playgrounds \$22,000; Grounds truck & trailer \$34,000; Reduced storm drainage \$25,000; Expenditures \$8,201,448; Revenues \$8,204,736; and a deficiency of \$3288.

**Scenario D** included: Compensation Study \$58,700; 3 Police vehicles \$75,000, Fire SCBAs \$18,000; Reduced paving \$205,000; 311 System \$27,500; Leaf vacuum truck \$30,000; Playgrounds \$22,000; Grounds truck & trailer \$34,000; Reduced storm drainage \$25,000; Expenditures \$8,266,448; Revenues \$8,267,592; and a deficiency of \$1144.

City Manager Connet stated that the above scenarios are based on tax rates only; however, he presented a Scenario B.1 that was based on tax rate and fee increase:

**Scenario B.1** included: Compensation Study \$58,700; 3 Police vehicles \$75,000, Fire SCBAs \$18,000; Reduced paving \$195,000; 311 System \$27,500; Playgrounds \$22,000; Grounds truck \$24,000; Reduced storm drainage \$25,000; Expenditures \$8,193,948; Revenues \$8,194,704; and a deficiency of \$756.

Questions were asked of the department heads. Public Works Director Vreugdenhil stated that the 311 System will benefit the citizens of Clinton tremendously. He stated the cost of \$27,500 will allow the City to receive ten (10) phones and an address database.

Chief Brim stated that although he has requested 3 vehicles, two (2) vehicles will be sufficient.

Assistant City Manager Purvis presented a Water and Sewer scenario with no rate change. He stated that there are no huge projects: Truck \$24,000; WWTP Impellers \$24,000; and a Well Site generator \$50,000. The expenditures are: \$4,335,872 and the revenues are: \$4,337,277.

Assistant City Manager Purvis presented the Downtown Tax District overview showing the revenue neutral calculations for the 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 years.

Planning and Zoning Mary Rose presented the proposed fees for the Planning and Zoning Department for the upcoming budget year:

<u>Current Fees</u>		<u>Proposed Fees</u>	
Residential	\$30.00	Residential	\$50.00
Addition	\$15.00	Addition	\$25.00
Commercial	\$50.00	Commercial	\$75.00
Rezoning	\$125.00	Rezoning	\$200.00

Special Use \$125.00  
Variance \$125.00  
Zoning Amendment \$125.00

Special Use \$200.00  
Variance \$200.00  
Zoning Amendment \$200.00

She asked that these proposed fees be adopted with the FY 2011-2012 Budget.

Mayor Starling stated that regarding the proposal of converting to a full-time fire department, no changes will be made until all fire personnel have been met and the proposal discussed with them.

City Manager Connet complimented Assistant City Manager Purvis on his presentation and preparation of the budget. He requested permission from City Council to put a formal/proposed budget together to be presented at the regular city council meeting on June 7, 2011. He stated that he will work up a budget focusing on Scenario B.1 based on a tax rate and a fee increase. City Manager Connet stated that he will not recommend the \$.41 tax rate as previously stated. He further stated that the proposed FY2011-2012 Budget will be hand-delivered to City Council on Friday, May 27, 2011 and on June 21, 2011, he recommends City Council adopts the Budget.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Harris, seconded by Councilmember Becton, and unanimously passed, a public hearing on the FY 2011-2012 Budget was called for June 7, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

Being no further discussion, Councilmember Becton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, and unanimously passed. City Council will meet next at the regular city council meeting on June 7, 2011.

---

Elaine F. Hunt, MMC, City Clerk

---

Lew Starling, Mayor

**Adjourned: 8:24 PM.**