



**MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION HELD  
ON  
NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

The November 14, 2017, meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, entered closed session at approximately 7:43 PM. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Turlington, Strickland, Bryant, Stefanovich, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton were present.

Also present were Interim City Manager Robert Hyatt, HR Director Lisa Carter, City Attorney Howard, and City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt.

Also present was a candidate for the interim city manager's position, Leonard Barefoot.

Mayor Starling called the meeting to order.

Leonard Barefoot was presented to the group. Briefly, he introduced himself. He gave some background regarding his previous employment. After a short period, he exited the closed session.

Mayor and City Council discussed Mr. Barefoot becoming the next interim city manager. Also, they discussed Tom Hart, a candidate for the next city manager. Mr. Robert Hyatt stated that he called past employers regarding the potential candidate for the next city manager. He stated that he found nothing negative about Mr. Hart. Mr. Hyatt stated that Tom Hart seems to be the best candidate presently.

Councilmember Strickland stated that he called his brother who lives in the vicinity of the potential city manager's candidate and asked him to check him out. Councilmember Strickland stated that once again, nothing negative was said about Mr. Hart.

City Attorney Howard stated that the contract needs to be revised and the candidate agrees. He stated that vital information is missing.

Moving expense was discussed briefly.

Councilmember Stefanovich spoke to the group. He stated that one of the reasons he chose to run as a councilmember was that Royal Lane Park was in a mess! During that time, another individual was the city manager. He stated that the selection of a city manager will be

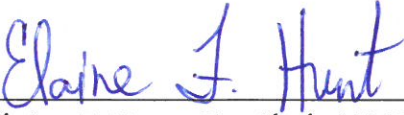
the last endeavor that he, as a councilmember, will have input. Councilmember Stefanovich stated that the selection of the next city manager is truly a big deal! He concluded by stating that he feels Tom Hart would be the best one for the job. Mayor Pro Tem Becton agreed with Councilmember Stefanovich. Councilmembers Turlington and Strickland agreed likewise. City Attorney Howard stated that he felt "due diligence" has been done.

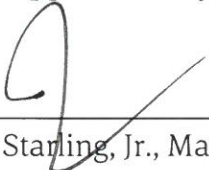
Councilmember Bryant applauded having a good report; however, he questioned whether the City of Clinton was settling for a particular candidate versus continuing the search. He asked the group for their opinion of the bigger picture for the City. He questioned the vision.

Mayor Starling stated that he desires innovation and improvements. Mayor Pro Tem Becton stated that the City needs to be willing to grow. Councilmember Strickland stated that he desires an even better city so others as his daughter would like to live.

Councilmember Stefanovich stated that years ago, City Council had workshops that he felt was very beneficial. He recommended revisiting these workshops.

City Council and others exited closed session at approximately 8:05 PM.

  
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Elaine F. Hunt, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

  
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Lew Starling, Jr., Mayor