

# New City fleet vehicles, subdivision plat, fire station repairs considered

By Katherine R. Dougan

Soon Clinton residents will see new trucks and a van on the streets after the Board of Aldermen unanimously approved at the April 16 meeting to upgrade some vehicles in the City's aging fleet.

The City is buying five Dodge Charger trucks and one Chevy truck for the Clinton Police Department. The cost is \$135,394.95, which includes a total loss insurance claim.

The City will actually lease the vehicles for three years, and then purchase them at the end of the lease.

Additional vehicle purchases include one 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 crew cab 4x4 with a winch and sliding bed cover for the Clinton Fire Department at a cost of \$28,889; the purchase of a 2019 seven-passenger Dodge minivan for the Therapeutic Recreation Department for \$20,995; and the purchase of a 2019 Dodge truck for the Community Development Department at a cost of \$19,214.

The meeting also included presentation of a plat for the Windsor Plantation subdivision, located off of Pine-

haven Drive. Aldermen approved, 7-0, the final phase, Phase IV, of the subdivision.

"Windsor Plantation is a wonderful development and will add numerous rooftops to our city," said Mayor Phil Fisher. "At the rate homes are selling in Clinton, I believe this construction will greatly benefit many areas of the City as new homebuyers move to Clinton."

Police Chief Ford Hayman reported that officers have graduated from field training, and that the department will hire four new officers for the next training class on May 5. At this time, the department has fifty-eight sworn officers, only two shy of the goal of sixty.

"We are moving slowly toward our sixty positions," Hayman said. "Moving slower assures we are making good hires."

The Citizens Police Academy graduated fifteen from the March 30 session, with a new class scheduled for fall 2018.

"Right around one hundred people are coming through the Citizens Academy," Hayman said.

Aldermen also considered two items not included on the agenda, but covered under "other business."

The first was a request to go back to advertising for the concrete repair project at Fire Station No. 3, located on West Northside Drive. The concrete in front of and inside the station where the engine is parked has collapsed because of the heavier weight of the new engine and the age of the concrete. Initially, the estimate for repairs was in the \$70,000 range, and Fire Chief Jeff Blackledge got two estimates, but was unaware he needed an engineer's report on the situation.

After Blackledge learned he needed an engineer's report, he went to Bill Owen, city engineer, to get it, and "their the price went from about \$70,000 to \$140,000," Blackledge said.

There are problems in the front and back of the station, Blackledge explained.

"They have deep waterholes in front of the station, and it is tearing up the tires on the truck. More problems came up from the time they first put out for bids for it."

Ward 6 Alderman Mike Cashion asked about the cost differences and change in the scope of the project.

"The project now calls for removal of the old concrete, then digging deeper and pouring a deeper level of concrete," Blackledge replied.

The second item under "other business" was a request from Alderwoman-at-Large Ricki Garrett for the Board to resume work sessions beginning in May.

"We want to be as transparent as possible in the work we do," Garrett said. "I would like to request that we put work sessions back on the schedule beginning with the first Monday of May. I would like to request the Mayor put this back on the schedule."

Fisher suspended all work sessions earlier this year.

"That is no problem, as long as all members of the Board agree to participate in work sessions," Fisher responded.

The next meet of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, at the Clinton Municipal Courtroom, 305 Monroe Street.

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