

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Special Commission Meeting/Workshop
March 4, 2024

The Clewiston City Commission held a special meeting/workshop in the City Hall Commission Chambers on Monday, March 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mayor James Pittman. Mayor Pittman gave the invocation and the audience joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor James Pittman, Vice Mayor Greg Thompson, Commissioner Barbara Edmonds, Commissioner Hillary Hyslope and Commissioner Mali Gardner.

Personnel Present: City Manager Randy Martin, Director of Operations Danny Williams, IT Administrator Justin Lucas and Consulting Engineer David Trouteaud.

Visitors Present: R. Leonard Carroll, Lisa Walker, Hilary Metz and Charles Svirik.

Additions/Deletions/Changes and Approval of the Agenda – There were no additions/deletions or changes to the agenda.

Public Comments – There were no public comments.

- 1. Resolution No. 2024-012** – Resolution No. 2024-012 authorizes an application to the U.S. Congress for a congressional appropriation for FY 2025 Community Project Funding (CPF) to create a Comprehensive Public Utility Master Plan for the City of Clewiston.

Manager Martin stated that this appropriation would be used to assess our current water and wastewater systems, extension plans to serve future developments and our water and wastewater treatment plants and future reuse distribution system. Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2024-012 by title.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Thompson, to approve Resolution No. 2024-012. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

- 2. Resolution No. 2024-013** – Resolution No. 2024-013 authorizes applications for Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Grants with the State of Florida Department of Transportation, which, if approved, will provide funding for the road repair and overlay of Herbert Hoover Dike Road and a section of Aztec Avenue from W.C. Owen Avenue to S. Francisco Street.

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2024-013 by title. Manager Martin reported that the application for the Herbert Hoover Dike Road project will be re-submitted this year as the first priority. The City submitted an application for that project last year as the secondary priority but was unsuccessful. He recommended submitting an application for the eastern portion of Aztec Avenue as the secondary priority project this year. Consulting Engineer David Trouteaud commented on the Herbert Hoover Dike Road project explaining that it is essentially a mill and resurface project and will update some of the drainage tying in to the C-21 project. He confirmed that addressing the dips on the southwest corner on the east end would be included in this project. Manager Martin stated that the contractor that did some damage to Herbert Hoover Dike Road did some improvements to the road but no compensation was offered or received. He added that we will also be improving the walkways to a bike path width or multi-use path on the same side of that road, in like manner as staff are proposing on Francisco for that section. Engineer Trouteaud next commented on the Aztec Avenue project. He stated that it is a similar type millinery surface, fixing some minor drainage. The plan is to extend the sidewalk on the north side to Francisco for connectivity and he didn't feel that sidewalk needed to be widened. Mayor Pittman stated that he feels that section of Aztec needs to be three-laned with the bike path and sidewalk. Manager Martin agreed but pointed out that the SCOP can't be used as a source for extensive lane widening for capacity. He confirmed that if we accept SCOP funding for this project, we would still be able to widen the road in the future; it would just require some other source of funding. The engineer agreed to verify the footage amount on the south side of Aztec for

future widening potential. Manager Martin commented on the reasons Aztec Avenue was selected for this project. He stated that we could take another look and see if anything else such as aprons could be accomplished with this project. Mayor Pittman reiterated that he would like to see that section three-laned because of the industrial traffic and foot traffic with kids walking to the high school.

Commissioner Hyslope made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Thompson, to approve Resolution No. 2024-013. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

3. **Bridge Over C-21 Canal Project Change Orders** – Manager Martin commented on the unencumbered funds and \$43,100 in county shared state boating improvement funding recommended to be applied to this project. To meet the need that the staff is recommending we also are suggesting supplementing as necessary using the CRA expansion area funding described in the report for the next meeting agenda item. We believe this would be an important use of a portion of that funding to meet the minimum requirements to award a change order to complete some of these much needed improvements. Engineer Trouteaud reviewed the scope of the project. The flow of traffic in the parking area was discussed and Director Williams commented on the lighting. Manager Martin stated that we estimate to be short a little over \$70,000 with funding based upon the contractor pricing and suggested that we be prepared to add up to \$75,000 to this project and that those funds come from our CRA funding for this section. We will have to go through the CRA Advisory Board and CRA Board which is comprised of all the members of the City Commission. He stated that if this is the direction the Board wants to go, we will further go over the details with DOT on the concurrence for the funding that is left in the DOT funded project from the legislature, we will further work out details with engineers, complete negotiations with the contractor and come back for formal action on the change order at the next meeting.

The consensus of the Commission was to move forward with this project using the \$43,100 in county shared state boating improvement funding and up to \$75,000 of the CRA expansion area funding, as necessary to supplement remaining grant funding.

Commissioner Gardner asked for an update on filling the vacancies on the CRA Advisory Board. Manager Martin stated that he believed there were at least two vacancies on the board and an update will be provided at the next Commission Meeting.

4. **Ventura Avenue Streetscape Project/Downtown & CRA Areas** – Manager Martin commented on the project and how it would make sense to incorporate the side streets and go ahead and start the discussion in parking, landscaping and lighting and tie them together and use CRA funding for those improvements. Consultant Trouteaud said that Tetra Tech is still working on a change order to include the roundabout design. Manager Martin commented on the parking availability that this project would provide along with possibly getting some private parking lot owners to collaborate with us that would be mutually beneficial. He feels there is no better use of the substantial portion of the CRA money that we currently have than to try to upgrade the Bond Street area in concert with the Ventura Streetscape Project and truly create a downtown atmosphere. Mayor Pittman suggested that the lump sum estimate be broken down and one area be improved at a time such as the parking lot area behind the old police department. Commissioner Gardner noted that she likes roundabouts but reminded the Commission of DOT's recommendation in its vision plan for Ventura calling for the redesign of the street to include a two-lane cross section, diagonal on-street parking, landscaping strips between the parking and the sidewalks, and wide sidewalks. The road would allow for bicycles to share the right of way with vehicles. She added that the landscaping on Bond Street reduced the total number of parking spaces. She feels that we will be harming the businesses on Ventura especially the church by taking away some of the prime parking when the DOT plan did not call for that. Manager Martin stated that he feels this plan is consistent with the DOT plan except for the roundabout. It is not a significant loss of parking but it might not be at every business or building but there will be plenty of parking. He feels that makes it even more important that we have off street safe public parking available. His recommendation would be to engage certain business owners and offer them improvements that would maybe justify the shared use of their parking. Commissioner Hyslope expressed that she feels it is important that we try to figure out how a large delivery truck or mail truck could pull off Ventura so that traffic is not backed up. Commissioner Gardner stated that we need to show the south side businesses and the church

the plans because she feels it is going to be an issue for the business owners. Mayor Pittman suggested that we ask the P&Z Board to look at this for their input.

5. **FDOT Sugarland Highway Beautification Project Status** – Consulting Engineer Trouteaud reviewed the presentation on the status of the project. He stated that phase 5 of the project is ready to bid now and needs to be built by December 2024. There are 13 palm trees in the median for that phase because DOT said we needed to stay away from all existing utilities. Commissioner Gardner asked to see that statement in writing from DOT. Engineer Trouteaud stated that phase 6 was recently grant funded and the application for phase 7 is due October 1 and we would like to finalize the draft application by mid-August. It was confirmed that the palm trees will be in the median for phases 5, 6 and 7. Manager Martin commented on the possibility of having the palm trees in the median and on the outsides in any future phases after phase 7 subject to DOT concurrence.
6. **San Pedro/Alverdez Culvert Project Status** – Engineer Trouteaud reported the contractor's intent was to mobilize sometime this week and be out of the area in a month.
7. **Hendry County Impact Fees Status** – Manager Martin stated that Director/Fire Chief Reese put together the City's response for the addition of fire services to the study that was done. The county has contracted for an amendment to the project scope to include that service in the analysis. They are collecting the same data we submitted from all the fire departments impacted and that has been submitted on part of the city and they were expecting within a couple of months to have the amendment to the plan complete. Then it will come back to the county commissioners to schedule any additional public meetings before they go to public hearing. He has asked for further discussion on law enforcement and on the library since the city is the operator or primary agency for the cooperative of the three libraries. He reminded the Commission that it doesn't impact operating and operating expenses but it would impact future capital needs if the county goes forward and establishes the impact fees for those areas of service. He stated that he would share any discussions with the county about how this works for law enforcement funding and for the library as more feedback is received.

Mr. Charles Svirk came forward and commented on how he feels an impact fee would be detrimental to the growth of Hendry County. He stated that he would like to contribute his knowledge as a builder and would be happy to address any questions.

Ms. Lisa Walker came forward and stated that she is interested in the historical and cultural sites in the city. She provided a copy of the Section 98-81 of the Clewiston Code of Ordinances regarding the preservation of historical structures. Commissioner Gardner asked her to apply for one of the vacancies on the CRA Advisory Board.

The Commission thanked Mr. Svirk and Ms. Walker for coming. Mayor Pittman commented on the condition of the racquetball court facility and asked that it be cleaned. Next, he thanked the Rotary Club and volunteers that helped beautify Sugarland Park in preparation for the upcoming baseball season.

Adjournment

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

James Pittman, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, City Clerk