

AUGUST 4, 2009, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in regular session at 7:00 PM on August 4, 2009, in the city hall auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Harris, Stefanovich, Strickland, Becton, and Turlington were present. City Attorney Dale Johnson; City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt; City Manager John F. Connet; Assistant City Manager Shawn Purvis; Interim Fire Chief Todd Solice; Planning and Community Development Director Jeff Vreugdenhil; Planner Mary Rose; Recreation Director Judi Nicholson; Public Works Director Chris Doherty; Human Resource Manager Lisa Carter; Finance Director Betty Brewer; Police Chief Mike Brim; and Chris Berendt of the Sampson Independent were present.

Rev. Councilman Marcus Becton gave the invocation.

CITY COUNCIL

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Harris, seconded by Councilmember Becton, the minutes of the May 6, 2003; March 7, 2006; and August 1, 2006; closed session meetings were approved unanimously.

RECOGNITION

City Manager Connet introduced Milton Carpenter, National Flood Insurance Programmer (NFIP) with the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management.

Mr. Carpenter commended the City of Clinton for its great accomplishment of being upgraded from a nine rating to an eight rating by FEMA. He commended Planning and Zoning Director Jeff Vreugdenhil and Senior Planner Mary Rose for a job well done. Before presenting a plaque to Mayor Starling, Vreugdenhil, and Rose, he briefed City Council regarding the benefits of this upgrade to include 10% discount on flood insurance.

FIRE INSPECTION'S DIVISION

Assistant City Manager Purvis spoke regarding the consideration of establishing a Fire Inspection's Division for the City of Clinton. He stated that currently, the City contracts with Sampson County at no cost to provide fire inspections. He stated that due to the geographic size of the county and the distance between municipalities, the City may be able to provide fire inspection services more efficiently to city citizens if the city institutes its own inspections program.

City Manager Connet conveyed that because the City is currently searching for a new fire chief, we are at a crucial juncture in establishing a fire inspection's division. He further stated that this item is for informational purposes only and no action is to be taken.

BIDS— NEW PUBLIC WORKS GARBAGE TRUCK

Public Works Director Doherty spoke regarding the award of bid for the new garbage truck. He stated that a bid opening took place on July 23, 2009, for the purchase of a 33-cubic yard dual side load garbage truck and three vendors presented competitive bids: Triple T Freightliner, of Wilmington, NC; Lodal South, of Rockingham, NC; and Triple T Parts & Equipment Company, of Rocky Point, NC. He further stated that Triple T Freightliner, of Wilmington, NC, was the low bidder and recommended purchasing the new garbage truck from them for \$156,436 to include a safety feature for \$1300, which was omitted in error from his memorandum.

City Manager Connet stated that \$180,000 was budgeted for this item.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Stefanovich, seconded by Councilmember Harris, it was approved unanimously to purchase the 33-cubic yard dual side load garbage truck from Triple T Freightliner, of Wilmington, NC, for \$156,436.

REPORTS

City Manager Connet acknowledged that the fire, financial, personnel, police, and minimum housing reports were received and he stands ready to answer any questions from City Council regarding the reports

City Manager Connet stated that the search for a new fire chief is progressing. He stated that soon a new fire chief should be announced.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Maxine Harris voiced her concerns regarding the Code Enforcement reports. She asked City Council to pay close attention to the location of these excessive overgrown lots. She stated the majority is in District 5 and she solicited ideas from City Council on how to eliminate or begin to eliminate these problems.

City Manager Connet stated that many property owners in this district live out of town. He stated that legislature is looking at a law to change the way this concern is handled. He further stated that City Council might consider increasing the fees regarding these overgrown lots.

Planning and Zoning Director Vreugdenhil encouraged ideas to solve the problem also; however, he stated that the list has decreased from previous years.

Mayor Starling instructed City Manager Connet to contact City Council one by one during the upcoming weeks to get their ideas on how to solve this problem.

No one else appeared to be heard. Upon a motion made by Councilmember Stefanovich, seconded by Councilmember Becton, and unanimously passed, the city council meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Elaine F. Hunt, City Clerk

Luther D. Starling, Jr., Mayor