

December 13, 2005 Special Meeting

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina continued from December 6, 2005 was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. on December 13, 2005 at City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Becton, Stefanovich, Strickland and Turlington were present. Councilmember Harris was absent. The city attorney, city clerk, city manager, planning director, and planner were in attendance.

SCHOOLS—MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. John Merritt explained a Blue Cross/Blue Shield Fit Together grant program designed to improve childhood fitness. He asked council to file on behalf of his 501(c)(3) a grant application for \$40,000 which requires a \$30,000 local contribution. City Manager Connet said if the grant is awarded, Dr. Merritt will work with the city school system and the Clinton Recreation Department. Dr. Merritt's non profit organization will attempt to raise the local contribution. But, if he is not successful, in year 2 both the school and city will pay \$5,000 each and in year 3 both entities will pay \$10,000 each.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Stefanovich, seconded by Councilmember Strickland, and unanimously passed to allow Dr. Merritt to make the grant in the city's name and to repay the funds if local funding is not raised.

ANNEXATION

City Manager Connet gave a brief history of the proposed annexation. He said the planning department was instructed to look at areas adjacent to the city limits that were receiving city services. He told council that tonight it would be asked to adopt the annexation reports.

Planning Director Vreugdenhil displayed a map of each area and told how each area qualifies for annexation. In addition he presented the costs versus savings for each affected property owner. He said each of the proposed annexation areas currently enjoy city utilities while not paying taxes. He added they pay double water and sewer rates but if annexed will pay inside rates.

Councilmember Strickland asked the difference in forced and voluntary annexation and if it matters to the city the method used for annexation. Mr. Vreugdenhil said yes it matters to the city. He added that forced annexation is not always popular, but it allows the city to grow since most people do not petition to be annexed. City Manager Connet said ideally everyone would request voluntary annexation, but since that is not the case, the state allows involuntary annexation as a means for cities to grow.

Councilmember Stefanovich said he is uncomfortable with annexing a couple of the parcels, but the city must take a hard look at what it will take to grow.

Councilmember Turlington said the selection of the parcels proposed for annexation is an intelligent solution. She added that the city can't just sit still and not grow.

Councilmember Becton said that growth calls for certain measures.

Mayor Starling said he had conflicts of interest for Areas 1, 2, 4, and 8. He told council he feels council will make an error if it annexes the areas. He said the process will be a lot of work that will not be a benefit to the city. He added that annexing the areas will send the wrong message.

Mayor Starling asked council to vote on each report by area.

Councilmember Turlington made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #1. Councilmember Becton seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Councilmember Becton made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #2. Councilmember Turlington seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Councilmember Turlington made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #3. Councilmember Becton seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Councilmember Turlington made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #4. Councilmember Becton seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Councilmember Becton made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #5. Councilmember Turlington seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Councilmember Turlington made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #6. Councilmember Becton seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Councilmember Becton made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #7. Councilmember Turlington seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Councilmember Turlington made a motion to approve the annexation report for Area #8. Councilmember Becton seconded the motion and it passed 3-1, with Councilmember Strickland voting against the motion.

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Becton, seconded by Councilmember Stefanovich and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Clerk

Mayor