



CITY OF CLEWISTON

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM

City Hall Commission Chambers – 115 W Ventura Ave

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pittman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pittman led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pittman, Vice Mayor Hyslope, Commissioner Gardner, Commissioner Edmonds, and Commissioner Williams.

Present Staff

City Manager Williams, City Clerk Burch, Deputy City Clerk Berrios, City Attorney Brandenburg via Phone, Community Development Director/Fire Chief Reese, HR/Parks and Recreation Director Sargent and Police Chief Lewis.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

REGULAR AGENDA AND DISCUSSION

1. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding Municipal Legal Services.

Mayor Pittman noted prior presentations on legal services and invited discussion on whether to retain the current legal counsel or hire a new legal service.

Commissioner Gardner proposed selecting Gray Robinson, stating they would best serve the community.

Commissioner Gardner made the motion seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve Gray Robinson as the new municipal legal service provider, with current services by Mr. Brandenburg continuing until June 16, 2025; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Pittman, Vice Mayor Hyslope, Commissioners Gardner, and Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding Ventura Avenue Project.

David Trudeau (Johnson Engineering) reported he met with Ms. Joanne (State Farm) to discuss the spaces of lost parking spots and proposed additional side street parking. He explained the current plan is to approve the design as-is and then submit a change order to include the side street parking. This approach is intended to keep the project on track for submission to FDOT for final review and construction approval.

Public comment from Attorney Rod A. Feiner (Coker & Feiner 1404 South Andrews Avenue Fort Lauderdale), representing State Farm business owner Ms. Joanne and

adjacent property owners. Attorney Feiner opposed immediate approval due to its premature unresolved zoning issues, he expressed concern about grandfathering parking rights in the event of future property demolition.

Commissioner Gardner inquired whether the change order and zoning issues could be resolved before the June 16 deadline tied to grant funding.

David Trouteaud from Johnson Engineering and City Manager Williams mentioned that the changes would be implemented, and a decision should be finalized by the June 16th commission meeting.

Mr. Feiner shared additional concerns on behalf of other clients and expressed a willingness to work with City staff to resolve issues prior to the June 16 deadline.

Mayor Pittman concluded that city staff and consultants will prepare to bring the matter back for a vote on June 16.

3. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding Hendry County Emergency Services Council.

Travis Reese and Chief Tom Lewis currently serve on the Hendry County Emergency Committee, which meets quarterly with FPL and the City of Clewiston to address local concerns.

Vice Mayor Hyslope inquired about the duration of the committee's existence and requested all bylaws and meeting minutes be sent to City Clerk Lakisha Burch for review.

Chief Lewis clarified that the committee has been informal historically and that formal documentation (e.g., bylaws, minutes) is a recent development due to new funding and structure and Fire Chief Travis Reese noted that the subcommittee had previously discussed issues, but the main committee is now being formalized.

Commissioner Gardner recommended that the City Manager and Financial Director attend the emergency committee meetings. Mayor Pittman agreed and emphasized the need for a third city representative.

Vice Mayor Hyslope stated that the reason this document is being discussed is due to the school zone cameras.

Brief discussion on school zone cameras within the city limits.

Commissioner Williams made the motion seconded by Commissioner Edmonds to not allow speed zone cameras on East Circle Drive; it was voted as follows: Aye: Mayor Pittman, Vice Mayor Hyslope, Commissioners Edmonds, Gardner, and Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding the City of Clewiston's Comprehensive Plan. -**Tabled**
5. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding the Downtown District. -**Tabled**
6. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding Commercial Module Units.

Mayor Pittman mentioned the reason for discussion is due to the recent non- permitted installation on Pasadena location.

Fire Chief/Community Development Director Travis Reese confirmed with Mayor Pittman that this location did not have a permit, just a land development permit for their parking lots, sidewalks, and approved location for the modulars. Mr. Reese explained that once they started with their improvements their modulars were delivered to the property prior to permitting, the city staff found out these are used units which is an issue for the developer.

Commissioners and Staff had brief discussion on standards and Mayor Pittman asked Travis Reese to have this ordinance prepared for further discussion by the next commission meeting on June 16th.

Travis Reese confirmed that the units are red tagged because they do not have a permit, but he has not officially notified them, but he will get Code Enforcement and follow up and give them a code violation.

City Attorney Brandenburg stated he started writing a draft ordinance but needs assistance from the Planner or the Building Department on what specific regulations they think would be applicable to get these in the conditions the city wants them.

City Manager Williams asked David Trouteaud from Johnson Engineering to have his planner assist our city attorney with this ordinance.

7. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding Sheds and its usage.

Commissioner Gardner mentioned her concerns they she has heard in the past the people are living in sheds. Commissioner Gardner wants to make sure that our Ordinance is clear on these accessory structures for living purposes are prohibited and that in section 110-526 1DE as she would like to prevent this in city limits.

Commissioner Williams mentioned that this is currently happening within our city.

Brief discussion on ways to prohibit this on property because of the experience the city has with one property that has terrorized the city.

Mayor Pittman asked Chief Lewis what law enforcement can do about this.

Chief Lewis mentioned that by law if they are not given permission to have access by person; there is nothing that he can do because it is private property. It is difficult without a search warrant or without a probable cause that the person committed a crime. Chief Lewis stated that City Attorney Brandenburg would know better how to answer this question, even though Code Enforcement is limited to access.

City Attorney Dylan mentioned that if the city needs to limit them to the front yard of the property so they can be seen and caught by code enforcement if the city limits them in their backyard because they have fourth amendment rights. The Code enforcement department or Police department can take pictures and take them to a special magistrate hearing.

8. Discuss and direct staff on how to proceed regarding Recreation Vehicles on private property.

Brief discussion on Recreational Vehicles on Ordinance 24-03 which was passed on 12/19/2024 stated by City Clerk Lakisha Burch, the commissioners asked for this ordinance to be brought back for further discussion and amendment.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS

City Manager

- Great turn out for the Glow Night and discussed painting the old racquetball building to start having movie nights on the backside. Met with David about the bridge.
 - HR/Parks and Recreation Director Sargent gave a brief update on the great turn out at this year's summer camp, food truck event and pool party for adults.

City Attorney- via telephone

- Expressed his thanks to the commissioners and city staff and will collaborate with new attorneys for the transition.

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Barbara Edmonds

- Good workshop and thanked Dylan for his legal services.

Commissioner Mali Gardner

- Good workshops and discussions and thanked City Manager.

Commissioner James Williams II

- Thanked Ashly for all her work and it was a good workshop.

Vice Mayor Hilary Hyslope

- Good workshop and thanked City Attorney Brandenburg for his services.

Mayor James Pittman

- Good discussion and look forward to the next meeting on June 16th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

James Pittman, Mayor

Fransheska Berrios, Deputy City Clerk