

November 12, 2009 Special Meeting

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina continued from November 4, 2009, was reconvened at 6:00 PM on November 12, 2009 at City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Becton, Stefanovich, Strickland, Turlington, and Harris were present. The city manager, assistant city manager, public works director, and finance director were in attendance. Also present were Chris Thomson and Dan Boone of The Wooten Company, Raleigh, North Carolina. Absent was City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt.

City Manager Connet gave the invocation and dinner was served.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Mayor Starling asked City Manager to begin meeting and he did so by first stating the purpose of the meeting, which was to discuss some future capital projects. City Manager Connet stated that City Council would be briefed on 4 projects. He stated that he would like to take advantage of current low prices, so that the City will be in good shape when the economy recovers.

PROPOSED WATER PLANT EXPANSION – WOOTEN COMPANY

City Manager Connet introduced Chris Thomson and Dan Boone of The Wooten Company to City Council. The Wooten Company's representatives gave a presentation on the water treatment plant expansion.

Chris Thomson discussed the supply and demand of the City's water system over a twenty-year period, as well as the possibility of supplying additional water to Smithfield Foods. Mr. Thomson stated that this proposed project would double the size of our water plant, add 3 new deep wells, 3 new shallow wells, and a redundant water line from the plant to the city. He further stated that the estimated cost of this project will be \$4.6 million with a potential of receiving an approximately 45% grant.

City Manager Connet reviewed the debt table from the CIP to show when this debt would be amortized.

Mr. Thomson continued his presentation by discussing the following advantages of this proposed water treatment plant expansion:

- City would increase its supply capability
- Funding would be available from USDA
- City would have new water customers in Smithfield Foods
- Smithfield Foods may be willing to contribute towards the project funding

Mayor Starling asked for comments from the group and there were none.

CITY HALL EXPANSION

City Manager Connet presented a layout of the proposed City Hall expansion. He stated that he had received a base bid estimate of \$378,000.

Mayor Starling asked for questions or comments from the group. He stated that presently, we are simply researching cost—nothing is certain.

PUBLIC ART PROJECT

City Manager Connet expressed that the public art project will be located at the former jail site. He stated that the community planning phase has been completed with contributions consisting of the City giving \$5,000 and a State Arts Council Grant in the amount of \$5,000. He further stated that the next step regarding this public art project will be the conceptual design. City Manager Connet stated that the estimated cost for the design will be \$9,000.

Councilmember Stefanovich commented on the time contributed by him and others to the planning of this project. He stated that they are very excited about this project.

Reviewing a hand-out passed to City Council showing the Implementation Phase to include a budget of \$50,000 (State Arts Council Grant - \$25,000 and Local match approximately \$25,000), Councilmember Strickland questioned what the project would produce to account for a budget of this amount.

Councilmember Stefanovich explained the art process and stated that we will receive a joint effort between the artist, landscape architect, and the community.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Stefanovich, seconded by Councilmember Turlington, it passed unanimously to approve a \$9,000 conceptual design.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

City Manager spoke regarding the affordable housing program and the potentiality of purchasing a house from Sampson Community College. It was stated the expenditures would include: (1) Home - \$45,000 - \$60,000 (cost plus 20%) and (2) Moving and setup - \$20,000 - \$25,000.

Mayor Starling stated that the City wants to move forward with this project; however, cost details need to be resolved.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Becton, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, and unanimously passed, the special meeting of the Clinton City Council adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Shawn Purvis, Recorder /Asst. City Manager

Elaine F. Hunt, City Clerk

Lew Starling, Mayor