

## SEPTEMBER 15, 2011, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Clinton, North Carolina, met in a special session at 7:00 PM on September 15, 2011 in the Clinton City Hall Training Room. Mayor Starling presided. Councilmembers Becton, Strickland, Turlington, and Stefanovich were present. Absent was Mayor Pro Tem Harris and City Attorney Dale Johnson. Present were: City Clerk Elaine F. Hunt; City Manager John F. Connet; Assistant City Manager-Finance Director Shawn Purvis; Recreation Director Judi Nicholson; Brenda Potter; and Tim Boykin. Planning and Community Development Director Mary Rose; Police Chief Mike Brim; Fire Chief Todd Solice; Public Works Director Jeff Vreugdenhil; and Human Resource Manager Lisa Carter were absent.

Chris Berendt, of the Sampson Independent, was present.

Councilmember Becton gave the invocation.

### **RECREATION**

City Manager Connet stated that the purpose of the meeting was to give City Council an overview regarding recreation. He stated that two memoranda were given to City Council regarding the financial sustainability of recreation and its needs assessment survey (**See attachments**). He stated that he had spoken to the Recreation Advisory Board to keep them abreast of the happenings as it relates to the Recreation Department. He asked Assistant City Manager-Finance Director Shawn Purvis to present the overview.

Mr. Purvis stated that the history of the Recreation Department began in 1945, when General Assembly granted local governments authority to establish recreation and parks. He showed the recreational trends for the spring and summer baseball, softball, and soccer activities and also, the fall and winter athletic participation. The trends indicate a dropping off of participation among the youth. Recreation and Parks Director Nicholson stated that she is aware of the drop-off. Mr. Tim Boykin, Supervisor of the Sampson Center, stated that the children are choosing video playing over playing sports.

Mr. Purvis stated that city pool participation has gone very well and is running smoothly. He showed a chart illustrating recreation expenditures, peer comparison, and recreation revenues. He stated that capital costs include:

- Bellamy Center Program Addition - \$2,000,000
- Newkirk Park Improvement - \$75,000
- Royal Lane Renovations Phase I - \$773,200
- Royal Lane Renovations Phase II - \$500,000
- Royal Lane Restrooms - \$275,000

Other potential capital costs include: field expansions; concession stands; trails and walkways.

Mr. Purvis stated the options to consider:

- Increase and/or implement fees
- Host invitational and weekend tournaments
- Solicit sponsorships for leagues and facilities
- Implement concessions
- Consolidation
- Contraction
- Outsourcing
- Reduce services/programs
- Mothball facilities
- Issue bonds
- Issue debt

Upon the conclusion of the presentation, discussion occurred regarding restrooms, concessions, and the necessity of parks.

Councilmember Strickland questioned the County's figures in athletic participation. It was the consensus of the City Council to put this item back on the October 4, 2011 regular city council meeting for discussion—primarily, the Royal Lane restrooms and concessions. City Manager Connet was directed to try and reduce the Royal Lane restrooms cost of \$ 275,000.

### **RESOLUTION – FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE DOCUMENTS**

City Manager Connet stated that the City of Clinton is eligible to receive FEMA disaster assistance for our activities following Hurricane Irene on or about August 26, 2011. He stated that in order to submit the paperwork for this assistance, City Council must adopt a resolution designating applicant agents for Public Assistance for NC Division of Emergency Management Disaster Recovery Operations. City Manager Connet recommended approval of the resolution designating the City Manager, John Connet, and Assistant City Manager, Shawn Purvis, as the applicant's agents.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Strickland, seconded by Councilmember Becton, **BE IT RESOLVED BY** the governing body of the Organization (a public entity duly organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina) that the above-named Primary and Secondary Agents are hereby authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance on behalf of the Organization for the purpose of obtaining certain state and federal financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act, (Public Law 93-288 as amended) or as otherwise available. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the above-named agents are authorized to represent and act for the Organization in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all matters pertaining to such disaster assistance required by the grant agreements and the

assurances printed on the reverse side hereof. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT** the above-named agents are authorized to act severally.

The abovementioned resolution passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion made by Councilmember Stefanovich, seconded by Councilmember Becton, and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

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Elaine F. Hunt, MMC, City Clerk

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Lew Starling, Mayor