



Clinton Connection

Citizen's Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2010

Volume 2, Number 3

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Community Calendar

- **Thursday, January 7**
Youth Basketball Games Begin
Clinton Recreation
- **Saturday, January 9**
Youth Volleyball Games Begin
Clinton Recreation
- **Friday, January 15 to Feb. 26**
Baseball/Softball Registration
Clinton Recreation
- **Monday, January 18**
Martin Luther King Banquet
Clinton-Sampson Chamber of Commerce
- **Thursday, February 18**
District 1 Meeting
Beaman St. Fire Station
- **Thursday, March 4**
District 4 Meeting
Bellamy Recreation Center
- **Saturday, March 6**
Youth Soccer Games Begin
Sampson County Soccer Club
- **Tuesday, March 9**
District 2 Meeting
Beaman St. Fire Station
- **Thursday, March 11**
District 5 Meeting
Sampson Community Center
- **Tuesday, March 16**
District 3 Meeting
City Hall Auditorium

Connecting with Council



Rev. Marcus Becton is the longest-sitting member on the Clinton City Council, representing District 3 since 1996. Originally from Turkey, Rev. Becton and his wife Wendy moved to Clinton in 1990. From an early age, he demonstrated his eagerness to serve others, completing seminary two years before graduating from Union High School. Aspiring to become a police officer, he enrolled in criminal justice courses at Sampson Community College, but he soon felt a calling to fulltime ministry. Rev. Becton currently pastors Way of the Cross Church Ministries and is a counselor with Brock Memorial and Worley Funeral Home. He believes his roles as pastor and counselor translate well into his role on City Council. Rev. Becton says, "I enjoy building relationships, and I believe those relationships allow me to better serve the citizens I represent." Using those relationships to help build strong, safe neighborhoods and create opportunities for the city's youth is

Rev. Becton's goal as a member of City Council. "We've done a lot as a council," says Becton, "and if we continue work together to better the lives of our citizens, the best is yet to come."

Change in Collection Days Reduces Cost and Improves Efficiency

Looking to improve customer service and efficiency, Clinton Public Works recommended to City Council a change in the solid waste collection schedule. City Council approved the change in December. As of February 1, 2010, city residents who currently receive garbage collection on Mondays will receive garbage collection on Fridays. "After reviewing our collection practices, we determined we could use our resources in a more efficient manner," says Public Works Director Chris Doherty. According to Doherty, Public Works currently collects garbage for 780 homes on Mondays. Many of these homes also receive landscaping services after their Monday collection date that results in extra yard debris for collection. Some residents subsequently call the department to pick up the yard debris so it is not out during the weekend. "Eliminating an extra truck and crew from going back during the week to collect at a home a second time will help us save time and money," says Doherty. "We believe the change will better serve the citizens in terms of service and our fiscal responsibility." If you have questions about your garbage collection day, please contact Clinton Public Works at 910-299-4905 or visit the city's website.

City Sets Dates for Annual District Meetings

The City has set the schedule for its annual district meetings. The meetings are intended to open the lines of communication between citizens and City Hall. "The district meetings provide a great opportunity for citizens who do not typically come to monthly council meetings to express their concerns and provide us with feedback," says City Manager John Connet. The Mayor, district councilmember, and city staff will be present at each meeting to review accomplishments, answer questions, address concerns, and receive feedback from residents. The Mayor and City Council encourage citizens to come and offer ideas and express concerns. The district meetings will be held in February and March at locations convenient to each district. If you have questions about your district, visit the Mayor and City Council page on the city website, or call City Hall at 910-592-1961.

District Meeting Schedule

District 1	Feb. 18 7:00 pm	Beaman St. Fire Station
District 2	Mar. 9 7:00 pm	Beaman St. Fire Station
District 3	Mar. 16 7:00 pm	City Hall Auditorium
District 4	Mar. 4 7:00 pm	Bellamy Center
District 5	Mar. 11 7:00 pm	Sampson Center



Important Numbers

Emergency.....911
City Hall.....592-1961
Water & Sewer Billing.....299-4909
Code Enforcement.....299-4904
Sanitation.....299-4905
Streets.....299-4905
After-hours Emergency...592-1151

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at City Hall. Those interested in speaking at meetings should contact the City Clerk at (910) 592-1961.

Missed the City Council Meeting? Watch it on TV!

You can watch City Council meetings every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on GOAC-15. StarVision broadcasts the meetings throughout the month on cable channel 15.

Need More Information?

Visit our website 24-7 for more information about Clinton, community events, and what the City is doing for you.

What do You Think?

We'd like to know what you think about the newsletter and how we can improve it...

Call or email us at:

910-592-1961

spurvis@cityofclintonnc.us

Dollar Branch Sewer Project Nears Completion with Phase III

The Dollar Branch sewer outfall line is in the final phase of a three-phase upgrade project. The Dollar Branch sewer line, which runs from the rear gate of the Smithfield plant on Butler Avenue to the wastewater treatment plant, will receive its final upgrade this winter. The first phase, completed in December 2006, upgraded the line from the 421/701 by-pass into the wastewater treatment plant. The second phase was the largest of the three phases, replacing 12,500 feet of gravity sewer main pipes from the Smithfield plant to the 421/701 by-pass. It was completed in August 2008. The final phase is connecting the first two phases under the 421/701 by-pass. The total cost for all three phases was originally estimated at \$6.2 million. Competitive bidding and the economy, however, have resulted in a significant savings for the city, as the actual total cost will be around \$3.8 million. Funding for the entire project has been a combination of grant money from the NC Rural Center and a low interest loan from NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The system upgrade will increase the lifespan of the sewer line, help eliminate groundwater from entering the sewer system, decrease the potential for sewer spills, and increase the city's capacity to serve its largest employer, Smithfield Foods.

The Dollar Branch sewer outfall project will increase the city's capacity to serve industry while being completed at nearly \$2.5 million *below* the original estimated cost.

Fall Clean Up Helps Keep Clinton Beautiful

From October 12th to 16th, Clinton Public Works employees worked diligently to pick up yard debris, tires, metal scraps, and other debris not normally collected. The result was 107 tons of extra materials including 2.24 tons of old tires and 2.87 tons of scrap metal for recycling. "It takes a lot of time and effort during Fall Clean Up, but it's worth it when you know it helps keep our city clean," says Streets and Sanitation Manager Tony Steffen, "I think this is a great program because we are able to collect a lot of waste that may otherwise sit in people's homes or yards." The City plans to schedule another clean up week during the spring.

Complete City Forms and Applications Online

Do you need to register your child for sports but have been unable to find time to get by the recreation office? What about a zoning application, privilege license, or employment application? Now you can fill out all these applications and more and submit them from the comfort of your own home. The city is testing a program that allows citizens to complete and submit forms online. "We are excited about being able to offer this service," says Finance Officer Betty Brewer, "It is something we have been working toward, and we hope it will simplify the permit and application process." She adds, "Because we are still testing we cannot yet offer online payment. That is our next goal and we hope to offer it soon. Citizens can still pay by phone if they wish." To complete forms online, citizens will need to register and login. It is free and takes about 30 seconds. All online forms are available under each department's website or through the documents link on the city's homepage.

Employee Spotlight

Todd Solice was named Chief of the Clinton Fire Department in September. Chief Solice brings 20 years of firefighting experience to his new role. He joined the Clinton Fire Department in November 1989. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1996, captain in 1999, and he became deputy chief in 2001. City Manager John Connet stated, "We believe Todd is the right fit for the Clinton Fire Department and we look forward to working with Chief Solice in his new position." Upon hearing of the hiring, Mayor Lew Starling stated, "We are excited about Mr. Solice's selection as the next Fire Chief in Clinton. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position and we are confident he will do a great job for the city."

