



MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting was called to order and presided by Mayor Randall with Councilmembers Cook, Williams, Cogsdill, Kuykendall, Smith and Walsh present. City Manager Meadors, Assistant City Manager of Finance Mr. Stevens and City Attorney Wham were also present. The meeting was an open meeting. Citizens could view the meeting on the City's YouTube page.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Cook.

CITY COUNCIL to recognize CITIZENS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS WHO HAVE REGISTERED TO ADDRESS CITY COUNCIL.

Mayor Randall stated the first item of business is for Council to recognize citizens regarding agenda items who have registered to address Council and reminded all of the two (2) minute limit and requested that citizens leave any statements or questions with Mrs. Langston for Council. Mayor Randall asked Mrs. Langston to call the first citizen registered to address Council. Mrs. Langston called Ms. Cecia White to the front to speak. Ms. White stated she has a complaint about 1777 Gary Street and stated it is in reference to two (2) houses to the left of hers. Ms. White stated she has lived at 1769 Gary Street for the last eighteen (18) years and noted she chose that neighborhood due to it being a "quiet neighborhood". Ms. White stated her elderly neighbor has since passed away and his widow has moved to Washington D.C. and stated since then, it has been "booming all the time". Ms. White stated the "booming" starts about 6:30pm and lasts throughout the night and until approximately 9:30am. Ms. White stated she has contacted both the Clinton and Laurens Police Departments numerous times as well as has went by the offices in person to file a complaint and feels that they make her "feel like a fool". Ms. White stated her neighbor would corroborate her story as she has had similar struggles and noted she is at "her last stage of her life and not getting any relief". Ms. White stated she has a defibrillator and is not getting any rest due to the noise. Ms. White thanked Mayor and Council for hearing her comments and Mayor Randall thanked Ms. White for her comments as well and stated the City would address the matter. The next citizen registered to address Council is Ms.



Donna Kinsley. Ms. Kinsley stated she lives at 1769B Gary Street and stated it is near 1777 Gary Street as Ms. Cecia White previously stated. Ms. Kinsley stated all the neighborhood hears is “loud booming” and stated this has been going on since early January and stated when the police is called “nothing” happens. Ms. Kinsley stated when the police respond to the call and go out, the loud booming stops but noted it will start back up approximately thirty (30) minutes after the police leave the scene. Ms. Kinsley stated she is also an elderly person at sixty-seven (67) and has also been sick with no rest due to the noise. Ms. Kinsley thanked Mayor and Council for hearing her comments and Mayor Randall thanked Ms. Kinsley for her comments as well and stated the City would address the matter. The third citizen registered to address Council is Ms. Janice Roberson. Ms. Roberson stated she is the Site Coordinator for the Zone in Clinton, South Carolina and stated she is in attendance on behalf of the Executive Director, Ms. Teresa DeShields as well as the volunteers of the Zone. Ms. Robertson thanked the City for the funding the Zone received to aid in their Summer Boot Camp program of 2025. Ms. Roberson stated the Summer Boot Camp was a three (3) day event held at Piedmont Technical College and noted several out-of-town speakers came to speak on finances, mental health, leadership, skill building, behavior, health, stimulation and local officers who came to speak about safety. Ms. Roberson stated the Zone had a total of forty (40) children transported daily as well as were able to provide breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack each day. Ms. Roberson stated at the end of the week, the Zone was able to give away a total of one hundred twenty-five (125) bookbags, supplies, personal hygiene products, and personal items. Ms. Roberson concluded the Zone would like to thank the City for their funding and noted thank you cards had been prepared for each member of Council. Ms. Roberson asked for all parents and students who were members of the Zone to please stand and once they did so, all proclaimed in unison “Thank you City of Clinton”. Mayor Randall and Council thanked Ms. Roberson for her comments. Mrs. Langston stated that is all the citizens registered to address Council.

CITY COUNCIL to consider APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to consider the approval of the Minutes from the December 1, 2025, Council Meeting. A Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cook and was Seconded by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

CITY COUNCIL to consider PROCLAMATIONS.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to consider the following Proclamations: January as Birth Defects Prevention Month in the City of Clinton and January as Blood Donor Month in the City of Clinton. A Motion to approve these Proclamation was made



by Councilmember Cogsdill and was Seconded by Councilmember Williams. The vote was unanimous.

CITY COUNCIL to recognize 2025 CHRISTMAS DECORATION AWARD WINNERS.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to recognize the 2025 Christmas Decoration Award Winners. Mayor Randall stated each award winner would receive a fifty dollar (\$50) credit on their utility bill as well as a certificate and a City of Clinton cup. Mayor Randall stated the winners are as follows: Mr. Christopher May at 103 Derby Lane for Ward one (1), Mr. Derrick and Shalynn Chandler at 120 Copper Creek for Ward two (2), Ms. Clattie Putman at 710 N Broad Street for Ward three (3), Mr. Vanchell Robinson at 402 Academy Street for Ward four (4), Mr. Jimmy and Sara Heaton at 401 Caldwell Street as well as Mr. Wayne and Julie Steele at 403 Caldwell street for Ward five (5) making a tie, Mr. Joseph and Candice Branim at 200 W Walnut Street for Ward six (6), and Mr. Hayden Copeland for Allstate: the Copeland Agency as the business winner. Mayor Randall asked that each winner come to the front with their Councilmember to be recognized and presented their City of Clinton cups. In attendance to receive their awards were: Mr. Derrick Chandler for Ward two (2), Ms. Clattie Putman for Ward three (3), and Mr. Wayne and Julie Steele for Ward five (5). Mayor Randall and Council congratulated all winners again.

CITY COUNCIL to consider SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE WITHIN THE CITY OF CLINTON RELATED TO ESTABLISHING AN RS-2 (HIGH DENSITY, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ZONING DISTRICT, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to consider Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance within the City of Clinton related to establishing an RS-2 (High Density, Single Family Residential) Zoning District and other matters related thereto. City Manager Meadors gave an overview of documentation provided to Council and noted this “mimics” the business item completed for R3 several months prior and noted it eliminates multi-family housing for this area. City Manager Meadors stated there is still another option of R2 which will allow multi-family housing but noted this item of RS-2 is for single family housing only. A Motion to approve Second Reading was made by Councilmember Kuykendall and a Second from Councilmember Walsh. The vote was unanimous.



CITY COUNCIL to consider FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE APPLICATION OF SUNDAY SALES PROHIBITIONS (BLUE LAWS) WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CLINTON, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is to consider the First Reading of Ordinance to temporarily suspend the application of Sunday Sales Prohibitions (Blue Laws) within the corporate limits of the City of Clinton, and other matters related thereto. City Manager Meadors gave a brief overview of documentation provided to Council and Mayor Randall noted this is something that must be done twice (2) per year or every six (6) months to temporarily suspend the Blue Laws. A Motion to approve Second Reading was made by Councilmember Walsh and was Seconded by Councilmember Cogsdill. The vote was unanimous.

CITY COUNCIL to consider APPOINTMENTS TO DESIGN REVIEW BOARD FOR WARDS 1, 2, 4 AND 6.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to consider appointments to the Design Review Board for Wards one (1), two (2), four (4) and six (6). Mayor Randall stated the nominees are Mr. Michael Stoddard for Ward two (2), Mr. Steven Laird for Ward one (1) and Mr. Harold Nichols for Ward four (4) who have all completed their first (1st) term and are nominated to serve their second (2nd) term. Mayor Randall explained they are allowed to serve two (2) consecutive terms and stated all three (3) Design Review Board Members listed have agreed to serve a second (2nd) term. Mayor Randall noted Ward six (6) has a candidate and is currently still “mulling over” the process and stated Ward six (6) would bring their candidate back before Council at the February 2026 Council Meeting. Mayor Randall asked all of Council if anyone had any other nominees to add or list. A Motion to approve these candidates to serve their second (2nd) term was made by Councilmember Kuykendall and was Seconded by Ms. Williams. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Randall stated he would like to remind everyone in the “public sphere” that serving on these boards is a voluntary thing and noted some people were “jarred” by the recent comments made to the Design Review Board. Mayor Randall stated he would like to remind everyone these are citizens who have volunteered and are “trying to help and following the rules of our City”. Mayor Randall thanked Ms. Susan Tallman for her service on the Design Review Board and acknowledged the completion of her first (1st) term.

CITY COUNCIL to consider LAURENS COUNTY LEASE AGREEMENT FOR SCDSS.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to consider the Laurens County Lease Agreement for SCDSS. Mayor Randall went on to explain this would allow the City



Manager to sign the contract with Laurens County for the lease agreement for the portion of the building that DSS is currently occupying. City Manager Meadors stated this agreement has been ongoing for “sometime” and noted City Attorney Wham could attest to that. City Manager Meadors stated the process was slowed down some due to the changing of City Managers and County Managers. City Manager Meadors stated this would lease the portion of the building to Laurens County for DSS for three (3) years at a cost of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00) per year. City Manager Meadors stated the first three (3) years of this would be “eaten up” by the overage that was spent on the building when the building was remodeled and refurbished. City Manager Meadors clarified for the first three (3) years, there would be no payment made and also for possibly part of the fourth (4th) year. City Manager Meadors reminded all that this is just to approve him to sign the contract and return it to Laurens County so all can move forward, noting DSS moved into the space of the building on November 1, 2025, and stated this agreement would run until October 28, 2028. A Motion to approve this was made by Councilmember Walsh and was Seconded by Councilmember Smith. Councilmember Williams questioned the cost of the renovations. City Manager Meadors stated the cost of their renovations was one point seven six nine million dollars and noted they had been given one point five million dollars from the State of South Carolina. City Manager Meadors stated the difference in the total amount and the amount given by the State was due to cost increases that took place before construction was able to start. City Manager Meadors stated this agreement was “worked out” between a former City Manager and former County Administrator and City and County Attorneys. City Manager Meadors also stated if DSS chooses to leave the space after three (3) years, the space has still been newly renovated and would be able to be utilized for many other things. Councilmember Williams questioned if all the new vehicles in the parking lot was due to DSS moving into this space and City Manager Meadors stated they are. The vote was unanimous.

CITY COUNCIL to hear PRESENTATION OF AUDIT FOR THE CITY OF CLINTON FROM LOVE BAILEY.

Mayor Randall stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to hear a presentation of audit for the City of Clinton from Love Bailey. Mayor Randall called Mr. Gary Bailey with Love Bailey to the front to present the audit. Mr. Bailey referenced the documentation provided to Mayor and Council regarding the audit and went over the findings. Mr. Bailey stated this year, Love Bailey had given the audit findings of “unmodified” which is a clean opinion of no findings and no material weaknesses and stated there “a really good job was done”. Mr. Bailey stated Finance Director Stevens and his team had done a “very good job with accounting”, noting all backup and supporting documents that was needed was there and provided. Mr. Bailey compared this audit to the audit from a few years back, noting that was “not the case then” before going on to state this year was “much better”. Mr. Bailey congratulated the City of Clinton for getting that in “good shape”. Mr. Bailey stated the funds from FEMA had to be



completed in a “single audit” due to when they were received and noted there were no findings or issues on the single audit either. Mr. Bailey summarized the audit report given to Council and hit some of the “high points”. A copy of this report is available at 211 N Broad Street, Clinton, SC 29325. Mr. Bailey asked if anyone had any questions. Mayor Randall stated he would like to thank Finance Director Stevens as well as the City for all hard work done on the budget and finances before stating he appreciates the “good work everyone has done” as well as the support of Council throughout. Councilmember Williams questioned if anything was found that needed corrections and Mr. Bailey stated, “everything was perfect” and went on to state he had no findings or issues that needed to be brought to the attention of Council. Mayor Randall asked if anyone had any further questions, but there were none. Mayor Randall thanked Mr. Bailey for his work on the audit and his presentation. Councilmember Williams questioned if this audit would be posted online for citizens to inspect and City Manager Meadors stated it would be posted before noting there would be a Strategic Plan discussion on Thursday night, January 8th, to further discuss things of this nature.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

City Manager Meadors stated he would like to remind everyone of the ribbon cutting taking place on Thursday, January 8th at 11:00am for the Fire Substation and invited all to attend. City Manager Meadors also stated there would be a Strategic Plan Work Session held on Thursday, January 8 at 6:00pm and stated he would be covering the first couple of areas that fell under Council’s “Must Do” section of the Strategic Plan.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finance Director Stevens gave a summary of the Financial Statement provided in Council’s packets and noted for the last couple of months, not a lot had changed. Finance Director Stevens stated the City is still behind on the revenue target, noting the City is at 33.58% for the budget and noted the City should be at roughly 42.42%. Finance Director Stevens reminded that this is “very typical” for this time of year and stated the City did “bounce back” a bit, noting everything the City is doing is staying “right on track with the budget”. Finance Director Stevens stated the expenses as a percentage is only 1% higher than the revenue brought in, noting the City is still only spending what is needed to be spent. Finance Director Stevens noted some property taxes come in during November and December but noted most larger checks come in in January and February. Finance Director Stevens noted on the Utility side, the City is a couple percentage points ahead on revenue. Finance Director Stevens stated the fund balance through the end of November is a positive one million dollars and stated that has stayed stable within the last couple of months whereas utility is at net zero operation, noting “that is where we need to be”.



COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Cook stated he would like to thank the Finance Department and the City for the audit before noting it is “remarkable for the City to be in a strong financial position with no internal control weaknesses or findings”. Mayor Pro Tem Cook also thanked the City and Main Street for the “wonderful Christmas lights and festivities had this year” before stating he hopes everyone has a “safe start to a new school year”.

Councilmember Williams thanked staff for the “perfect audit” before questioning a flyer on her desk. After some discussion it was determined the flyer was left by someone who used the desk prior. Councilmember Williams thanked everyone for a wonderful Christmas before noting the decorations were “beautiful”. Councilmember Williams thanked everyone who participated with the Christmas decorations before stating she hopes everyone will have a “very positive and good new year moving forward”.

Councilmember Cogsdill thanked everyone who worked on the budget before speaking on the “amazing turnaround” comparing the last five (5) years to the current audit. Councilmember Cogsdill thanked Mr. Spry for all of Main Street’s work on the Christmas decorations and festivities.

Councilmember Kuykendall thanked everyone for all hard work done on the budget and audit before stating he would like to speak on trash pickup. Councilmember Kuykendall stated he believes everyone should be reminded that if the trash truck comes to an area where the trash can itself is overflowing, the truck will not pick that trash up. Councilmember Kuykendall acknowledged this is probably “worse” during the Christmas season but noted it would likely cut down on trash being “strown everywhere” noting he has seen instances where this happens and the trash can falls over and into the street. City Manager Meadors noted Mrs. Langston would be taking over as Public Information Officer and noted she would be “getting some of those things out to the public”. Councilmember Kuykendall stated the decorations and lights for Christmas was “beautiful”. City Manager Meadors commended the staff that worked on the Christmas decorations and thanked them for all of their hard work, stating Mr. Kevin Snelgrove really “stepped up to the plate this year” regarding Christmas decorations.

Councilmember Smith said his relatives from Missouri commented on how “charming” downtown looks in photos decorated for Christmas, noting it was “good” to hear an “outside perspective” due to it being easy to “see the negatives only” when living in the City. Councilmember Smith stated the Christmas decorations paired with the good audit gives Clinton a reason to “be proud” before thanking everyone for everything that has went into that.

Councilmember Walsh thanked Finance Director Stevens and the Finance Department for all hard work done on the budget and for the audit, noting it is not “easy” to take away things to



limit spending. Councilmember Walsh also thanked everyone for all of the Christmas festivities. Councilmember Walsh jokingly stated the trash comments made by Councilmember Kuykendall could have been about her house before stating with all of her children home, she had to make a trip to the trash dump due to their being no more room in her trash can. Councilmember Walsh stated she feels this is a good topic of discussion at the Strategic Plan Work Session, noting trash that is “put out on Tuesday and not scheduled for pick up until Monday becomes an eyesore” and stated confirming the City’s Ordinances and clarifying the City’s information strategy and days of pick up would be a good topic of discussion. Councilmember Walsh stated the City has that schedule available and can send it out again for information before noting Mrs. Langston will be an excellent person to get this type of information out to the public as the new Public Information Officer.

MAYOR’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor Randall thanked everyone for the Christmas decorations and festivities as well as thanked everyone who worked on the budget and audit. Mayor Randall reminded everyone of the Hometown Legislative Action Day on January 20th by the Municipal Association in Columbia and invited Council to attend. Mayor Randall also noted January 21st is the Municipal Institute with some available classes for Council to attend as well, noting Council can contact City Manager Meadors if they wish to attend these events. Mayor Randall also thanked Council for all hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the January 5, 2026, Council Meeting was adjourned with a Motion from Councilmember Williams and a Second from Councilmember Smith. The vote was unanimous.