

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING CLINTON CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 8, 2011**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Clinton, Oklahoma, Custer County, held in the Frisco Center on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 5:30 P.M. A notice of this meeting with agenda was posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of Clinton City Hall on March 3, 2011.

Mayor Allen Bryson called the meeting to order with the following present;

MAYOR: Allen Bryson

COUNCIL: Don Rodolph, Steve Jones, Bob Marcy

ABSENT: Phyllis Smith

CITY MANAGER: Steve Hewitt

CLERK: Lisa Anders

TREASURER: Debra Blanchard

NEWS MEDIA: Jarod Atha and Gerald Green

OTHERS: Lyle Miller, Russ Meacham, Bobby Hoffman, Henry Caldwell, Wade Anders, David Crabtree, Bob Davis and others.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
4TH CENT SALES TAX**

City Manager Steve Hewitt explained critical concerns he had regarding the renewal of the 4th cent sales tax. He reported that Treasurer Debra Blanchard had prepared the financial reports and asked her to review the reports.

Treasurer Debra Blanchard reviewed the financial reports of the City and the indebtedness of the City.

Councilman Marcy asked the City's Financial Advisor, Russ Meacham how Clinton's situation compares to other communities similar in size.

Russ Meacham said that Clinton is very secure in finance. He said there is no debt with high interest and is appropriately structured. He said the City's debt is managed pretty well.

Councilman Marcy asked what would happen if a large unexpected expense came along for the City.

City Manager Steve Hewitt said the City has several options such as refinance or rate adjustments. He said there are multiple ways to cover those type of concerns. He said options could be reviewed if it were necessary. He said the key is to have good quality infrastructure in place and have funding for unexpected cost set in place.

City Manager Hewitt presented two project options to the Council for consideration. Both options included a new fire station, modernization of the existing police station, soft costs (property, demolition, interest, etc), Phase II Acme Park Debt Service and economic development. Option 2 included school technology and economic development splitting \$800,000 over an eight year period.

City Manager Hewitt said the projects listed would be funded over an eight year period and would be completed in that same time frame. He said he had spoken with Clinton Public School Superintendent Jason Sternberger and he had not specifically asked for funding. Hewitt said the Economic Development fund needs to be enhanced and the fire and police services are very important. He asked for feedback from the Council and the public.

Councilman Marcy said over the years he had heard discussion regarding a safety center that would combine the police and fire stations and he asked about that possibility.

City Manager Steve Hewitt said he was aware of those discussions and he felt that would leave dead space in the City Hall building. He did not think that option was needed at this time. He said the population of Clinton does not demand that type of facility.

Councilman Rodolph asked what would be the earliest date an election could be held.

City Manager Hewitt said if the resolution for calling an election were approved at the March 15th meeting the election could be held June 14, 2011.

Mayor Allen Bryson said the Fire Department is in need of a ladder truck and current ladder trucks will not fit in the current facility.

City Manager Hewitt said without the continuation of the sales tax the City can manage the debt but some areas of capital will take a hit, such as the purchase of tractors, mowers, vehicles, equipment will suffer.

Councilman Rodolph said we need to move forward.

County Commissioner Lyle Miller said the County is looking at a sales tax election in July.

Mayor Allen Bryson said he had allowed the lapse because he felt it was important to have the Vision Session meeting. He said he would rather have the drop and go through the correct steps before the sales tax election. He said the 2004 Vision Session results indicated that Fire/Police station was listed in the top five items.

City Manager Steve Hewitt said the police department is in need of being updated and public safety needs to be addressed.

Bobby Hoffman said the City Manager has done an outstanding job of putting together these recommendations. He said the Fire Department is in need of replacement and he felt that older voters could be supportive of this issue.

Councilman Jones said if the school is tied into the project he thought it would receive support from voters.

Mayor Bryson said he had spoken with Jason Sternberger about the technology needs of the school. He said that every three years the technology is outdated. He asked what would become of any overage that could be collected from the proposed sales tax.

City Manager Steve Hewitt said he would suggest any overage be directed to economic development.

Motion was made by Councilman Rodolph and seconded by Councilman Marcy to replace the resolution for calling of a special election for a fourth cent sales tax on the March 15, 2011 agenda.

Mayor put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Rodolph, Marcy, Jones, Bryson
Nay: None

Mayor declared the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: ADJOURN

Motion was made by Councilman Rodolph and seconded by Councilman Jones to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Rodolph, Jones, Marcy

Nay: None

Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.