

**MINUTES OF THE CLINTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2024**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Clinton City Council, City of Clinton, Oklahoma, Custer County, held in the City Council Room, City Hall on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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 January 11th, 2024, at 4:00 P.M.

Mayor David Berrong called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m. with the following present:

**MAYOR:** David Berrong

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Stormie Hill, Ernie Dowdell, Ernesto Villanueva

**COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT** Arthur Lloyd (absent)

**MANAGER:** Robert Johnston

**CITY TREASURER:** Debra Blanchard

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Ryan Meacham

**CITY CLERK:** Amy Jones

**NEWS MEDIA:** Sean Stephens

**OTHERS:** Luis De la Torre, Shauna Hacker, Joshua McGuire, Gene McCullough, Doug Greer, Nancy Smith, Kent & Beth Dewees, Martie Oyler, Dustin Fredrick, and others.

Mayor Berrong opened the meeting with prayer and Doug Greer, Service Officer, American Legion Post 41 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes of the January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Councilmember Dowdell and seconded by Councilmember Villanueva that the Consent Agenda Items be approved.

Mayor David Berrong put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Dowdell, Hill, Villanueva, Berrong

Nay: None

Mayor declared the motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEMS 3. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. **Ordinance No. 1028 – Establishing a New Section an Ordinance Establishing a New Section in Title 6, Chapter 1A, for the Regulation of the Transportation of Individuals into the Municipal Limits of the City of Clinton with the Intention of Violating the Vagrancy and Loitering**

## **Laws of the City of Clinton; Establishing A Penalty; Providing for Severability.**

City Manager Johnston asked City Attorney Meacham who prepared this ordinance to explain its intent.

Meacham stated that this ordinance is to provide help with the homeless/vagrancy problem in our community. This will also help the Mission House to enforce their protocols and other locations in Clinton. Discussion was held by the Council members regarding the ordinance.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dowdell and seconded by Villanueva to approve the Ordinance No. 1028 as presented.

Mayor David Berrong put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Dowdell, Hill, Villanueva, Berrong

Nay: None

Mayor declared the motion carried.

### **B. Emergency Provision for Ordinance No. 1028**

Motion was made by Councilmember Dowdell and seconded by Villanueva to approve the Emergency Provision for Ordinance No. 1028

Mayor David Berrong put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Dowdell, Hill, Villanueva, Berrong

Nay: None

Mayor declared the motion carried.

### **C. Presentation by OK Natural Gas (ONG) Representatives Regarding Franchise Renewal**

City Manager Johnston introduced Martie Oyler and Dustin Frederick who are present to make a presentation for OK Natural Gas (ONG) regarding franchise renewal.

Mrs. Oyler presented to the Council regarding the need for the upcoming election for the franchise renewal. A sample ordinance was provided for review and briefly discussed. The proposed agreement has 4.25% franchise fee.

City Manager Johnston stated that we will need to have a special meeting before February 1, 2024 to have the election on the April 2, 2024 ballot.

Information only.

**D. Appointment of Two Trustees to the Midwestern Ok Industrial Foundation**

Mayor Berrong reported that Jason Hulin and Wheeler Lowry are both currently serving on the foundation and are up for reappointment. Mayor Berrong stated that both are willing to continue to serve.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dowdell and seconded by Councilmember Villanueva to approve the appointment Jason Hulin and Wheeler Lowry of to the Midwestern OK Industrial Foundation.

Mayor David Berrong put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Dowdell, Hill, Villanueva, Berrong

Nay: None

Mayor declared the motion carried.

**E. Request for Executive Session for confidential communications with its attorneys concerning initiating legal proceedings regarding the Alliance Lawsuit, if the Trustees, with the advice of its attorneys, determine that disclosure will seriously impair its ability to process the action in the public interest, pursuant to 25 Oklahoma Statutes. § 307.B.4 and A.G. Opinion 05-29**

Motion was made by Councilmember Dowdell and seconded by Councilmember Villanueva to request for Executive Session for confidential communications with its attorneys as cited on the agenda with the City Manager and City Attorney to join the executive session.

Mayor David Berrong put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Dowdell, Hill, Villanueva, Berrong

Nay: None

Mayor declared the motion carried and the Executive Session commenced at 5:55 PM.

**F. Reconvene from Executive Session**

Motion was made by Councilmember Dowdell and seconded by Councilmember Villanueva to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:11 p.m.

Mayor David Berrong put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Dowdell, Hill, Villanueva, Berrong

Nay: None

Mayor declared the motion carried

#### **G. Any Action(s) Resulting from Executive Session Discussion**

A report of no action taken was given by Mayor Berrong.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 NEW BUSINESS (If any, pursuant to Section 311.9 of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.)**

None

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

None

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (According to Audience participation Decorum Guidelines at Clinton City Council Public Meetings effective:2/14/2017)**

Kent Dewees, 411 S. 10<sup>th</sup>, voiced his opinion regarding the "failure of the City of Clinton to pursue remediation of and to provide relief from alleged code violations occurring at 405, 405 ½, and 407 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Clinton, OK 73601 pursuant to the *Clinton City Code*". Mr. Dewees presented photographs regarding the condition of said properties.

Mayor Berrong thanked Mr. Dewees for presenting the information to Council and for his time. No other comments were made by the City Council and no action was taken.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilmember Dowdell seconded by Councilmember Villanueva to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor put the motion to a roll call vote:

Aye: Hill, Lloyd, Berrong  
Nay: None

Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

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Date Approved

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David Berrong, Mayor