



July 5, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in regular session at 7:00 PM on July 5, 2022, in the City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Present were Councilmembers Ruggles, Corbett, DuBose, and Mayor Pro Tem Becton.

Councilmember Neal Strickland was absent, due to a prior engagement.

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

Also, present were City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt; Planning Director Mary Rose; Interim City Manager Scott Elliott; Police Chief Anthony Davis; Finance Director Kristin Stafford; Public Works Director Chris Medlin; Fire Chief Stephen Lovette; Lieutenant Jeremy Honeycutt; and Parks and Recreation Director Jonathan Allen.

HR Director Shelvia Ashford; Public Works Engineer Russell Byrd; and Assistant Police Chief Adrian Mathews were absent.

Chris Berendt, of the Sampson Independent, was absent; however, Sylvia Chestnutt, of the Sampson Weekly, was present.

Mayor Starling called the meeting to order.

Mayor Starling called upon Celey Cumbo, Director, Life Line Sampson, to introduce herself and give the invocation. She stated that she is the Director of a women's clinic and family resource center. Also, she stated that they are a non-profit organization that provides pregnancy testing and verification, options counseling, ultrasounds, community referrals, and educational classes for women and men in Sampson, Duplin, and surrounding counties. Upon the conclusion of Ms. Cumbo's introduction, she gave the invocation.

CITY COUNCIL

Upon a motion made by Councilmember DuBose, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, it passed unanimously to approve the June 7, 2022, regular, and June 21, 2022, special city council minutes.

Before proceeding to the "Recognition," Mayor Starling spoke on the disturbing events that had occurred recently. He mentioned the murder which occurred on Sampson Street and informed the group that a reward of \$10,000 is now in place. He stated that a gentleman was shot and killed on Kennedy Street early Saturday morning, and a senseless drive-by took place on Saturday night on Stetson Street.

Mayor Starling concluded by asking everyone to keep the families in their prayers and to know that "these matters have the Police Department and the officials' full attention. This will not be tolerated. Pray for the victims."

RECOGNITION – JARED BARRIER – DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL YMCA

Mr. Jared Barrier appeared before the City Council. He introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Sampson County YMCA. He stated that they are in their fourth week of operation. He stated that originally, they were scheduled to open in January. Mr. Barrier stated that they have set goals for membership, and he believes the goals will be met before the year ends. He stated that many activities are available or will be available to include fitness programs; water safety programs for kids; youth programming; kids' night out events; and in the fall, after school care.

Mr. Barrier thanked the City Council for allowing him the opportunity to appear before the group.

PROCLAMATION

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember Ruggles, the following proclamation passed unanimously designating July as "Park and Recreation Month:"



Designation of July as Park and Recreation Month

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the City of Clinton; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation promotes health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs promote time spent in nature, which positively impact mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs encourage physical activities by providing space for popular sports, hiking trails, swimming pools and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation is a leading provider of healthy meals, nutrition services and education; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programming and education activities, such as out-of-school time programming, youth sports and environmental education, are critical to childhood development; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation increases a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programming is fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation is essential and adaptable infrastructure that makes our communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clinton recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

WHEREAS, this year's theme is: **"WE RISE UP FOR PARKS AND RECREATION."**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY I, Lew Starling, Jr., Mayor, and the Clinton City Council that July is recognized as "Park and Recreation Month," in the City of Clinton.

VIOLATION APPEAL – NUISANCE VEHICLES – 1010 RALEIGH ROAD --WILEY HATCHETT

Planning Director Rose spoke regarding this continued item, "Consideration of an appeal of violation by Wiley Hatchett as it relates to nuisance vehicles." It was noted that Mr. Wiley Hatchett was not in attendance. Ms. Rose stated that the Police Chief investigated and identified that Mr. Hatchett's three (3) vehicles are in violation of the city code. Furthermore, she stated that the vehicles are still in violation.

Mayor Starling called out for Mr. Hatchett. He instructed Lieutenant Honeycutt to call out for Mr. Hatchett outside the City Council's Auditorium.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, it passed unanimously to move forward with enforcing the violation process.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JONATHAN ALLEN'S UPDATE – LIGHTING – MULTIPURPOSE FIELD AT ROYAL LANE PARK

At the June 7, 2022, City Council meeting, Director Allen appeared before the City Council and stated that the existing lights at the multipurpose field need to be removed. He stated that they might possibly fall at any time, and in doing so, there will not be any nighttime activities. He was instructed to work with the city manager and city attorney to remedy this problem.

Mr. Allen stated that staff contacted two (2) lighting vendors to obtain costs for new lights, and the lower of the two quotes stated that an installation date would be approximately October 2022. Mr. Allen and staff recommended taking down the existing poles/lights on the multipurpose field at Royal Lane Park and replace with new light poles/lights. He stated that based on the two quotes received to remove the existing lights and for replacement lighting, to contract with MUSCO Lighting for the materials, and contract with Walter Holmes Electric for the installation services.

Mr. Allen informed the group regarding four (4) payment options that the City might consider:

Option #1 - Utilize the General Fund Balance to pay the full amount

Option #2 - Utilize ARP funds to pay the full amount

Option #3 - Utilize a lease-purchase agreement to pay within three (3) years

Option #4 - Utilize a three (3)-year purchase agreement (hybrid approach) as follows:

- Year 1 – FY2022-2023 - \$76,000 from Miscellaneous ARP Funds
- Year 2 - FY2023-2024 - Money used from “freed up” funds from debt coming off after the FY2022-2023
- Year 3 - FY2024-2025 - (Same as Year 2)

Director Allen recommended Option #4, the Hybrid approach. He stated that the total cost for light materials, existing light removal, and new light installation would be as follows:

Materials	\$147,491
Installation	57,118
Remove Existing Lights/Demo/Haul off	7,600
Temporary Lights (if needed)	4,201.91
Contingency	3,589.09
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TOTAL COST	\$220,000.00

Director Allen stated that the bids are good for sixty (60) days, LED lights will be installed, and Duke Energy recommends MUSCO Lighting.

Interim City Manager Elliott stated that a lease agreement can be presented to the City Council at the August 2, 2022, City Council meeting. Mayor Starling inquired regarding the timeline to install the lights, and Director Allen replied, “8 to 10 weeks.” Mr. Elliott stated that there is a warranty period of twenty-five (25) years and MUSCO will warrant and maintain the lights. Mayor Starling authorized staff to proceed with this project and at the August 2, 2022, City Council meeting, the City Council will execute the lease agreement.

Councilmember DuBose questioned the area adjacent to this location to be considered for lights also. Director Allen stated that he will look into this request.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember

DuBose, it passed unanimously to move forward with acquiring lights for the multipurpose field at Royal Lake Park.

COLLAPSE OF THE ROOF -- OLD SAMPSON HIGH SCHOOL -- 615 MCKOY STREET

Planning Director Rose spoke regarding an incident that occurred on Sunday, June 26th. She stated that the roof collapsed on the old Sampson High School located at 615 McKoy Street. Mrs. Rose stated that the City has been working with the Sampson High School Alumni Association for approximately 1-1/2 years concerning this building. She stated that the roof continues to deteriorate.

Mr. Robert Bennett, Fayetteville, NC, appeared before the City Council. He stated that the Association is still optimistic, and they are still working on another plan. He expressed thankfulness for no one getting hurt when the roof collapsed. He stated, "Amazingly, some walls are still standing." Mr. Bennett thanked the City Council for working with them and stated that he hoped this assistance continues. Mr. Bennett acknowledged that Dr. Jesse Williams, Mr. Don McCalop, and Ms. Pam Bennett were present also.

Mr. Bennett questioned the timeframe for the demolition process and informed the group, that they would like to maintain the back portion of the structure, if possible. He stated that they are looking into a memorial site proposal.

Councilmember Corbett asked what Mr. Bennett was trying to maintain, and he replied, "the back portion of the building." He inquired about staff bidding only on the front section for demolition and not the entire building. Councilmember Ruggles asked if the timeframe was still by September and it was stated, "Yes."

Mr. Bennett acknowledged that the Association needs a "whole lot" of money by September.

Interim City Manager Elliott proposed that the City Council proceed with the condemnation process, and if the Sampson High School Alumni Association obtains the funds, City Council can revoke the condemnation process.

Director Rose stated that she is prepared to bring a condemnation ordinance before the City Council at the August 2, 2022, City Council meeting. She stated that staff will go ahead and put out for bid, because the building is unsafe. Also, she stated that the structure behind the structure that collapsed is unsafe. Mrs. Rose said that the structure between the City's gym and the main building could possibly collapse as well. Mr. Bennett said that they are trying to keep this structure.

Director Rose informed the group that the City will bear the burden for the demolition and the Sampson High School Alumni Association will have to repay the City.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember Ruggles, it passed unanimously to proceed with the condemnation of the front collapsed portion of the building and to obtain a bid for the second structure in the back.

It was noted by Director Rose that the condemnation ordinance was not included; however, staff would establish an ordinance immediately.

STREET AND PARKING LOT CLOSINGS – BICENTENNIAL CRUISE IN

Director Rose stated that plans are being made currently for two “Cruise In” events as a kick off to events and activities in honor of our Clinton Bicentennial. She stated that these events will be sponsored by the Clinton Main Street Program and Clinton Development Corporation in partnership with the Ol’ Lightnin Rods Car Club. Furthermore, she stated the classic vehicle owners are invited to “cruise in” to Downtown Clinton during these dates with music by The Grandpas Bluegrass Band on July 23rd and Saxophonist, Jon Noel on August 27th.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember DuBose, it passed unanimously to close Main Street from Wall Street to Lisbon Street, and the parking lot at the west end of the Sampson County Courthouse, from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, July 23rd, and Saturday, August 27, 2022.

APPOINTMENTS

Notification of appointment to fill the unexpired term of Josh Hill on the Recreation Advisory Board was given. Mr. Hill’s term expires in June 2024, and he is the representative for District 4.

At the August 2, 2022, City Council meeting, the City Council will be asked to appoint someone to the Recreation Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Josh Hill.

REPORTS

The monthly combined staff report was placed within the agenda packet.

STAFF REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director Allen appeared before the City Council to give an update on the July 4th Celebration. He stated that everything went well, and he thanked

Police Chief Davis and Fire Chief Lovette for the great job administered by their departments. He stated that mutual aid was present, as well, and everyone had a good time.

Police Chief Davis distributed flyers regarding the National Night Out event to take place on August 2, 2022. He stated that the Committee has been working hard on this event. Chief Davis concluded by giving best regards from Mrs. Nettie Pernell, Chairperson, Newkirk Park Committee.

Planning Director Rose appeared before the City Council to inform them that the Clinton Main Street Program is in partnership with the Clinton Historic Preservation Commission to install historic plaques upon buildings in the Clinton Commercial National Register Historic District. She called upon Mrs. Vickie Mattocks and Mrs. Kay Raynor to come forth and show their designs and work to the City Council. Mrs. Rose stated that these ladies painted these wooden plaques.

Mrs. Kay Raynor came forth to show the plaque. She stated that the plaque had been presented to the Clinton Historic Preservation Commission. Mrs. Raynor informed everyone that there are three (3) buildings in Downtown Clinton on the National Registry.

Before returning to her seat, Mrs. Raynor praised Mrs. Mattocks and her husband, Ricky, because they are the ones cutting out these plaques.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

Interim City Manager Elliott informed the group that the City recently, settled a workers' compensation claim for the amount of \$50,000, in the Public Works Department.

Mr. Elliott told the City Council that a proposed amendment to the City Code regarding commercial trucks will be on the August 2, 2022, City Council agenda. He stated that Attorney Howard assisted staff in the development of this proposed amendment.

Mr. Elliott announced that the NC General Assembly has now passed a Local Act for the City of Clinton and Sampson County that allows the City and the County to enter into an airport hangar lease for a period of up to thirty (30) years. Furthermore, he stated that a proposed lease for Moore's Aerial Applicators (Michael Rivenbark) will be coming before the City Council on August 2nd.

Publicly, Interim City Manager Elliott praised and thanked Public Works Director Medlin and his department for a job well done recently. He stated that at the intersection of Hwy 403 and Hwy 701, there had been a water main break, as well as a sewer cave-in. Mr. Medlin and the Public Works Department did an amazing job at resolving these

problems.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one appeared for public comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Ruggles, seconded by Councilmember DuBose, it passed unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege.

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

Mayor Starling stated that City Council entered into closed session to discuss an attorney-client privilege matter. Furthermore, he stated that no action was taken.

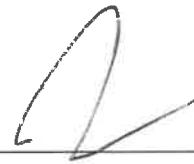
ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Becton, seconded by Councilmember Corbett, it passed unanimously to adjourn the July 5, 2022, City Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.



Elaine F. Hunt, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC



Lew Starling, Jr., Mayor