



August 3, 2021, City Council Meeting

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in regular session at 7:00 PM on August 3, 2021, in the City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Present were Councilmembers DuBose, Ruggles, Strickland, Bryant, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton.

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

Also, present were Senior Administrative Specialist Natalie Blue; Planning Director Mary Rose; City Manager Tom Hart; Interim Police Chief Anthony Davis; Lt. Adrian Matthews; Finance Director Kristin Stafford; Public Works Director Chris Medlin; Public Works Engineer Russell Byrd.

City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt, HR Director Shelvia Ashford, and Parks and Recreation Director Jonathan Allen were absent.

Emily M. Williams, of the Sampson Independent, and Sylvia Chestnutt, of the Sampson Weekly, were present.

Mayor Starling called the meeting to order.

Mayor Starling called upon City of Clinton's Firefighter Clark Strickland, to give the invocation.

CITY COUNCIL

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, the minutes of the July 13, 2021, regular city council meeting, were unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION- LIONEL RAYNOR

Mayor Starling, City Council, and Public Works Director Chris Medlin recognized Public Works' Street Worker employee, Mr. Lionel Raynor, who retired after approximately 12 years of service with the city. Mr. Medlin spoke on Mr. Raynor's service to the City of Clinton. Mr. Medlin stated that he could always count on Mr. Raynor to have a smile on his face and was an inspiration to the younger generation of workers.

RECOGNITION- JAMES ROYAL

Mayor Starling, City Council, and Public Works Director Chris Medlin recognized Public Works' employee Mr. James Royal, who retired after 30 years of service. Mr. Medlin informed the group that Mr. Royal was the Street Supervisor and he never had to worry about jobs being completed. Mr. Royal got the most out of his workers, and he was a good man. Mr. Medlin stated that Mr. Royal's crew loved him, and he will be missed.

In closing, Mr. Medlin referred to Lionel Raynor and James Royal as being the City of Clinton's Dynamic Duo.

Mayor Starling, Mayor Pro Tem Becton, and Mr. Medlin presented gifts to Mr. Royal and Mr. Raynor and the audience applauded them for their dedication and service to the city.

PUBLIC HEARING- OATHS

Affirmations were given to Planning Director Mary Rose; Attorney Toby Coleman representing Duke Energy; Jim Bullard, General Appraiser; Rick Trujillo, Engineer for Duke Energy; and Dorothy Avery Schrecker, Property Owner on Five Bridge Road.

P&Z-ALONG DICK POPE LANE- DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC

Mayor Starling opened a public hearing on a special use request by Duke Energy Progress, LLC, to construct a Private Monopole Communications Tower along Dick Pope Lane in the HC- Highway Commercial District.

Planning Director Mary Rose presented the following findings:

1. The property under consideration contains approximately 1.45 acres.
2. Dale Brooks has signed the application as the owner.
3. The property is currently zoned HC- Highway Commercial.
4. The property is adjacent to HC- Highway Commercial on the north, east, and south. The property to the west is zoned RA-20 Residential Agriculture.
5. The applicant is proposing a 120' tall private monopole communication tower.
6. The proposed tower will meet all the requirements of Section 4.9.6.1 of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance.
7. The applicant will remove the tower if the communication tower is abandoned.

8. The applicant has received a Determination of No Hazard to Air Aviation.
9. The property has been posted and all property owners within 100' have been notified by mail.
10. The proposed use would be in conformity with Clinton Land Development Ordinance and meet any applicable special requirements of Section 4.9.6.1.
11. The special use standards from Section 11.4 Step 6, B.2 of the City of Clinton Land Development Ordinance shall be considered by City Council.

Planning Director Mary Rose presented a Certificate of Recommendation from the City of Clinton Planning Board to Mayor Starling and City Council.

Mr. Toby Coleman, Attorney for Duke Energy Progress, LLC, appeared before the Mayor and City Council. He displayed a photo board of the Private Monopole Communications Tower to the audience, and then to the City Council, to provide a sense of what the tower looks like. He proceeded to brief the Mayor and City Council that he was appearing before them to propose the installation of a Private Monopole Communication Tower, on an existing substation lot, at the junction of Hwy 421 and US 701, abutting a private drive called Dick Pope Road.

Attorney Coleman stated that Duke Energy is requesting the installation of the tower as part of their Grid Modernization Project. Attorney Coleman stated that for Duke Energy Progress to upgrade from legacy 20th Century copper phone lines and delivers a faster network, two options were considered. The first option was to obtain fiber services from AT&T or Lumen, who both met Duke Energy Progress cybersecurity needs, but do not offer fiber.

The second and selected option is to install a 120-ft. private monopole tower with a point of site communication, that allows Duke Energy Progress to monitor the substation and the rest of its network. Attorney Coleman stated that the monopole tower will help improve reliability for customers' daily operations, improves service and repairs in storms and other emergencies. Attorney Coleman also stated that the monopole tower would be an approximately \$200,000 investment to the community and could be completed in a short amount of time.

Mr. Jim Bullard, General Appraiser at Tom J. Keith & Associates, 5585 Nicks Road, Fayetteville, NC 28301, appeared before the Mayor and City Council. He stated that he has been an appraiser for 16 years. He continued to state that part of his job as an appraiser is to complete ring studies that consist of checking the sale of houses and land within a tenth, two-tenths, three-tenths, four-tenths, and five-tenths of a mile of tower sites. Mr. Bullard stated that the ring study helps him evaluate the sales value per square foot of homes and land. Mr. Bullard stated that based on the results of his reports of several properties in different counties, there is no adverse effect to the value of homes and land within the zones of the cell tower sites. Mr. Bullard's report was passed out to the Mayor and City Council, which included pictures of the site in question.

Mayor Starling asked, Mr. Jim Bullard, how many houses were located near the proposed Monopole Communication Tower site. Mr. Jim Bullard stated that one house is located close to the site on the eastern side.

Mayor Starling asked how far is this house from the site. Jim Bullard stated that the house is, approximately 600-700 feet away.

Mayor Starling asked Mr. Bullard's opinion regarding this tower having any adverse effect on the value of the home nearby. Jim Bullard replied, that in his opinion, the monopole communication tower will not affect the value of the house.

Councilmember Neal Strickland asked Mr. Bullard, in what other counties had he completed this study. Mr. Bullard replied, Wake, Moore, Robeson, and Johnston Counties.

Mayor Pro Tem Becton asked Planning Director Mary Rose if the site in question would be in the city limits. Planning Director Mary Rose replied, yes.

Councilmember Darue Bryant asked about radiation from the tower. Jim Bullard stated that he was not qualified to answer that question. Attorney Coleman stated that he would like to bring Rick Trujillo to the podium to answer any questions regarding radiation.

Rick Trujillo, Engineer, 123 Kentucky Derby Drive, Clayton, NC 27520, appeared before the Mayor and City Council to address any questions that they may have.

Councilmember Darue Bryant asked Rick Trujillo about any environmental or radioactive adverse effects. Rick Trujillo replied that the tower would give off a small radio signal, such as a laser beam.

Councilmember Darue Bryant asked if any studies had been completed on environmental or radioactive adverse effects. Rick Trujillo explained that studies have been completed. He stated that the tower would project half a watt of what a cell phone gives off. He stated that the watts given off by the tower are at a constant and will never increase or decrease.

Mayor Starling asked if there will be any adverse effect on electronics in the area. Rick Trujillo replied, no. Mayor Starling asked if any studies have been completed to justify his answer. Rick Trujillo responded that he had other studies that had been completed and he could present evidence if needed.

Mayor Starling asked if he had completed any studies himself on the tower in question. Rick Trujillo replied yes-- he designed the radio shot.

Mayor Starling asked Rick Trujillo if it was in his opinion that there is no adverse effect to the homeowners, and if he had been out to see the houses. Rick Trujillo replied that there is absolutely no adverse effect to the homeowners, and he had been out to the homes about 4 months ago.

Attorney Coleman asked if Rick Trujillo was licensed in North Carolina. Rick Trujillo replied yes, and he had been an engineer for 40 years.

Attorney Coleman appeared before the Mayor and City Council and wanted to follow up on some of the questions that the Mayor had asked previously. Attorney Coleman admitted that he has no advanced knowledge of the Monopole Communication Tower. He passed out copies to the Mayor and City Council of the specs for the Cambium Network Fixed Wireless Access Point and compared it to a router. He stated that the frequency range, the channel spacing, and certifications from the FCC are all in the handout. Attorney Coleman stated that the Planning Board questioned why Duke Energy Progress didn't use the local service, Star Communications as a fiber provider. Attorney Coleman explained that Star Communications didn't meet Duke Energy Progress security standards. He further stated that the needed level of security is far beyond what someone would use at a residence and being hacked could cause a major issue.

Councilmember Strickland asked if Mr. Bullard could step back to the podium for some follow-up questions. Mr. Bullard appeared before the Mayor and City Council.

Councilmember Strickland asked Mr. Bullard at the sites that he had done in Wake, Johnson, and Robeson Counties, had he witnessed any damage to properties by the towers. Mr. Bullard replied, absolutely not.

Councilmember Strickland asked Mr. Bullard if he was employed by Duke Energy Progress. Mr. Bullard replied, yes he stated he was hired by Duke Progress Energy for this project only. Mr. Bullard assured the Mayor and City Council that he was impartial to the contractor and the owner of the homes. He also stated that his job is to only gather the results.

It was mentioned that the Monopole Communication Tower at Dick Pope Lane was shorter as compared to other towers in local cities.

No one else appeared to be heard, and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Starling read Standard 1: If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 2: The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 3: The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 4: The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be 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. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember Ruggles, and with the incorporation into the minutes of the following Certificate of Recommendation, which was executed on July 19, 2021, a special use permit was unanimously approved for Duke Energy Progress, LLC, to construct a Private Monopole Communications Tower along Dick Pope Lane in the HC- Highway Commercial District:

**Certificate of
Recommendation
Special Use Permit
SU-7-21-1**

In accordance with the provisions of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance, on Monday, July 19, 2021, the City of Clinton Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of Special Use Permit 7-21-1 to permit, special use request by Duke Energy Progress, LLC to construct a Private Monopole Communications Tower along Dick Pope Lane in the HC-Highway Commercial District. The property is further identified in DB 0794 PG 0256 of the Sampson Co. Registry. This recommendation was based upon the following findings of fact as related to the corresponding special use standard:

Special Use Standards

1. If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance.

***FACT:** The facts as noted in the meeting minutes and presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use, as presented, meets all requirements of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance.*

2. The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety; and,

***FACT:** The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use would not materially endanger public health or safety.*

3. The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; and,

***FACT:** The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use would not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting properties.*

4. The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and,

FACT: *The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located.*

5. The use will be in general conformity with the Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council.

FACT: *The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed development is in general conformity with the Clinton Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council. The proposed use would be in conformity with Clinton Land Development Ordinance and meet any applicable special requirements of Section 4.9.6.1.*

Approved by:

Elizabeth Stewart, Planning Board Chair

Date

Planning Director:

Mary M. Rose

Date

P&Z--119 FIVE BRIDGE ROAD—DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC

Mayor Starling opened a public hearing on a special use request by Duke Energy Progress, LLC, to construct a Private Monopole Communications Tower at 119 Five Bridge Road in the HC-Highway Commercial District.

Planning Director Mary Rose presented the following findings:

1. The property under consideration contains approximately 2.15 acres.
2. Dale Brooks has signed the application as the owner.
3. The property is currently zoned HC- Highway Commercial.
4. The property is adjacent to RA-20 Residential Agriculture on the east, south, and west. The property to the north is zoned I-1 Light industrial
5. The applicant is proposing a 120' tall private monopole communication tower.
6. The proposed tower will meet all the requirements of Section 4.9.6.1 of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance.
7. The applicant will remove the tower if the communication tower is abandoned.

8. The applicant has received a Determination of No Hazard to Air Aviation.
9. The property has been posted and all property owners within 100' have been notified by mail.
10. The proposed use would be in conformity with Clinton Land Development Ordinance and meet any applicable special requirements of Section 4.9.6.1.
11. The special use standards from Section 11.4 Step 6, B.2 of the City of Clinton Land Development Ordinance shall be considered by City Council.

Planning Director Mary Rose presented a Certificate of Recommendation from the City of Clinton Planning Board to Mayor Starling and City Council.

Toby Coleman, Attorney for Duke Energy Progress, LLC, appeared before the Mayor and City Council. He stated that this request is similar to the previous request but in a different location. Attorney Coleman stated that this request is to construct this tower behind the Duke's Clinton Operation Center on Five Bridge Road. Attorney Coleman stated that the request is to construct the monopole tower at a height of 120 feet. Attorney Coleman asked that the previous testimonies be entered into the record for this public hearing also, and he stands by to answer any questions.

Mayor Starling asked Mr. Jim Bullard, how close are the houses in the area to the proposed monopole communication tower. Mr. Bullard apologized to the Mayor and City Council for his incorrect previous testimony. He stated that during the previous public hearing, he gave numbers for this public hearing—the property located at 119 Five Bridge Road. Mr. Bullard corrected his testimony by stating there are 3 properties located along Dick Pope Lane approximately 500 feet away from the proposed Monopole Communication Tower. Mr. Bullard stated that there is only 1 property located on 119 Five Bridge Road, approximately 600-700 feet away from the proposed Monopole Communication Tower.

Mayor Starling asked if anyone else wished to speak. Ms. Dorothy Avery Schrecker appeared before the Mayor and City Council. She stated that the properties that she owns on Five Bridge Road have been in her family for over 100 years. She stated that she didn't see the need for 2 towers to be constructed so close together.

Mr. Rick Trujillo appeared before the Mayor and City Council to answer Ms. Schrecker's question. He stated that two towers are needed to be able to communicate with each other. He stated that due to the concerns from Ms. Schrecker and other neighbors, it was decided that one tower could be shortened to 55 feet above ground level. He stated that it is preferred that the 120 foot Monopole Communication Tower be constructed at the Duke Clinton Operation Center.

Mayor Starling questioned that Duke Energy Progress, LLC, wished to modify their request by changing the height of the Monopole Communication Tower along Dick Pope Lane, to 55 feet

(the previous public hearing). Attorney Coleman and Rick Trujillo both agreed to modify the initial request.

Councilmember Strickland asked if the Highway Patrol or any other organizations would be using the tower. Rick Trujillo replied no.

Mayor Starling asked if anyone else wished to speak. No one else appeared to be heard, and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Starling read Standard 1: If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 2: The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 3: The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Mayor Starling read Standard 4: The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be 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. He then called for a vote on whether the requested use would meet this standard. Five voted that the standard would be met.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember Ruggles, and with the incorporation into the minutes of the following Certificate of Recommendation, which was executed on July 19, 2021, a special use permit was unanimously approved for Duke Energy Progress, LLC, to construct a Private Monopole Communications Tower at 119 Five Bridge Road in the HC- Highway Commercial District, and also as it relates to the previous public hearing to change the height of the Private Monopole Communication Tower along Dick Pope Lane in the HC- Highway Commercial District from 120 feet to 55 feet.

**Certificate of
Recommendation
Special Use Permit
SU-7-21-2**

In accordance with the provisions of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance, on Monday, July 19, 2021, the City of Clinton Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of Special Use Permit 7-21-2 to permit, special use request by Duke Energy Progress,

LLC to construct a Private Monopole Communications Tower at 119 Five Bridge Road in the HC-Highway Commercial District. The property is further identified in DB 0947 PG 0524 of the Sampson Co. Registry. This recommendation was based upon the following findings of fact as related to the corresponding special use standard:

Special Use Standards

1. If completed as proposed, the development will comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance.

FACT: *The facts as noted in the meeting minutes and presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use, as presented, meets all requirements of the Clinton Land Development Ordinance.*

2. The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety; and,

FACT: *The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use would not materially endanger public health or safety.*

3. The use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; and,

FACT: *The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use would not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting properties.*

4. The use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; and,

FACT: *The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located.*

5. The use will be in general conformity with the Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council.

FACT: *The facts as presented during the Planning Board meeting demonstrate the proposed development is in general conformity with the Clinton Land Development Ordinance, thoroughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the Council. The proposed use would be in conformity with Clinton Land Development Ordinance and meet any applicable special requirements of Section 4.9.6.1.*

Approved by:

Elizabeth Stewart, Planning Board Chair

Date

Mary M. Rose, Staff

Date

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS – TRUIST GOVERNMENTAL FINANCING (BB&T) – STREET SWEEPER

City Manager Hart asked City Council to adopt a resolution approving the financing terms for a street sweeper priced at \$233,000. He stated that the City requested proposals for financing from six (6) banking institutions. City Manager Hart reported that two (2) proposals were received.

City Manager Hart stated that Truist Governmental Financing (BB&T) was the lower bidder with a 4-year interest rate of 1.25% and no origination fee for a financing term not to exceed four years.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolution Approving Financing
Terms

WHEREAS, The City of Clinton, NC (“Borrower”) has previously determined to undertake a project for the financing of a street sweeper (the “Project”), and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Borrower hereby determines to finance the Project through Truist Bank (“Lender”) in accordance with the proposal dated July 21, 2021. The amount financed shall not exceed \$233,000.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 1.25%, and the financing term shall not exceed four (4) years from closing.

2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the “Financing Documents”) shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the Borrower are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution.

3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Officer is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by Borrower officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Officer shall approve, with the Finance Officer’s release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document’s final form.

4. The Borrower shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. The Borrower hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).

5. The Borrower intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the Borrower’s official intent to reimburse expenditures for the Project that are to be financed from the proceeds of the Lender financing described above. The Borrower intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the Borrower’s general fund or any other Borrower fund

related to the Project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.

6. All prior actions of Borrower officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

CLINTON CITY MARKET PARKING LOT CLOSING – SPIRIT OF LIFE CHURCH –COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

Upon a motion made by Councilmember DuBose, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, it passed unanimously to close the Clinton City Market parking lot on Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 8:00 AM until 9:00 PM, for a community outreach project by Spirit of Life Church.

RESOLUTION—SURPLUS PROPERTY CONVEYED BY DONATION TO CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL AND EAST BLADEN HIGH SCHOOL’S EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

City Manager Hart spoke regarding this item. City Council was asked to approve a resolution conveying property to Clinton High and East Bladen High Schools’ Emergency Programs. This property has served its usefulness with the City of Clinton.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, it passed unanimously to approve the following resolution authorizing the conveyance of the property by donation to Clinton High School and East Bladen High School’s Emergency Programs:

**Resolution Authorizing the Conveyance of Property to
Another Unit of Government in North Carolina**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Clinton desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the City of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-274 authorizes a governmental unit in this State to exchange with, lease to, lease from, sell to, or purchase from any other governmental unit any interest in real or personal property upon such terms and conditions as the governmental unit deems wise, with or without consideration; and

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

(1) The following described property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the City of Clinton:

8 sets of Globe turn-out gear

(2) The Mayor and City Council are hereby conveying by donation the personal property

described above to Clinton High School and East Bladen High School.

- (3) The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute this resolution and all documents necessary which will convey this property described above pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160A-274 to Clinton High School and East Bladen High School without monetary consideration.

APPOINTMENTS

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Councilmember Ruggles, it passed unanimously to appoint Commissioner Thaddeus Godwin to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Willie W. Bowden, Sr. on the Environmental Affairs Advisory Board. Rev. Bowden, Sr. passed on June 13, 2021. This term will expire in March 2023.

No action was taken regarding filling the unexpired term of Rev. Willie W. Bowden, Sr. on the All-America City Committee.

REPORTS

The monthly staff report was acknowledged.

Planning Director Mary Rose appeared before the Mayor and City Council to introduce Isaiah Wilson, Planning and Zoning Summer Intern. Director Rose stated that Isaiah Wilson will be Planning and Zoning's 6th Simple Gifts' Scholar. She stated that Isaiah has brought so much joy to her department, as well as wisdom and understanding.

Isaiah Wilson greeted the Mayor and City Council and began to talk about his summer internship. He stated that Planning and Zoning needed to connect with the African American Entrepreneurs in the downtown area, who have concerns with the way things are managed, resources to help their businesses, promotions, and grow their brands. He stated that two of the businesses that he visited were: Black Wall Street Barber Shop and Heavenly Hands Salon. Mr. Wilson stated that he invited a group of entrepreneurs to Alfredo's Italian Restaurant to discuss ways to resolve their concerns and options that he had gathered to help their businesses. Mr. Wilson explained that the turnout was not as expected. He stated that he had connected with the Sampson Alumni Association who provided him with some historical context of African American Entrepreneurs in the City of Clinton.

Mayor and City Council thanked Mr. Wilson for his presentation.

City Manager Hart had no reports.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Travis Blackmon, address unknown, appeared before the Mayor and City Council to discuss the absence of transitional housing and reentry programs in Sampson County. He stated that he is an author, along with many other things, and has books on Amazon for purchase.

Mayor Starling asked City Manager Hart to connect with Mr. Blackmon on the concerns that he expressed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion about the process of selecting the new Police Chief.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, the following resolution passed unanimously to enter closed session to discuss personnel:

RESOLUTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Be It Resolved that the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina held at 7:00 PM on August 3, 2021, entered closed session as allowed by G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel.

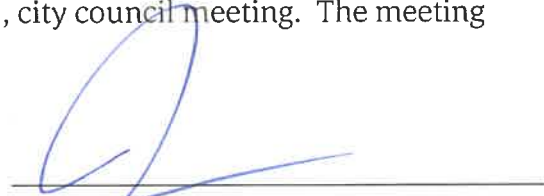
Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, it passed unanimously for Council to re-enter regular session.

Mayor Starling stated that City Council entered into closed session to discuss personnel and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, it passed unanimously to adjourn the August 3, 2021, city council meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 P.M.


Natalie Blue, Senior Administrative Specialist


Lew Starling, Mayor

* City Clerk Hunt was pre-approved to be absent from the August 3, 2021, city council meeting.