



FEBRUARY 3, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in a regular session at 7:00 PM on February 3, 2026, in the City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Rose, DuBose, Corbett, Strickland, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton were present.

City Attorney Joel Starling, Jr., of The Law Office of W. Joel Starling, Jr., PLLC, was present.

Also present were City Manager James Duncan, Finance Director Rhonda Sommer, HR Director Natalie Blue, Planning Director Lyle Moore, Recreation Director Garrett Bryant, Public Safety Director Chief Adrian Mathews, Assistant Police Chief Jesse Kittrell, Fire Chief Hagan Thornton, Main Street Manager Tyler Wise, and Interim Public Works Director Travis Anderson.

Noah Britt of The Sampson Independent was present.

Mayor Starling called the meeting to order and asked Reverend Roy Hilburn from Grace Methodist Church to give the invocation.

CITY COUNCIL—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Rose, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, the minutes of January 6, 2026, regular session were unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION

Mayor Starling announced the retirement of the former Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, Anthony Davis.

Current Public Safety Director and Chief of Police, Adrian Mathews, stepped forward to read a tribute honoring Anthony Davis's career. He stated that Anthony Davis's career at the City of Clinton began in August 2003 and highlighted his leadership, character, and service. Chief Mathews added that Anthony Davis became Chief of Police in 2021 and praised him for strengthening the department and community relations.

Anthony Davis appeared before the City Council and thanked the city, community, and Police Department. He also thanked his family for supporting him.

OATHS

Mayor Starling gave oaths to Planning Director Lyle Moore and the appropriate individuals for the respective public hearings.

PUBLIC HEARING —REQUEST FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT-ARCADE—915 COLLEGE STREET

Mayor Starling opened a public hearing on a special-use request from Jessica Estrada to operate an arcade at 915 College Street, Clinton, NC.

Planning Director Lyle Moore appeared before the council to present the details of the request.

1. 1.39 acres
 2. City Center of Clinton, LLC has signed the application as owner, and Jessica Estrada has signed the application as applicant.
 3. The property is zoned by HC-Highway Commercial and surrounded by Industrial and neighborhood shopping.
 4. Proposed use: Family-friendly arcade
 5. Features: Arcade games, prize redemption, small lounge
 6. Employees: 4
 7. Hours: Monday-Sunday, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
1. The special use standards from Section 11.4 Step 6, B.2 of the City of Clinton Land Development Ordinance shall be considered by the City Council as well as

the evidentiary requirements for quasi-judicial hearings.

Mayor Starling asked Jessica Estrada, the Applicant, to step forward and present her request to the Council.

Ms. Estrada stated that the arcade would be family-friendly and provide safe after-school activities for children. She stated that she currently works with children on the autism spectrum and hopes to create an inclusive environment. She added that parents will be asked to accompany their children and that the arcade will be limited to under 30 people at a time.

Mayor Starling asked if anyone would like to be heard.

Johnny Pridgen, a member of First Baptist Church, requested to speak. Mr. Pridgen expressed great concern about the proximity to the Church, potential lack of control, parking limitations, and possible disturbances.

Ron Davis, the owner of WCLN, requested to speak. He spoke in support of the arcade, noting the similarity to the downtown arcade. He stated that WCLN is located next to the downtown arcade and that no disturbance has ever occurred. He added that it provides positive youth engagement.

Additional discussion included possible age conditions. Council noted enforcement considerations and consistency with other arcades.

Mayor Starling read Standard 1: If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all the requirements of this Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Becton made a motion that the Applicant had met Standard 1, and Councilmember Rose seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously that the standard had been met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 2: The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety. Five voted that the standard would be met. Councilmember Dubose made a motion that the Applicant had met Standard 2, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously that the standard had been met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 3: The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property. Councilmember Dubose made a motion that the Applicant had met Standard 3, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously that the standard was met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 4: The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. Mayor Pro Tem Becton made a motion that the Applicant had met Standard 4, and Councilmember Corbett seconded the motion. The council voted 4-1 that the standard had been met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 5: The use will be in general conformity with the Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council. Councilmember Dubose made a motion that the Applicant had met Standard 5, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously that the standard had been met.

No one else wished to be heard, and Mayor Starling closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Corbett, seconded by Councilmember Rose, the special use request to operate an arcade at 915 College Street passed.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE CLINTON CITY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF SAMPSON

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

On 02/3/2026, the Clinton City Council, held a quasi-judicial hearing on matter SU-1-26-1, a request by Jessica Estrada for a Special Use Permit to operate a Arcade, provided for in the Clinton Land Development Ordinance as an Indoor Recreation Facility for less than 1,000 people, located at 915 College Street. Real property more particularly described in that deed recorded in Book 2027, Page 182 of the Sampson County Registry with assigned tax parcel ID No. 12085384001.

After having heard the sworn testimony offered by staff and the applicant, and having considered the agenda materials that were accepted into evidence, the City Council makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision:

Findings of Fact

1. The property is under Center of Clinton, LLC. The property contains approximately 1.39 acre parcel of land located at 915 College Street, which is more particularly described in that certain deed recorded in Book 2027, Page 182 of the Sampson County Registry with assigned Sampson County PIN No. 12085384001 (the "Property"). The property is currently located in a HC-Highway Commercial zoning district.

2. Jessica Estrada submitted an application for a Special Use Permit to operate an Arcade, provided for in the Clinton Land Development Ordinance as an Indoor Recreation Facility for less than 1,000 people, located at 915 College Street.

3. Planning Director Lyle Moore testified, and the City Council finds as fact that the application for a Special Use Permit is complete, and the proposed use will comply with all of the required conditions and specifications of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance, subject to the conditions set forth herein below.

4. Jessica Estrada spoke in support of the request. Members of the First Baptist Church expressed concerns about the clientele associate with the Special Use request.

Conclusion and Decision

1. In order to be entitled to a Special Use Permit, an applicant must prove that all of the following standards have been met:

- a) If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance;
- b) The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety; and
- c) The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; and
- d) The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and
- e) The use will be in general conformity with the Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council.

2. The Board's decision must be based upon competent, material, and substantial evidence in the record.

3. The Board concludes that the use meets all development requirements of the Land Development Ordinance.

4. The Board concludes that the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located according to the plan submitted.

5. The Board concludes that the use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property.

6. The Board concludes the use to be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located.

7. The Board concludes that the location and character of the use, if developed according to the plan as submitted and approved, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and in general conformity with the Clinton 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

8. The Board concludes that the Special Use Permit should be subject to the condition that the applicant adhere the following:

The venue operate Monday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Decision

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Council hereby grants to Jessica Estrada, a Special Use Permit to operate an Indoor Recreation Facility to located at 915 College Street of the Property identified above pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Clinton Land Development Ordinance, subject to the condition that the applicant the permits set forth herein above.

Signed and filed with the Clerk of Clinton, this the ____ day of _____ 2026.

Lew Starling, Mayor

Natalie Blue, City Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF SAMPSON

I, _____, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, certify that Natalie Blue personally came before me this day and acknowledged that she is the City Clerk to the City Council of Clinton, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the Clinton City Council, the foregoing Special Use was signed in its name by the Mayor of the City of Clinton, sealed with its official seal, and attested by herself as the Clerk of Clinton.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: _____

PUBLIC HEARING —REQUEST FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT-135' CELL TOWER—BOYKIN BRIDGE ROAD

Mayor Starling opened a public hearing on a special-use request from Lynda Carr to place a 135-foot cell tower on Boykin Bridge Road in the RA-20 Residential Agriculture District.

Planning Director Lyle Moore appeared before the council to present the details of the request.

2. 64-acre parcel
3. Lynda Carr has signed the application as owner, and Southern Towers/ Rob Mears has signed the application as applicant.
4. Tower height: 135 feet
5. Existing land use: Farmland/Vacant
6. Existing zoning: RA-20 Residential Agriculture
7. FAA Determination: No hazard to air navigation
8. All Adjoining property owners have been notified.
9. The special use standards from Section 11.4 Step 6, B.2 of the City of Clinton

Land Development Ordinance shall be considered by the City Council, as well as the evidentiary requirements for quasi-judicial hearings.

Mayor Starling asked if anyone would like to be heard

Paul Parker, 2724 Lakeview Drive, Raleigh, NC, appeared on behalf of the applicant. He stated that his expertise in towers dates to 1993 and that he has been involved in building networks for many companies. He stated that the proposed tower is a Verizon tower and doesn't differ from any other tower, except for its height. He added that the tower is reduced in height to comply with FAA regulations. He welcomed questions from the council.

Donnie Pell, managing partner for Southern Towers, 15902 Lakewood Drive, Tennessee, appeared before Council to be heard in favor of the proposed tower. He expressed the willingness to answer any questions that the Council may have.

Michael Burkowitz, Appraiser, 1100 Sundance Drive, Concord, NC, appeared before the council to be heard in favor of the proposed tower. He stated that he conducted an impact analysis and claimed no substantial impact on property values. He added that he cited comparable studies in Sampson County and elsewhere. He also stated that towers often coexist near schools.

Mayor Starling questioned how applicable the data Mr. Burkowitz used was to the pending application.

Councilman Strickland asked Mr. Pell about the Determination of No Hazard letter from the FAA and the lighting that would be used on the proposed tower.

Mayor Starling asked if anyone would like to be heard.

Susan Brewington, Shirley Honeycutt, Corey Hall, Denise Rentz, and Dr. Ray Thomas all appeared before the council in opposition to the proposed tower. All were residents who would live in neighborhoods near the site of the proposed tower. Residents expressed concerns about potential health risks to children posed by the tower, property values, FAA and airport safety, and long-term unknown health impacts.

No one else asked to testify, and Mayor Starling closed the public hearing.

Mayor Starling read Standard 1: If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance. Council Strickland made a motion that the Applicant had not met Standard 1, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton seconded the motion.

The Council voted unanimously that the standard was not met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 2: The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety. Council Strickland made a motion that the Applicant had not met Standard 2, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton seconded the motion. The Council voted 4-1 that the standard was not met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 3: The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property. Councilman DuBose made a motion that the Applicant had not met Standard 3, and Councilwoman Corbett seconded. The Council voted unanimously that the standard was not met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 4: The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. Councilman DuBose made a motion that the Applicant had not met Standard 4, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton seconded. The Council voted unanimously that the standard was not met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 5: The use will be in general conformity with the Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council. Councilman DuBose made a motion that the Applicant had not met Standard 5, and Councilwoman Corbett seconded. The Council voted unanimously that the standard was not met.

The request failed to meet all five standards; therefore, the application was denied.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE CLINTON CITY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF SAMPSON

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

On 02/3/2026, the Clinton City Council, held a quasi-judicial hearing on matter SU-1-26-2, a request by Southern Towers for a Special Use Permit to construct a 135' cellular tower along Boykin Bridge Road, to include 64.64 acres of certain real property more particularly described in that deed recorded in Book 1900, Page 665 of the Sampson County Registry with assigned tax parcel ID No. 15016112203.

After having heard the sworn testimony and evidence offered by staff, the applicant, and opponents, the City Council makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision:

Findings of Fact

4. Lynda Carr is the owner of an approximately 64.64 acre parcel of land along Boykin Bridge Road, which is more particularly described in that certain deed recorded in Book 1900, Page 665 of the Sampson County Registry with assigned Sampson County PIN No. 15016112203 (the "Property"). The Property is currently located in a RA-20 Residential Agriculture zoning district.

5. Rob Mears submitted an application for a Special Use Permit on behalf of Southern Towers to operate construct a 135' cellular tower along Boykin Bridge Road.

6. Planning Director Lyle Moore testified that the property to the North of the subject Property is zoned R-8 and RA-20, the property to the East is zoned Public Conservation, and the property to the South and West is zoned RA-20. Mr. Moore testified that the Property would be secured by a 60' by 60' fence that will be buffered, which meets the LDO's requirements for buffering. Mr. Moore testified that the Applicant had provided a Determination of No Hazard Letter from FAA. Mr. Moore testified that the property had been posted and all adjoining landowners had been notified. Mr. Moore reminded the Council that their decisions must be based on competent, substantial, and material evidence.

7. The Council finds that the proposed cell tower site is located on Boykin Bridge Road. Colonial Heights subdivision is located to the North, and Sampson Middle School and Clinton High School are located to the West, across from Boykin Bridge Road and West Elizabeth Street.

8. Mr. Paul Parker testified that he had reviewed the site plan and had been siting towers since 1993. Mr. Parker stated that the tower was shorter than most towers. Mr. Parker testified that the application met the requirements of the Land Development Ordinance and referenced documents that had been presented to the Planning Board. However, Mr. Parker did not discuss the documents, lay any foundation for the information contained in the documents, seek to introduce the documents at the hearing, or address any of the specific standards that the City Council is required to address when deciding whether to grant special use permit.

9. Mr. Donnie Pell testified that he was a managing partner for the Applicant and was available to answer any questions that the City Council might have. Mr. Pell did not offer an testimony or other evidence addressing the special use standards that the City Council is required to consider when evaluating a special use permit. When asked about the Determination of No Hazard Letter and the risk the tower posed to aircraft at the nearby airport, Mr. Pell testified that the tower would have lighting. When asked about the risk to aircraft if the tower lights malfunctioned, Mr. Pell stated that the airport was three miles from the tower. The Council takes notice of the fact that the tower is, in fact, much closer. When asked if he had been to the airport, Mr. Pell indicated that he had not.

10. Mr. Michael Burkowitz testified that he is an appraiser who was asked to provide an impact analysis of the proposed use. Mr. Burkowitz testified that this was the fifth such study he has done in Sampson County and that, in his opinion, the proposed tower would not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property. Mr. Burkowitz testified that he visited the site, looked at adjacent properties, and looked at other towers in Sampson County. Mr. Burkowitz stated that he looked at data from two cell towers in Cumberland County on adjoining property. Mr. Burkowitz testified that he has seen towers near municipal airports and mentioned 50' towers. Mr. Burkowitz also testified regarding sales that he had examined on Shipp Road in Sampson County. Mr. Burkowitz stated that he was licensed in South Carolina and had testified close to 100 times in the State of North Carolina. When questioned, Mr. Burkowitz agreed that the Shipp Road properties were different than the adjoining properties in the present case.

11. The Council finds that Applicant did not provide sufficient evidence of sales sufficiently comparable to the adjoining property and proposed tower location at issue in this matter.

12. The Applicant did not offer any competent testimony addressing the possible effects of the proposed special use on public health or safety.

13. Ms. Susan Brewington testified that she lives on Jefferson Street and was in opposition to the proposed tower. She raised health concerns regarding the radiation exposure presented by the proposed tower. When Councilman Rose asked if it had, in fact, been established that cell towers caused radiation, the City Attorney instructed the Council that opinion testimony of this nature required expert testimony.

14. Ms. Shirley Honeycutt testified that she lived at 205 Jefferson Street. She raised concerns about the fact that all residents on Jefferson Street did not receive both of the notification letters and the fact that other residents of Colonial Heights Subdivision did not receive notification letters. The Council notes that only those residents whose property adjoins the parcel where the tower will be located are required to be notified directly by mail. The property was conspicuously posted in accordance with the requirements of the Land Development Ordinance. Ms. Shirley also testified about concerns with radio emissions from the proposed tower and the setback of the tower to adjoining properties. Ms. Brewington testified that she worked as a nurse for 39 years.

15. Mr. Corey Hall testified about research that discusses the possible health effects of radiofrequency radiation. Mr. Hall also testified about policies set by other school districts regarding the proximity of cell towers to schools. Mr. Hall offered general testimony about the effects of cell towers on property values. However, this information was not specific to the proposed site, and Mr. Hall is not an expert appraiser.

16. Ms. Denise Rentz testified that she was concerned about the tower. She raised concerns about the adequacy of notice that the public had received about the special use permit hearing. However, the Council finds that notice requirements were met. Ms. Rentz also raised concerns about the effects of radiofrequency radiation on public health and safety.

17. Dr. Ray Thomas testified that he is a physician at Fort Bragg and a resident of the City of Clinton. Dr. Thomas stated that he has experience working with radiation and stated that the health effects of radiofrequency radiation cannot be tested on children due to ethical guidelines that medical researchers are required to follow. Dr. Thomas testified that the effects of radiofrequency radiation are primarily based on distance.

18. The Council finds that the Applicant did not object to any of the testimony offered by opponents of the proposed cell tower.

19. The City Council finds that the Applicant did not meet its burden of producing competent, material, and substantial evidence tending to show that the proposed tower would comply with the requirements of the Land Development Ordinance, not materially endanger the public health or safety, not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property, would be in harmony with the area, and would be in general conformity with the Land Development Ordinance.

Conclusion and Decision

9. In order to be entitled to a Special Use Permit, an applicant must prove that all of the following standards have been met:

- f) If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all of the requirements of the Land Development Ordinance;
- g) The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety; and
- h) The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; and
- i) The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and
- j) The use will be in general conformity with the Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council.

10. The Applicant failed to carry its burden of producing competent, material, and substantial evidence that development complies with all the requirements of the Land Development Ordinance.

11. The Applicant failed to carry its burden of producing competent, material, and substantial evidence that the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located according to the plan submitted.

12. The Applicant failed to carry its burden of producing competent, material, and substantial evidence that the proposed cellular tower would not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property.

13. The Applicant failed to carry its burden of producing competent, material, and substantial evidence that the proposed cellular tower would be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located.

14. The Applicant is not entitled to issuance of the special use permit.

Decision

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Council denied Southern Towers Special Use Permit application to construct an 135' cellular tower along Boykin Bridge Road on the Property identified above in accordance with the provisions of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance.

Signed and filed with the Clerk of Clinton, this the ____ day of _____ 2026.

Lew Starling, Mayor

Natalie Blue, City Clerk

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF SAMPSON

I, _____, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, certify that Natalie Blue personally came before me this day and acknowledged that she is the City Clerk to the City Council of Clinton, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the Clinton City Council, the foregoing Special Use was signed in its name by the Mayor of the City of Clinton, sealed with its official seal, and attested by herself as the Clerk of Clinton.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: _____

RATIFICATION-CONTRACT TO PURCHASE A FIRE APPARATUS & SOLICITATION FOR BIDS TO OBTAIN FINANCING FOR THE FIRE APPARATUS

City Manager Duncan and Mayor Starling explained to Council that the Clinton Fire Department's ladder truck suddenly had a mechanical breakdown that could not be repaired. A new fire apparatus takes 2-3 years to be constructed; therefore, a used ladder truck was located and purchased. City Manager Duncan stated that the purchase was made in emergency circumstances and requested that the council ratify the purchase and the solicitation for bids to obtain financing.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dubose, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, it was passed unanimously to approve to ratify the purchase of a fire apparatus and solicitation of bids to obtain financing.

BUDGET—ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

City Manager Duncan informed Council that the budget amendment ordinance is a housekeeping item to appropriate necessary funds.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember Dubose, it passed unanimously to adopt the following budget ordinance amendment:

FY2025-2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #7

#2026.02_____

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Clinton, NC, that the following amendment be made to the Annual Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

| Account # | Account Title | Increase | Decrease |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 10-4200-4500 | Contracted Services | \$15,000 | |
| 10-4200-1500 | Building Maintenance | \$1,600 | |
| 10-4400-1500 | Building Maintenance | \$1,600 | |
| 10-4500-1500 | Building Maintenance | \$1,600 | |
| 10-4900-1500 | Building Maintenance | \$1,200 | |
| 10-4900-4500 | Contracted Services | \$10,000 | |
| 10-5300-7400 | Capital Outlay | \$925,000 | |
| 10-6400-0400 | Professional Service | \$7,500 | |
| | TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$963,500 | \$0 |

Section 2. To amend the General Fund, the revenues are to be changed as follows:

| Account # | Account Title | Increase | Decrease |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 10-3920-0000 | Loan Proceeds | \$925,000 | |
| 10-3990-0000 | Approp Fund Balance | \$38,500 | |
| | TOTAL REVENUES | \$963,500 | \$0 |

Section 5. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the City Clerk, City Manager and Finance Director for their direction.

Adopted this the 3RD day of February, 2026.

Lew Starling, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda Sommer, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION—TO ADOPT THE SAMPSON DUPLIN REGIONAL HAZARD
MITIGATION PLAN**

City Manager Duncan asked Planning Director Moore to provide a summary of the Hazard Mitigation Plan's purpose. Director Moore stated that the purpose of the plan is to help mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks. He added that FEMA requires a mitigation plan in the case of a natural disaster to approve funding.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, the resolution to adopt the Sampson Duplin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION
ADOPTING SAMPSON DUPLIN REGIONAL
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within The City of Clinton are subject to the effects of natural hazards that pose threats to lives and cause damage to property, and with the knowledge and experience that certain areas of the county are particularly vulnerable to drought, extreme heat, hailstorm, hurricane and tropical storm, lightning, thunderstorm wind/high wind, tornado, winter storm and freeze, flood, hazardous material incident, and wildfire; and

WHEREAS Sampson County desires to seek ways to mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Article 5, Section 160D-501 of Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the responsibility to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has enacted General Statute Section 166A-19.41 (*State emergency assistance funds*) which provides that for a state of emergency declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20(a) after the deadline established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the eligible entity shall have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, states that local governments must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds and other disaster-related assistance funding and that said Plan must be updated and adopted within a five-year cycle; and

WHEREAS The City of Clinton has performed a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and has updated the said plan as required under regulations and at 44 CFR Part 201 and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, and that the plans have been updated in accordance with federal laws including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201, and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Council of Clinton to fulfill this obligation in order that the City will be eligible for federal and state assistance in the event that a state of disaster is declared for a hazard event affecting Sampson County or the City of Clinton;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council of Clinton hereby:

- 1. Adopts the Sampson Duplin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- 2. Vests Sampson County Emergency Management with the responsibility, authority, and the means to:
 - (a) Inform all concerned parties of this action.
 - (b) Cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies and private firms which undertake to study, survey, map and identify floodplain areas, and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining floodplain areas in order to prevent exacerbation of existing hazard impacts.
- 3. Appoints Sampson County Emergency Management to assure that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and every five years as specified in the Plan to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that any needed revisions or amendments to the Plan are developed and presented to the Clinton City Council for consideration.
- 4. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted this on the 3rd day of February 2026.

Lew Starling, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Rhonda Sommer, City Clerk

Certified by: _____ (SEAL)

Date: _____

CONTRACT BID—REMOVAL OF ASPHALT- FIRE STATION 1 DRIVEWAY

City Manager Duncan requested that the council award a contract to Legion Asphalt for the removal of asphalt at the Wall Street Fire Station 1 driveway.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dubose, seconded by Councilmember Rose, it passed unanimously to award the asphalt removal contract to Legion Asphalt.

MID-CAROLINA REGIONAL COUNCIL—DELEGATE & ALTERNATE

Mayor Starling selected Mayor Pro Tem Becton as a delegate and Councilmember Joel Rose as an alternate for the Mid-Carolina Regional Council.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dubose, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, it passed unanimously to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Becton, delegate, and Councilmember Rose, alternate, on the Mid-Carolina Regional Council.

**RESOLUTION —DISPOSITION OF CLINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
PROPERTY VIA DIRECT SALE TO TAYLORS BRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Starling acknowledged the need to dispose of several pieces of the Clinton Fire Department’s property via direct sale to the Taylors Bridge Fire Department.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember DuBose, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, it passed unanimously to dispose of the property listed below via sale to the Taylors Bridge Fire Department:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN PERSONAL
PROPERTY VIA DIRECT SALE TO TAYLORS BRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT:**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Clinton, NC, desires to dispose of certain surplus properties of the City of Clinton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that:

- (1) The following properties are hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the City of Clinton:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| One (1) TNT Combi Tool Fire Department | Estimated value \$ 1,000.00 |
|---|-----------------------------|

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| One (1) TNT Hydraulic Hoses Fire Department | Estimated value \$500.00 |
| One (1) TNT Spreader Tool Fire Department Serial# 5281460 | Estimated value \$1,000.00 |
| One (1) TNT Ram Fire Department Serial# TR1040 | Estimated value \$500.00 |
| One (1) TNT Combi Tool Fire Department Serial # SLCC301312 | Estimated value \$1,500.00 |
| One (1) TNT Cutter Fire Department Serial # C251084 | Estimated value \$500.00 |
| One (1) TNT Hydraulic Pump Fire Department Serial # GCAE1624830 | Estimated value \$1,000.00 |
| One (1) TNT Cutter Fire Department Serial # SLC242294 | Estimated value \$2,000.00 |

- (2) The Finance Director is authorized to receive on behalf of the City Council of the City of Clinton sales.
- (3) The negotiated terms of sale may be accepted by the Finance Director and the sale consummated.

Adopted this the 3rd day of February 2026.

Lew Starling, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda Sommer, City Clerk

REPORTS

The City Council acknowledged the combined monthly staff report.

STAFF REPORTS

No reports were given.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

No reports were given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one appeared to be heard by the council.

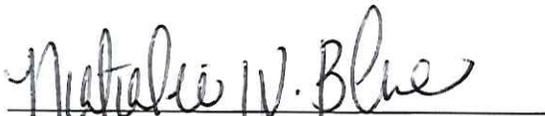
OTHER BUSINESS

No one appeared for other business.

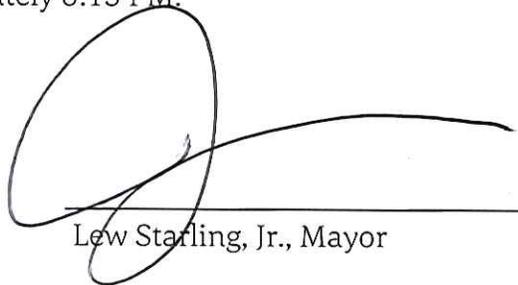
ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Dusbose, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, it passed unanimously to adjourn the February 3, 2026, City Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.



Natalie W. Blue, City Clerk



Lew Starling, Jr., Mayor