

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 24, 2007

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina was held at 8:00 a.m. on February 24, 2007 at City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling, and Councilmembers Becton, Harris, Stefanovich, Strickland and Turlington were present. City Clerk Betty Fortner; city manager John Connet; director of finance Betty Brewer; fire chief Phillip Miller; planning and community development director Jeff Vreugdenhil; planners Kyle Ellis and Mary Rose; police chief Mike Brim; public works director Chris Doherty; and recreation director Judi Nicholson were present.

The purpose of the meeting was the annual council/staff planning retreat.

RESOLUTIONS—DOWNTOWN

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Turlington, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING OF FAYETTEVILLE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Clinton to improve the appearance of the downtown; and

WHEREAS, budgetary restraints necessitate improvements be done in phases; and

WHEREAS, Phase I has been completed and Phase II continues the beautification of the downtown, which is still vibrant; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Clinton awarded bids for construction of Phase II of the Downtown Revitalization Project on September 5, 2006; and

WHEREAS, included in this project are improvements to Fayetteville Street, a state street, at a cost of \$190,000; and

WHEREAS, if done as a part of this project, the State can delay improvements to Fayetteville Street; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Clinton that it officially requests the State to approve \$190,000, which is the projected amount to rehabilitate Fayetteville Street, a NC DOT street.

MISCELLANEOUS

The council and staff discussed long range plans to improve the city's appearance. Suggestions included more green space and development in the downtown and bike and walk ways leading to Royal Lane Park.

Affordable housing was cited as a need. City Manager Connet said since there are very limited funding sources, monies must come from public/private partnerships.

City Manager Connet suggested creating a dedicated capital reserve fund funded by a percentage of new growth tax revenues to pay for on-going and new projects.

STREETS

The Highways 24/701 connector road was discussed. Councilmember Stefanovich presented the idea of reducing the project by only building a new road from Airport Road to Jefferson Street and realigning Indiantown Road at Tram Road. NCDOT plan to realign Indiantown Road at Elizabeth Street. Planner Ellis mentioned NCDOT Safe Roads to Schools program as a possible funding source.

RECREATION

City Manager Connet said with the resignation of Roderick Simmons, Sampson County Recreation Director, the county approached the city about merging the two recreation programs. It was the consensus to discuss the merger with the county with the understanding that funding will be a major consideration.

Recreation Director Nicholson presented a proposed operation and cost plan for a summer day camp program. It was the consensus of the council to offer the day camp, but to offer it to city residents first, and if there are unfilled slots, then county residents may apply. Also, the city is to look at funding sources to reduce the cost per child.

CITY COUNCIL

Fire Chief Miller presented National Incident Management System IS 700 training and administered the examination to the mayor and councilmembers.

REPORTS

City Manager Connet presented a State of the City Report to the Council.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor