

SPECIAL MEETING HELD MAY 20, 2008

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, continued from May 13, 2008, was reconvened at 7:00 PM on May 20, 2008, at City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Harris, Strickland, Turlington, and Stefanovich were present. Councilmember Becton was absent. The city clerk, city manager, finance director, fire chief, public works director, recreation director, police chief, planning and zoning director, and planner Mary Rose were present.

RESOLUTION -- NCLM -- ANNEXATION MORATORIUM

City Manager Connet mentioned the resolution opposing annexation moratorium that was included in the agenda packet. He stated that a letter from him to the League would better serve the City of Clinton; therefore, he would be drafting a letter instead of requesting City Council to adopt this resolution.

SAMPSON COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

At the April City Council Meeting, Ray Jordan appeared before City Council on of the Sampson County Board of Commissioners to speak regarding a proposal to establish a 3% occupancy tax to fund a Tourism Development Authority to promote tourism opportunities in Sampson County. At the Sampson County Board of Commissioners May 12, 2008, regular meeting, the resolution creating the Sampson County Tourism Development Authority was adopted.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Turlington, seconded by Councilmember Strickland and unanimously passed, Deborah Johnson was appointed to be the representative from the Clinton City Council. City Manager John Connet or his designee will be one of two non-voting ex-officio members.

BUDGET

City Manager Connet informed City Council that the estimated fund balance reserved and unreserved on June 30, 2008, in general fund will be \$4,945,435 and water & sewer will be \$1,971,553. He added the overall proposed budget in general fund for FY 2008-2009 totals \$8,664,768 with a \$.41 per \$100 tax rate.

Mr. Connet reviewed each department's proposed budget. He stated that there will be a hiring freeze for three positions—two in Public Works and one in the Police Department. He stated there would be reclassifications within the Finance Department. City Manager Connet informed City Council that in the Fire Department proposed budget, the rescue pumper debt service is included. He also proposed to use \$7,000 of the Firemen's Relief Fund monies to buy items for the Fire Department; such as, mattresses, box springs, physical fitness equipment, etc. He further stated that the city has requested an increase of

money from the County because of increased calls for the Fire Department outside the city limits.

Regarding the Recreation Department, City Manager Connet stated this department is the #1 capital priority. Mr. Connet reviewed the FY 2008-2009 Fee Schedule. Judi Nicholson spoke regarding her proposed changes. She stated that since July 1, 2007, there have been 1,888 children participants at the Recreation Department. She gave a breakdown concerning how monies have been spent to include \$21,094 in uniforms, \$2,000 clinics, \$2,500 awards, etc. Ms. Nicholson proposed youth sports fees to increase from \$20 per child per sport to \$35 per child per sport. City Council stated they would like for the proposal to change to \$25 per child and possibly \$30 per child per sport (if County increases their fees).

City Manager stated Public Works Director Doherty re-worked the water rates proposing \$1.72 per 100 cu. ft. for residential water and sewer rates consumption. City Manager was instructed to reduce these consumption rates to \$1.70 per 100 cu.ft.

City Council members spoke. Councilmember Strickland wanted Judi Nicholson to know that City Council thanks her and her staff for all that they do. Councilmember Stefanovich voiced his concerns regarding the infrastructure. He made a recommendation that we work on creating a reserve in the budget to address brown water and other problems. He stated he feels we need a tax increase. Councilmember Harris stated she is not ready to consider a tax increase until we know what is going to happen with the fuel situation. Councilmember Turlington was very appreciative of the City Manager and staff's work and how well the budget is being worked out with so little money.

Planning and Zoning Director Vreugdenhil praised City Manager Connet for how he has handled the budget considering how economy is steadily increasing. He further stated that Public Works and the Recreation Department do well with a little.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Harris, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, and unanimously passed, a public hearing on the FY 2008-2009 Budget was called for June 3, 2008, at 7:00 PM.

The scheduled workshop for Thursday, May 22, 2008, was cancelled.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Harris, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

City Clerk

Mayor