

October 19, 2009

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL – MINUTES

Mayor Winfred Shoopman called the regular Clinton City Council meeting to order on October 19, 2009, at Clinton City Hall at 5:30 p.m. Councilman Scott Burton, Councilman Larry Gann, Councilman Charles Lyons, Councilman Jim McBride, Councilman Jerry Shattuck and Councilman Clay Wright were present for the meeting.

Guest and Staff present:

Ron Young
Gina Wasilewski
Richard Snead
Jennifer Jenks
John Davis

Monica Fox
Brandon Wasilewski
ET Stamey
Steve Jones
Phil Harber

Vickie Violette
Melissa Snead
Dale Isabell
Norman Davis

The agenda was approved as presented.

Councilman Larry Gann opened the meeting with a prayer.

Councilman Scott Burton led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilman Charlie Lyons made the motion to approve the September 21, 2009 regular minutes as received and was seconded by Councilman Larry Gann. The motion was moved to carry.

Committee Reports

School Board Report –

Vicki Violette, Director of Schools reported enrollment of 882 students including preschool, and the current absentee rate is 5%. Dr. Violette advised that the Schools had received a grant of \$18,850, which is excess lottery money; the money would be used to upgrade the lighting at South Clinton Elementary School. Councilman Jerry Shattuck inquired if the grant was unrestricted on how it was used. Dr. Violette replied it could only be used on energy efficient projects. Councilman Shattuck asked if the two energy efficient loans that the Schools currently have are only for North Clinton. Dr. Violette answered yes.

Dale Isabell asked if there were any questions about the financial report. Councilman Scott Burton suggested the Schools only provide the summary pages of the report for the council meeting and email the report in its entirety to each of the council members in save money. Mr. Isabell presented Budget Amendment # 4 in the general purpose school fund to increase appropriations and decrease the fund balance. Mr. Isabell explained that the schools had received an unexpected increase in workman's comp insurance and a bill from their audit from prior years. The other portion of the amendment was \$13,702 in funds that needed to be reappropriated. Councilman Jim McBride made the motion to approve Budget Amendment #4 and was seconded by Councilman Scott Burton. The motion was moved to carry with a unanimous roll call vote.____

Clinton Regional Planning Commission Report –

Councilman Charlie Lyons reported the Board of Zoning Appeals met on October 12, 2009. The Board approved a waiver for additional square footage for an existing pole and wall signage for Bruce Williams for property located at 507 South Charles Seivers Blvd. David Worthington was granted a variance to allow a detached garage to a zero side-yard setback for property located at 500 Hillcrest Street.

The Clinton Regional Planning Commission met on October 12, 2009 and approved a request from Bill Murphy for a review of the minor subdivision plat for property located at 602/606 McAdoo Street. V.J. Murray's request for preliminary site plan review was granted for a commercial building located at 901 North Charles Seivers Blvd.

Clinton Utilities Board Report –

Councilman Charlie Lyons reported that the Board met on October 8, 2009. Approved vouchers for the month were \$7,449,606 with a net income of \$150,619. Councilman Lyons announced that the audit report was complete with no disclosures. Councilman Lyons informed Council that Clinton Utility Board's debt in the water and sewer department is \$2,280,000 plus \$208,350 of interest paid on schedule which will be paid off in two years, and the total amount of debt \$14,430,000.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Clinton City Hall will be closed in observance of the Veteran's Day Holiday Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

CURRENT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. *CDBG GRANT UPDATE*

According to the East Tennessee Development District, assessments of the first six homeowners to benefit from this work have been completed and should be on their way to bid. Once we have a schedule for these six homeowners, ETDD will start on the next five. This will continue until all the work is completed.

2. *2009 HOME GRANT*

The process to start this worthwhile program has begun. Last week, we advertised for qualified contractors to implement these improvements for homeowners with special financial needs. Information on how to apply for this program will be available soon and we'll make it public as soon as feasible.

3. *QUIT CLAIM DEED REQUEST*

We have received a request by Mr. J. Philip Harber for a quit claim deed to property outlined in information contained in your Council package. Staff has determined that the property in question is a utility easement and there is some question as to whether we can deed this property and it's possible that the property automatically reverts after 20 years of no improvements. Therefore, Mr. Jones recommended that in lieu of quit claim deed that the adjoining property owners be allowed to use 50% of the easement at their discretion until that determination is made. Phil Harbor, 520 Crestwood Drive, explained that he wants to put a fence up and extend it onto and this property since the site will never be able to be developed because of the location. Mr. Jones said he should have an opinion from MTAS within the next month and offered to let Mr. Harbor know if he found out it wasn't an issue. Mr. Harbor agreed he would wait for the opinion before doing anything with the property.

4. *CITY OF CLINTON EMPLOYEE HEALTH FAIR*

The City of Clinton will be having its annual health fair for City employees on Tuesday, October 27 at the Green McAdoo Gym from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. This year, because of widespread flu concerns, we're being especially aggressive on preventative measures for our employees.

5. *PROPERTY TAX FREEZE*

Property tax notices went out recently and we've had some inquiries about the Property Tax Freeze passed by Clinton City Council a couple of years ago. The necessary forms are now available at Clinton City Hall for qualified residents. Mr. Jones reminded city residents that these forms have to be filed with the county and the city.

5. *HISTORICAL ZONING BOARD*

Curtis Perez sent a memo to Mr. Jones stating that postal boxes have been requested by merchants and the Post Office on Market Street. The Post Office has agreed to purchase and install some postal boxes, but this must be approved by Council since the boxes will actually be on City property. The Historical Zoning Board has recommended these postal boxes on Market Street. Councilman Scott Burton made a motion to approve allowing the Post Office to purchase and install postal boxes on Market Street and Councilman Larry Gann seconded the motion. Councilman Charles Lyons asked if the Post Office would be collecting rent for these boxes. Mr. Jones responded by saying no, and he thought this would provide an alternative place for the mail to be delivered without dealing with vacated buildings. The motion was moved to carry with all in favor.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATION

Finance Report:

City Manager Steve Jones presented the finance report. Mr. Jones reported that sales tax revenues increased by 1.17% and expenditures are right on target.

CODES ENFORCEMENT / BUILDING INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. The Clinton Police Department hosted its annual Family Night Out on October 8, 2009 and they estimate 500 participants took part in the event. Safe Kids distributed approximately 200 bicycle helmets at this worthwhile event.
2. Officer Michael Frogg graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and finished first academically in his class of 75 cadets.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

In the Public Works Department, maintenance crews are busy finishing mowing season, and construction crews are wrapping up some sidewalk and street repairs, in preparation for leaf collection. Collections begin October 26 and run through January 18. In your packets you will find a leaf collection schedule. The schedule is posted on our website and will be published in the Courier-News. The city is divided into four service zones, with each area of the city receiving three leaf collection visits spaced four weeks apart.

The foliage this year appears to be heavier than normal, but we expect collections to remain on schedule, however, be aware that with our current hiring freeze, the Public Works Department is short four employees. Further, our two leaf collection trucks are 32 and 26 years old, and each year it becomes increasingly difficult to find repair parts for these trucks. The Public Works Director assures me that the department will make the necessary adjustments to overcome these hardships.

Anyone with questions concerning leaf collections should call the Public Works Department at 457-6495.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. FIRST READING OF NEW ORDINANCE
- B. SECOND & FINAL READING
- C. RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 656 – FY 2008 / 2009 BUDGET AMENDMENTS Mr. Jones informed Council he had received the budget amendment for the 2008/2009 audit and explained that this amendment reflects the missed sales tax expenditures for the year. Projections were made based on a good economy. Mr. Jones mentioned that some of the changes projected were included in this amendment as well as the increase deficit from the 07/08 audit discussed with each council member personally. Mr. Jones recommended approval of Resolution #656 and added that this Resolution is a requirement. Council agreed that more time was needed to look over this resolution.

PROCLAMATIONS –

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month- Councilman Clay Wright made the motion to ratify the Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month proclamation, and Councilman Scott Burton seconded the motion. The motion was moved to carry.

OLD BUSINESS –

VISITORS-

NEW BUSINESS –

Councilman Jim McBride read a letter from Betty C. Whitehead of Clinton Duplicate Bridge Club. In the letter, the Club commended the community center on their helpfulness and the use of the facility. A check in the amount of \$638.81 was included to be donated to the recreation center.

City Manager Steve Jones advised Council that the FY 07/08 audit report is available and a memorandum has been included to explain the auditing error.

MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS –

Mayor Winfred Shoopman adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm.

Mayor Winfred Shoopman

Vickie L. Fagan, City Recorder