

**Regular City Meeting
Of the
Clifton Board of Commissioners
July 18, 2016**

Present

Randy Burns, Mayor
Tommy Boyd, Vice Mayor
David Primm, Commissioner
Eva Ruth Warren, Commissioner
Byron Skelton, Interim City Manager
Coty Smith, Sewer Plant Supt.
Austin Clark, Utility Dept.
Kiersten Lee, City Hall
Randy Battles, Fire Chief
Barbara Culp, City Recorder

Absent:

Layton Packwood, Commissioner

Visitors:

Ms. Emma McWilliams, The Wayne County News

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burns. The invocation was given by Coty Smith followed by the Pledge to Allegiance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Warren to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Primm, and carried unanimously.

Interim City Manager Resignation

Interim City Manager Byron Skelton told the commissioners that when he took the job he thought it would only be for three to four months. He said that after the meeting he would be stepping down as City Manager. He told the commissioners that he would be happy to assist anyone that they would hire as city manager. Mayor Burns said that they appreciated the good job that Manager Skelton has done, and knows that it has not been an easy road. He asked Manager Skelton if he would stay in the position until a new City Manager is hired. Manager Skelton said he would stay until a new manager is hired. He told

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the commissioners that we are behind in getting someone certified as a CMFO. He said the deadline was in February for the City to have a Certified Municipal Finance Officer. Commissioner Primm suggested that we hire a city manager with a degree in public administration, or with ten years of administrative experience. Commissioner Warren said that we were very fortunate to have had Byron Skelton in the position, and he has done the job very well. Manager Skelton asked how long should we advertise for a city manager. The commissioners agreed to run the ad for two weeks in the Wayne County News, Savannah Courier, and Town and City newspapers.

Old Business

Manager Skelton reported that approximately \$90,000.00 has been spent of the fire hall renovation budget. We still need to purchase doors, and have them installed.

Fire Grant

The new fire trucks are still scheduled to be delivered in August, or September.

Election Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Primm to approve the Resolution calling for a city election on 11-08-16. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Boyd, and carried unanimously. The candidates should have their petitions turned in by 8-18-16 at noon at the Wayne County Election Commission's office.

Street Repair for Lapa Lane, Lapa Loop, and Sunrise Drive

There was a discussion concerning the need for repair work on Lapa Lane, Lapa Loop, and Sunrise Drive. Vice Mayor Boyd asked if these streets are in the city limits. Interim City Manager Skelton said that they are within our city limits. He said that three layers of chip and seal on these streets would cost between \$17,000.00, and \$20,000.00. Commissioner Primm asked if funds are available for this project. Manager Skelton said that the funds could be budgeted in our next budget. Mayor Burns said he feels it is time to bring those streets up to par for the citizens. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boyd to approve road repair (tar

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and chip) for Lapa Lane, Lapa Loop, and Sunrise Drive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Primm, and carried unanimously.

Applications for Public Works Director

The City has received five applications for Public Works Director.

Applications for Parks & Recreation Director

The City has received 4 applications for Parks & Recreation Director. Mayor Burns asked Manager Skelton to try and get interviews set up the following week for the Utility Director's position. Commissioner Warren asked if the Parks & Recreation Director interviews should be done before the interviews for Public Works Director. Vice Mayor Boyd said he feels interviews for the Public Works Director are more important at this time than the interviews for Parks & Rec. Director.

Department Reports

Austin Clark reported that they have been installing new utility services on Stockade Street. They will do the clean up once the job has been completed. They have also been doing repair work on several sewer systems. Commissioner Warren reported that there is a hole along the highway in front of Country Girls Restaurant. It was agreed that the State would be responsible for repairing this. Commissioner Warren also reported that there is a hole in front of Valery Battles' residence on Forrest Avenue that needs to be repaired. Mayor Burns stated that he has had two requests to get brush picked up at the cemetery. Also he asked that the tall grass at the cemetery be bush-hogged.

Sewer Plant Supt. Coty Smith reported that he has had one motor repaired. Also, TAUD has contacted him about four 40 hp surface area motors that the City of Springfield will be giving away. Coty said that this sounded like a great deal at first, but after getting more information he would be afraid to install these motors at our plant because he is not sure how efficiently they would work. He suggested that they consider purchasing E1 pumps. He had seen these pumps at an Expo he attended in May and feel they would work better for our sewer plant.

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Fire Chief Randy Battles told the commissioners that they have not responded to any fires the current month, but had responded to several life flights. Everything is looking good for the fire hall renovation. He said that the original doors would be reused, and the \$90,000.00 budget includes a new roof also.

Police Officer Jerroll Henderson reported that the officer who has been out on sick leave has returned to work. He said that also a fifth officer is about to be hired. He stated that he has spoken to Mayor Burns and some other commissioners about the amount of comp time that the officers have acquired because of being short-handed. He said that he had read in our handbook that comp time can be cashed in. He stated that he would like to see the officers in the police department get paid for their comp time. Interim City Manager Skelton said that money was not budgeted in last years' budget for this, but it could be included in next years' budget. Manager Skelton suggested that an employee not be allowed to cash over 100 hours of comp time per year. The commissioners agreed to pay for 100 hours of comp time to Officer Jerroll Henderson, and Investigator Steve Wilson, and also pay Officer Timmy Harris for 13 hours and leave 80 hours on the books. City Recorder Barbara Culp was asked about her comp time. She stated that a former city manager tried to take her time off the books, but she checked with our auditor about this. Our auditor said that once comp time has been approved it cannot be taken from an employee. Mayor Burns suggested that City Recorder Barbara Culp be paid for 100 hours of her comp time also. Byron Skelton told the commissioners that they should realize the officers will gain more comp time when working the upcoming Horse Shoe Riverbend Festival. Jerroll Henderson said that they do not have the option of taking off during the festival.

Police Officer Jerroll Henderson suggested a thank you letter be sent to the Wayne County Highway Department for the good job they have done repairing the peninsula area on Water Street.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Warren to pay comp time to police officers Jerroll Henderson, Steve Wilson, Timmy Harris, and Barbara Culp. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Primm, and carried unanimously.

Byron Skelton said that he met with Local Government officials last week about the new CIRUS Court Reporting System. They will upgrade our current system for free, and only charge \$200.00 more per year for a support fee.

Manager Skelton told the commissioners that a new law has been passed where staff members are now allowed to carry handguns on a college campus. This will be permitted if they have a hand gun permit. Anyone who will be doing this should come by city hall and fill out a form so we will know who is authorized to carry a concealed weapon on Columbia State's campus.

Manager Skelton stated that anyone in town who would like to be on a welfare checklist should contact city hall. Once a person is on the list, and have not been heard from within a day our police department will check on them.

The Clifton Airport has received a grant from TDOT, and a new zero turn mower will be purchased. Weedeaters will also be purchased to keep the airport in better shape.

Commissioner Primm said that he would like to see the words "In God We Trust" on our new welcome to Clifton signs. Manager Skelton said that he has not found anyone to build new signs yet.

Vice Mayor Boyd advised our police officers to be careful with all the negative things going on in the world. Officer Henderson said they cannot let what has happened in Texas, Louisiana, Etc. dictate what goes on in Clifton.

Commissioner Warren thanked Byron Skelton again for the job he has done as Interim City Manager, and wished him the best.

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Mayor Burns said that someone has put a rebel flag on the city limit sign on Highway 641. He said the sign has been sprayed over because the emblem cannot be peeled off.

Mayor Burns asked that the City Commission start to work better together, instead of against each other. He said he does not feel it is proper for city commissioners to go around town talking negative about the City. Commissioner Primm stated that the commissioner's do not need to violate the Sunshine Law by more than two commissioners meeting/talking outside the city meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



MAYOR



CITY RECORDER