



## MARCH 2, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in regular session at 7:00 PM on March 2, 2021, in the City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Physically, present were Councilmembers DuBose, Ruggles, Bryant, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton. Councilmember Strickland attended the meeting virtually.

Also present was City Attorney Tim Howard, Howard, and Carr, PLLC.

Also present were City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt; Planning Director Mary Rose; City Manager Tom Hart; Assistant Police Chief Anthony Davis; Lt. Adrian Mathews; Finance Director Kristin Stafford; and Public Works Director Chris Medlin.

Police Chief Donald Edwards; Fire Chief Stephen Lovette; Parks and Recreation Director Jonathan Allen; Public Works Engineer Russell Byrd; and HR Director Shelvia Ashford, were absent.

Brendaly Vega, of the Sampson Independent, and Sylvia Chestnutt, of the Sampson Weekly, were present.

Mayor Starling called the meeting to order.

Mayor Starling called upon Mayor Pro Tem Becton, to give the invocation.

### CITY COUNCIL

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, the minutes of the October 1, 2013, closed session; February 4, 2014, closed session; August 5, 2014, closed session; October 7, 2014, special; October 7, 2014, closed session; December 6, 2016, closed session; January 3, 2017, closed session; September 5, 2017, closed session; and February 2, 2021, regular city council meetings, were unanimously approved.

## PRESENTATION – “2020 CLINTON MAIN STREET AWARD – BEST ADAPTIVE REUSE PROJECT”

Planning Director Rose stated that the Clinton Main Street Program and Clinton Development Corporation would like to honor Sampson Partners with the “2020 Clinton Main Street Program Award for Best Adaptive Reuse Project.” She stated that this Award is presented to a property owner/ property owners who has/have reused an older site or building for a purpose other than that which it was built or designed.

Planning Director Rose stated that Sampson Partners began 2020 with an event in January, which dedicated the J. C. Pridgen Family Building along East Main Street in Downtown Clinton. Mrs. Rose stated that this project included, “The Shop on Main,” and an additional space utilized by Sampson Community College for classes in connection with the SCC Small Business Center.

Mayor Starling welcomed the group to the front and presented to them the Millstone Award and a Certificate of Recognition. The group consisted of Mr. Johnny Pridgen, Dr. Paul E. Viser, Ms. Peggy Melvin, Ms. Margaret Spivey, Ms. Rhonda Davis, and Ms. Rhonda West.

Pictures were taken by representatives from The Sampson Weekly and The Sampson Independent.

Dr. Viser and Mr. Pridgen were asked about future projects, to which Mr. Pridgen responded, “There is nothing finalized on the other buildings.” Dr. Viser stated that this partnership is Christian-oriented. He stated that future projects will be done in increments and hopefully, in a couple of years, it will all look great.

Mayor Starling thanked Sampson Partners for their service to the City of Clinton.

## PRESENTATION – 2020 CRIME REPORT

Due to Police Chief Donald Edwards’ absence, this item was continued until the April 6, 2021, City Council Meeting.

## PUBLIC HEARING – OATHS

Oaths were not necessary for this March 2, 2021, public hearing.

## P & Z – 412 JOHNSON STREET – STEVE BASS

Mayor Starling opened a public hearing on a request by Steve Bass to rezone approximately 16,767 square feet located at 412 Johnson Street from R-8 Residential to O & I Office and Institutional District.

Planning Director Mary Rose explained the request and gave the staff and Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation to approve the request upon the findings of fact and zoning consistency statement.

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

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, the following amendment #2021.03.01 to the Zoning Ordinance was unanimously adopted:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 160A-383, the City of Clinton Planning Board does hereby find and determine that the recommendation of map amendment RZ-2-21-1 to be rezoned from R-8 Residential to O & I Office and Institutional District is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Clinton 2035 Comprehensive Plan. Section 6, Future Land Use, of the 2035 Clinton Comprehensive Plan addresses the appropriateness of Office & Institutional Districts as transitional buffer zones between major arterials or more intensely developed commercial areas and residential districts.

#### ORDINANCES - BUDGET

Finance Director Kristin Stafford requested that Mayor Starling and City Council approve budget amendments and a project ordinance amendment to keep the general ledger balanced in various line items and to reflect expenditures more accurately as it relates to the General, Water and Sewer Funds, and Beaman Street Fire Station Addition Project Ordinance.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember DuBose, it passed unanimously to adopt the following budget amendment #2021.03.02:

#### **Budget Ordinance Amendment Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget**

#### **#2021.03.02**

**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, 2021, and amended on December 1, 2020, is hereby amended as follows:

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

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Total</u>
10-4100-5300	Dues & subscriptions	\$ 1,000		
10-4100-5700	Miscellaneous		\$ 1,000	
10-4200-2600	Legal Advertising	500		
10-4200-4500	Contract service	1,000		
10-4400-1400	Travel & education	1,000		
10-4400-3300	Dept. supplies	3,000		

10-4400-4000	Employee wellness		1,500	
10-4400-4500	Contract service	7,000		
10-4400-5700	Miscellaneous	5,200		
10-4900-1500	Maintenance	3,000		
10-4900-3300	Dept. supplies	2,500		
10-4900-5300	Dues & subscriptions	500		
10-4900-5401	Workers comp	3,100		
10-4900-5402	Auto insurance	700		
10-4900-5700	Miscellaneous	100		
10-5100-1500	Maint & Janitorial	5,000		
10-5100-3300	Dept. supplies	7,500		
10-5100-4500	Contract service	10,000		
10-5100-5402	Auto insurance	4,300		
10-5300-1500	Maint/repair building	3,500		
10-5300-3301	Equipment & tools	20,000		
10-5300-3303	Haz-mat supplies	1,000		
10-5300-5402	Auto insurance	3,600		
10-5300-7300	Capital Outlay Improvem.	12,400		
10-5300-7400	Capital Outlay	4,100		
10-5600-2600	Advertising	100		
10-5600-3201	Sandclay & base material	1,000		
10-5600-4500	Contract service	2,500		
10-5600-7201	Sidewalks		20,000	
10-5610-1500	PW Complex maint.		4,000	
10-5610-4500	Contract service	4,000		
10-5900-1700	Maint/repair auto	20,000		
10-5900-4500	Contract service	5,000		
10-5900-5402	Auto insurance	3,200		
10-5900-7400	Capital outlay	241,500		
10-6200-0400	Professional Service	22,600		
10-6600-3700	Out of state sales tax	1,300		
10-6600-5403	Building insurance	900		
10-6600-5404	General liability	3,800		
10-6600-5405	Unemployment insurance	500		
10-6600-5700	Miscellaneous	4,000		
10-6600-7500	Transfer to capital project	22,100		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 432,500</b>	<b>\$26,500</b>	<b>406,000</b>

**Section 2.** The revenues are to be changed as follows:

<b>Account #</b>	<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Total</b>
10-3010-8401	Fire tax	\$ 110,000		
10-3040-0200	Insurance	24,500		
10-3470-0000	ABC revenues	30,000		
10-3900-0200	Dept. of Justice Grant	2,000		
10-3920-0000	Loan proceeds	\$239,500		

	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$406,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$406,000</b>
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**Section 3.** To amend the Water and Sewer Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Total</u>
30-6600-8000	Contingency		\$ 50,000	
30-8100-5402	Auto insurance	\$ 1,500		
30-8100-7400	Capital Outlay	140,000		
30-8200-0201	Part-time salaries		4,000	
30-8200-1602	Maint/repair drying beds		30,000	
30-8200-1700	Maint/repair auto	900		
30-8200-3101	Special sludge disposal		50,000	
30-8200-5402	Auto insurance	600		
30-8200-5403	Building insurance	2,000		
30-8300-1500	Maint/repair bldg		1,500	
30-8300-5403	Building insurance	1,500		
30-8400-1500	Utility billing maint.		5,000	
30-8400-3300	Dept. supplies	1,000		
30-8400-4000	Employee wellness		1,000	
30-8400-4500	Contract service	7,000		
30-8400-5700	Miscellaneous	5,000		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 159,500</b>	<b>\$141,500</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>

**Section 4.** The revenues are to be changed as follows:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Total</u>
30-3040-0000	Insurance	\$ 18,000		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>

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

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember DuBose, it passed unanimously to adopt the following project ordinance amendment #2021.03.03:

**Beaman Street Fire Station Addition Project**

**Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget**

**#2021.03.03**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Clinton, NC that the following amendment be made to the Beaman Street Fire Station Addition Project Ordinance that was adopted on May 5, 2020, is hereby amended as follows:

**Section 1.** The expenditures are to be changed as follows:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Total</u>
64-5300-0500	Construction	\$ 12,800		
64-5300-0600	Furniture	9,300		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 22,100</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 22,100</b>

**Section 2.** The revenues are to be changed as follows:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Total</u>
64-3020-0000	Transfer from GF	\$ 22,100		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>\$ 22,100</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,100</b>

**Section 3.** Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the City Clerk, City Manager, and Finance Director for their direction.

**STAR COMMUNICATIONS -- RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT – GRANT PROJECT TO EXTEND FIBER INTERNET**

City Manager Hart stated that Star Communications is requesting a right-of-way easement not to exceed 10' x 10' at 808 Barden Street where Sampson Recreation Center is located. He stated that this easement will allow a communications cabinet to be installed as part of the grant project to extend fiber internet and house equipment.

City Manager Hart stated that Governor Roy Cooper approved the grant, and this grant will allow fiber internet to come to Sampson Center and the Royal Lane area. Furthermore, he stated that the City assisted in this endeavor by submitting a letter of support for Star Communications.

Mr. Joseph Andrews, a representative of Star Communications, appeared before Mayor Starling and the City Council. He stated that this fiber expansion will benefit Royal Lane, Sampson, and McKoy Streets. He concluded by stating that there will be no additional cost to the City.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember DuBose, it passed unanimously to approve a request by Star Communications for a right-of-way easement to allow a communications cabinet needed as part of a grant project to extend fiber internet.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember DuBose, it passed unanimously to appoint Frank Leak to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Julie Stadig, on the Historic Preservation Commission. The Historic Preservation Commission's terms are for four years.

### **REPORTS**

The monthly combined staff report was acknowledged.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

There were no Staff Reports for the March 2, 2021, City Council Meeting.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

City Manager Hart had nothing to report.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Starling asked for public comments and Mr. Terry Lee, 118 Woods Edge Drive, Dunn, NC, spoke. Mr. Terry Lee read, St. John 9 beginning at Verse 1 regarding the man blind from birth who was sent to wash in the pool of Siloam. Afterward, Mr. Lee recited quotes of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "The time is always right to do what's right," and, "In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Mr. Terry Lee concluded by asking Mayor and City Council, "Will you get your hands dirty and name the bridge for Donald Ray Tucker because it is the right thing to do?"

Mayor Starling thanked Mr. Terry Lee for coming.

Mayor Starling asked City Manager Hart for the date and time of the Fallen Heroes Ad Hoc Committee meeting. City Manager Hart replied, "Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM."

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem Becton stated that he is receiving calls from citizens regarding the abundance of rain and potholes. He asked when the street paving would begin.

Public Works Director Chris Medlin stated that according to The Wooten Company, paving will begin within a month. He stated that the City will be patching the large potholes. Mayor Pro Tem Becton stated that there are a few large potholes on Lisbon Street.

Mayor Starling asked if the City would patch state streets and Public Works Director Medlin stated, "Yes, if necessary." Mayor Starling asked Mr. Medlin to give City Manager Hart a list of the streets to be paved.

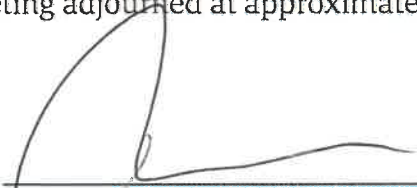
Mayor Pro Tem Becton stated that, he "is getting tired of hearing about the bridge. Do we need a timeframe for public comments? We do not need a Bible lesson. How long should comments be? This and before have been too long."

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember DuBose, and it passed unanimously to adjourn this March 2, 2021, regular city council meeting.

The March 2, 2021, regular city council meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

  
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Elaine F. Hunt, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

  
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Lew Starling, Jr., Mayor