Clinton approves spec fund transfer, pulls back signage bid

July 14, 2018

By Judith Brown

Staff Writer

churches Monday night as council proclaimed this upcoming Sunday as Hebron Baptist groundbreaking ceremony for mark the same I-26 highway Church Day in the City of the planned 60,000-square-foot entrance at Exit 54. Council

celebration of the 135th I-26 bridge on U.S. Highway anniversary for the church, 72. which has had 15 different pas-1883 by Rev. G.W. Watson.

council for her 10 years in serv- the loan will be repaid. ice to the Bailey Manor Christian community.

agreed to City Manager Bill Ed

out that these funds are restricted and can only be used for this

voted unanimously to approve before construction was comthe resolution which moves the pleted. Clinton City Council honored funds toward repayment of a one of the city's long-standing \$3,200,000 economic development loan by Santee Cooper.

spec building in its Clinton 26 chose instead, however, to pull The resolution was offered in Corporate Park just across the

When the building is purtors over the years since its chased or leased, those funds founding in a brush arbor in will be repaid, but until that time Santee Cooper needed the CEDC have talked about the Bailey Manor's director, Rita approval from the City of need to use hospitality tax Stanley, was also honored by Clinton and its assurance that

Each year council appropri-Retirement ates up to \$400,000 for the stringent SC Department of Community and to the Clinton enhancement and development In other business, council entice industry to the corporate neers had delayed the project. park, according to the resolu-Cannon's request to transfer tion passed by council. The \$312,199 from the city's eco- spec building is being connomic development fund to the structed on a pad which was Economic built last year. Last September, Development Corporation's council offered its support to restricted speculative building the CEDC in its plan to secure and last month council chose "I think it should be pointed Cooper in hopes of offering and selling anther spec building.

The first spec building was

McLean explained, as council Electric research program ing council's June 4 approval,

In other news, council was planning to consider the approval of funding for the con-Last month the city held a struction of two city signs to back the project and put it out for bid again after the low bidder presented the need for a cost increase due to the newly instituted federal steel tariffs.

For some time council and funds for signs to draw attention to the corporate park highway entrance, but meeting Transportation requirements of marketable products to and then approval by DOT engi-

According to a report sent by CEDC director Marvin Moss, sign plans had been part of the initial landscaping project. The design had already been pared down, approved by the DOT the \$3 million loan from Santee the low bid of \$57,940 from Clinton-based sign company, #1 Sign Designs.

specific purpose," Mayor Bob leased last year by a General checked process the day follow- this November.

steel and aluminum costs had already risen 10 percent since he compiled the bid, and materials had jumped 17 percent within a week and a half of council's June meeting.

"The rising cost of steel and aluminum has been validated by THS Constructors, who is building our spec building,' Moss said in his report to coun-

Moss explained the new steel tariffs were causing steel and aluminum costs to increase almost daily, and the sign company said he would need the bid price to be increased to \$68,194.

Cannon told council, however, that he was unfamiliar with the concept of bid increases and he suggested council pull back on the project in order to put them out for bids again.

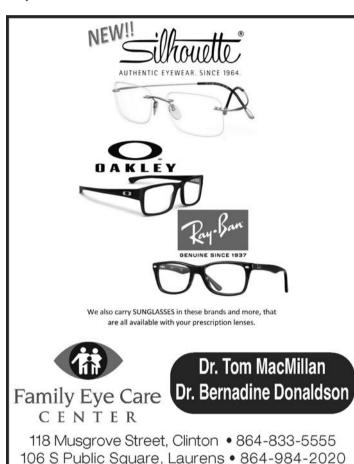
"I have spent 25 years in the public as an engineer and I've never heard of this," Cannon said. "But it may be different for South Carolina."

Council agreed to Cannon's recommendation to step back and begin bid process again for the I-26 signage. The city's When the company owner SCDOT Sign Permit expires



Photo by Judith Brown

HARD WORK HONORED - Clinton Mayor Bob McLean presents a resolution during Monday night's Clinton City Council meeting to Rita Stanley, the director of Bailey Manor in Clinton, recognizing her extensive outreach work to the Clinton community for the past 10 years. The retirement community facility is under contract to be sold by the end of



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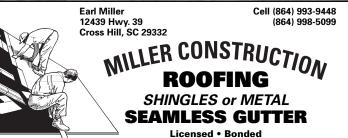
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