

**Regular City Meeting  
of the  
Clifton Board of Commissioners  
March 4, 2019**

**Present:**

Randy Burns, Mayor  
Layton Packwood, Vice Mayor  
Eve Ruth Warren, Commissioner  
Mark Staggs, Commissioner  
Bill Willoughby, Commissioner  
Byron Skelton, Chief of Police  
Austin Clark, Public Works Director  
Kiersten Rainey, Administrative Assistant  
Lindsay Roberts, Fire Chief  
Timmy Harris, Police Officer  
Barbara Culp, City Recorder

**Visitors:**

Mr. James Reed, Director of Energy Management for Core Civic  
Eric Broomfield, and Rick Oakley with Heathcoat & Davis Engineers  
Mr. Gene Davidson, Owner of Clifton Marina  
Ms. Stacey Huntingford, Buyer of Clifton Marina  
Mr. Tom Mathis, County Commissioner  
Mr. Steven Pevahouse, County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burns. The invocation was given by Tom Mathis, followed by the Pledge to Allegiance.

The roll was called by City Recorder Barbara Culp. All members of the Commission were present.

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

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**New Business from the Audience**

Mr. Tom Mathis told the Commission that he would like to see Highway 641 extended to Highway 13. He said he feels this would be beneficial to Clifton, Collinwood, and Decatur County. He asked for the commissioner's support for this. There was a discussion, but no action was taken.

Mr. Gene Davidson introduced Ms. Stacey Huntingford. He said she is purchasing the Clifton Marina. He told the commissioners that he needs the wording in the lease he has with the City changed from Pillow Street Development to Gene Davidson. Mr. Davidson said he needs this changed in order to complete the sale of the marina. City Manager Doug Kibbey said he would need to review the lease. Ms. Huntingford said she is from a small town also, and is here to help, support, and embrace our town. She said she has some ideas for the marina, and look forward to working with the City Commission.

**Old Business**

The Pilot Resolution for In Lieu of Tax that passed at the last meeting has been signed, and the tax payments have been made.

The CDBG Resolution has been signed and sent to the State. We should find out in August, or September if we have received a grant.

The Commission voted to eliminate the \$2.00 administrative fee to customers who pay their utility bills without having the bill. This fee has been removed.

The bid for the concrete slab for the ball park was approved, and the contract has been signed.

The commissioners discussed the OPEB-Retirement Insurance Coverage Election, but no decision was made at the last meeting.

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Mr. John Poole debriefed the Commission about our audit at the last meeting.

There was a natural gas rates discussion with Mr. Jerry Forman of Tri-Star Company.

The Commission voted to purchase land from Mr. James Frank Bundrant.

There was a discussion concerning TDEC-State Revolving Loan Funds for Water and Wastewater. The application for this was submitted 2-21-19.

**OPED Insurance Election for Retirees**

There was a discussion concerning the OPED Insurance Election for Retirees. A motion was made by Commissioner Willoughby to go with Option 1 which will allow any future retirees to participate in retirement insurance. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Packwood, and carried unanimously. The City could opt out in the future if they choose to.

**New Business**

**Application for Retail Liquor Store**

Mr. Brian Clark Bates has made application for a liquor license. The city manager said that a background check has been completed on Mr. Brian Clark Bates, and no issues were found. After a discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Warren to Issue Mr. Brian Clark Bates a retail liquor license. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Packwood, and carried unanimously. Mr. Bates said he still has plans to open on 5-01-19.

**Payday Loans and Pawn Shops**

The city manager said he had received an email from someone who was interested in having a payday loan business inside the City. He said that there is no ordinance against this, but the Commission could pass an ordinance to regulate these types of establishments. Mayor Burns suggested a decision on this should be tabled until our city attorney is present.

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**Ordinance to set Gas Tap Fees and User Rates**

A motion was made by Commissioner Staggs to pass the Gas Ordinance # 273 (to set natural gas tap and user fees) on the first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren, and carried unanimously.

**Solid Waste Ordinance**

There was a motion by Commissioner Warren to approve Solid Waste Ordinance # 274 (to set collection fees) on the first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Staggs.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Warren-----Yes  
Commissioner Staggs-----Yes  
Commissioner Willoughby-----No  
Vice Mayor Packwood-----No  
Mayor Burns-----Yes

The motion carried.

**Water/Sewer Ordinance**

The city manager said today he met with Mr. James Reed, Director of Energy Management with Core Civic, and discussed how a utility rate increase would affect them. Mr. Eric Broomfield, and Mr. Rick Oakley with Heathcoat and Davis Engineering firm explained the current condition of our water plant. There have been some major issues recently, and there have been times that our town was almost without water. Our water plant employees have to operate the plant 20 hours each day to meet production. He said in the future if the plant keeps deteriorating water could have to be rationed, or the plant could break down. The city manager said the question remains, do we want to build a new water plant. There was a discussion concerning the rate increase it would take to pay for a new water plant. The city manager said the rate increases in the proposed ordinance are still the cheapest rates of any town around. He said a study has been done by Heathcoat and Davis Engineers, and a new water plant

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would cost approximately 7.2 million dollars. Vice Mayor Packwood said he feels this amount of money is a lot of debt for our town to carry. He told the engineers from Heathcoat and Davis that no reflection on them but he would like to have another study done by another engineering firm. The engineers said they would continue to look at the cost estimate to see if there is a way to build the plant cheaper. Mayor Burns said he feels we should just get it over with, and move forward with a new water plant. The city manager said if the ordinance is passed, rates could be adjusted in the future. A motion was made by Commissioner Warren to approve the Water/Sewer Ordinance # 275 (to set water and sewer tap fees, and user rates). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Staggs.

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Commissioner Warren-----Yes
- Commissioner Staggs-----Yes
- Commissioner Willoughby-----No
- Vice Mayor Packwood-----No
- Mayor Burns -----Yes

The motion carried. Commissioner Willoughby said he is not convinced this is the best way to go. He said he feels he hasn't had enough information.

**Budget Amendment #4**

A motion was made by Commissioner Warren to pass Budget Amendment #4- Ordinance # 272 on the first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Staggs, and carried unanimously.

**Department Reports.**

Public Works Director Austin Clark stated that the lagoons and lift stations overflowed because of the flood water. Now that the water is receding two inmate crews should be out the following day to do clean-up work. County

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Commissioner Tom Mathis stated that the County will provide garbage containers for the clean-up. Mayor Burns asked about the pump located on Elm Street.

Austin said the pump been running all the time since the flooding, and gets hot. He said it goes off and has to be reset manually.

Police Chief Skelton reported that we have received the settlement for the police car that caught fire. Also the chief requested that the no parking be allowed in the space beside the library. The commissioners agreed.

Parks Director Eddie Simmons said the Jr. High, and High School will start playing ball the next week. He said they are starting clean up now.

Commissioner Warren asked about the school's ballfield. She said it needs attention. This is county property, but Eddie Simmons said he would be willing to help with the school's field.

Fire Chief Lindsay Roberts reported that he is waiting on Ricky Banks to finish the work at the fire hall. Chief Roberts also stated that the fire department did their first extraction call using their new equipment.

The city manager stated that our public works department, along with the police department, did a great job coordinating with the prison inmates during the flooding. The city manager reminded the commissioners that they have to participate in utility training. It will be held Tuesday through Thursday from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The city manager said he would be going both nights and any commissioner would be welcome to ride with him.

The city manager commended County Mayor Jim Mangubat, County Commissioners Steven Pevahouse, and Tom Mathis for helping get food distributed to the flood victims.

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The commissioners thanked everyone for the good job they did during the flood.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY RECORDER