

**CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
June 17, 2024**

The Clewiston City Commission held its regular meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers on Monday, June 17, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 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 Mali Gardner and Commissioner Hillary Hyslope.

Personnel Present: Interim City Manager Danny Williams, Finance Director Randy Maxson, Assistant Utilities Director Lynne Mila, IT Administrator Justin Lucas, Community Development Director/Fire Chief Travis Reese, Recreation/HR Director Ashly Sergent, Program Director Tim Pruitt, Utility System Administrator Debbie Clay, Steven Howard on behalf of Consulting Engineer David Trouteaud and City Attorney Dylan Brandenburg.

Visitors Present: Janet Taylor, Larry Tibbs and Cary Wall

Additions/Deletions/Changes and Approval of the Agenda – Manager Williams stated that Agenda Item No. 7 is deleted from the agenda.

Public Comments – Ms. Janet Taylor thanked the City on behalf of the Harlem community for all the help they’ve received. Mr. Larry Tibbs, Moore Haven City Manager, stated that the City of Moore Haven would be happy to provide assistance to the City of Clewiston with all the transition that the City is going through.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. *City Commission Budget Workshop Minutes – August 7, 2023*
- B. *City Commission Budget Workshop Minutes – August 14, 2023*
- C. *City Commission Budget Workshop Minutes – August 21, 2023*
- D. *City Commission Budget Workshop Minutes – September 7, 2023*
- E. *City Commission Workshop Minutes – September 26, 2023*
- F. *Event Application – CHS Cross Country Meet – October 19, 2024*
- G. *Resolution No. 2024-036 – use of funds through the FY2023 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program to purchase equipment to enhance criminal investigative capabilities*

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Thompson, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

ORDINANCES

- 2. Ordinance No. 2024-06 – First Reading** – Ordinance No. 2024-06 amends the Clewiston Code of Ordinances, Chapter 74, Utilities, Article I. – In General; Creating Section 74-14. – Meter Tampering.

Mayor Pittman read Ordinance No. 2024-06 by title and asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Edmonds, to approve Ordinance No. 2024-06 on first reading and set the public hearing for July 15, 2024. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

- 3. Ordinance No. 2024-07 – First Reading** – Ordinance No. 2024-07 amends the Clewiston Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, Article III – Purchasing Procedures; Section 2-78. – Purchasing Thresholds.

Mayor Pittman read Ordinance No. 2024-07 by title and asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Hyslope made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Edmonds, to approve Ordinance No. 2024-07 on first reading and set the public hearing for July 15, 2024. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

RESOLUTIONS

4. **Resolution No. 2024-037** – Resolution No. 2024-037 authorizes the modification of the Tyler Technologies Enterprise Software Agreement to a cloud based solution for a \$32,946 annual increase.

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2024-037 by title and suggested the resolution be revised to include language that the amount not exceed \$32,946 annually. Director Maxson then commented on the request. Commissioner Gardner expressed that she felt this modification made sense and we should not wait any longer.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve Resolution No. 2024-037 with the revision that the modification be approved for an amount up to \$32,946 annually. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

5. **Resolution No. 2024-038** – Resolution No. 2024-038 authorizes the Mayor to sign the State of Florida Department of Transportation Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Agreement to provide funding for the design, construction, and CEI of the milling and resurfacing of North Francisco Street from US27/US80 to Herbert Hoover Dike Road.

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2024-038 by title.

Vice Mayor Thompson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Edmonds, to approve Resolution No. 2024-038. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Before the vote, Engineer Steven Howard commented on the timeline of the project. He felt that by December 31 once the project was designed, we would have a better idea of the construction timeline. He then commented on the project including the two culvert crossings. Mayor Pittman asked Manager Williams to keep the commission updated on when the design is done and possibly provide a presentation for them on that.

6. **Resolution No. 2024-039** – Resolution No. 2024-039 approves the Personnel Policy Manual.

Mayor Pittman read Resolution No. 2024-039 by title. Vice Mayor Thompson suggested that the new HR Manager be given an opportunity to review this personnel policy manual as he felt there were no substantial changes. Commissioner Gardner stated that she believed some of it needed to be updated from a legal standpoint but felt that updating it now is the right thing to do and then completely re-write it after the HR Director and City Attorney look at it. She added that there have been updates at different times since 2004. Attorney Brandenburg stated that there have been updates in state employment law that you have to follow regardless of whether it is in your policy or not.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to approve Resolution No. 2024-039. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, to have a new Personnel Policy Manual back to the Commission for review within the next 90 days. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

7. **DELETED - Resolution No. 2024-040** – Resolution No. 2024-040 approves the agreement between the City of Clewiston and U.S. Sugar Corporation for the Golf Course Irrigation Project.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. **2024 Legislative Session Summary** – City Attorney Dylan Brandenburg stated that he considered postponing this summary for another month because several bills have not yet been considered. He agreed to keep the commission updated. He then reviewed and commented on some of the listed items. Vice Mayor Thompson mentioned that semis are being parked at the lake and because it is public parking, there is nothing that we can do. Attorney Brandenburg stated the commission could direct staff to come back with a proposal for that. Commissioner Gardner stated that she feels it should be looked at because she has also seen semis parking in residential neighborhoods; our boat basin area is for boating and recreation.
9. **Old Business** – Manager Williams stated that CPAC is interested in renting the building across the street; we are looking at demolishing the current CPAC building that was donated to the City by the American Legion. He reported that a contractor is interested in building apartments there and U.S. Sugar is also interested as they also have property in that location. Commissioner Gardner stated that she would like to make sure there are no restrictions with the American Legion. Vice Mayor Thompson asked for an update on the WC Owen property development. Manager Williams reported that project was postponed. Commissioner Edmonds asked if anything had been decided on the parking area behind the old police department building. Manager Williams stated that funding to resurface that parking lot will probably be included in the upcoming budget. Vice Mayor Thompson asked if Manager Williams had thought any more about the ribbon cutting ceremony for the bridge project because we will need to coordinate the date with our representatives. Manager Williams stated that he feels it would be nice to dedicate the bridge to Senator Passidomo because she had a lot of input on helping us get those funds. Commissioner Edmonds asked how we are going to house the new fire truck. Director Reese commented on the look of the new firetruck and stated that the size would be similar to what we have now so it would fit in one of the bays we have.
10. **Departmental Monthly Activity Reports** - Presented for information only.
11. **Comments from Interim City Manager** – Manager Williams introduced Recreation Program Director, Tim Pruitt. Director Pruitt addressed the commission and commented on how the ballfields and soccer fields are important to him. He asked the commission to be patient as he and Recreation Director Sergent work with the middle and high schools to bring some programs back to the Youth Center.
12. **Comments from City Attorney** – Commissioner Gardner stated that she is hoping Attorney Brandenburg can give guidance on Airbnb's and house rentals. Attorney Brandenburg said he could bring forward a recommendation by the next meeting.
13. **Comments from the City Commission** – Commissioner Edmonds stated that she has received complaints about the increase of utility bills. Manager Williams explained how the City's utilities portal works. Commissioner Gardner noted the cost of electric has not increased. Assistant Utilities Director Lynne Mila stated that the City's website explains how to get on the portal and set up an account. Utility System Administrator Debbie Clay encouraged anyone to call her at 863-983-1454 if they have questions about their utility bill. She added that although it is not yet available online, budgeting for customers has always been available and can be set up by staff. Commissioner Edmonds then asked if the city has a senior citizens program and noted that the senior citizens building looks really bad. Program Director Pruitt stated that they are currently looking at programs for senior citizens.

Vice Mayor Thompson stated that he is looking forward to the summer season. He couldn't be happier with the individuals hired to fill the vacant positions and felt the city was better off for it.

Commissioner Hyslope echoed Vice Mayor Thompson's comments and mentioned that she is looking forward to what the new recreation staff can do for summer camp next year that would be more feasible. She also mentioned that she feels the updates on the city's finances that Manager Williams and Director Maxson have been doing are incredible and the response from staff is refreshing.

Commissioner Gardner stated that after hearing her fellow commissioners' comments tonight on how things are going and working out, she would like to remove interim from Manager

Williams' title because she feels he has proven himself as our city manager. Attorney Brandenburg stated that his recommendation would be to formalize it as an agenda item.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hyslope, for the City Attorney to bring an agreement and resolution to the commission at the next commission meeting to remove "interim" from his title and make Danny Williams the City Manager. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays

Mayor Pittman asked if we were due for comp plan review. Director Reese stated that our comprehensive plan is in need of an update. He explained that the rules that required us to do it every seven years were removed, but we do have to notify the state of any changes. He stated that we are outside our planning stages; 2025 is our long range planning. He suggested we do short range and long range planning because he feels we need more than just an update. Mayor Pittman next commented on the passing of Commissioner Gardner's husband, Terry Gardner. He stated that Mr. Gardner served the community through the Rotary Club and other things and was always jovial and a fun guy. As Mayor and on behalf of the City and City Commission, he offered condolences to Commissioner Gardner.

Adjournment

Mayor Pittman declared the meeting adjourned with unanimous consensus of the members present at 6:12 p.m.

James Pittman, Mayor

Mary K. Combass, City Clerk