



The Clinton Courier

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Intense discussion leads to 4-3 vote to sell tower site easements

By Katherine R. Dougan

Following two nights of discussion, which at times was heated and acrimonious, the Board of Aldermen agreed by a narrow margin of 4-3 on May 5 to accept offers for lump sum buyout easements on two communications tower sites in the city. For one of the towers, the sale is for a perpetual easement. For the other, it is for a fifteen-year lease.

Mayor Phil Fisher urged the Board to approve the sale of two cell tower easements in order to raise funds for the City's road paving projects, which Fisher had expected to fund with \$1 million that he believed was coming from the State Legislature in 2019. Instead, the City received \$176,767 from the Legislature, along with a separate \$500,000 amount from the Legislature for the resurfacing of the Clinton Parkway; and, although the City has some funds left over from other projects, a shortfall of about \$400,000 remains in order to fully fund the paving projects.

"The reason we're up against this wall is because paving bids have been let [put out for bid]. They're gonna be opened next week," Fisher said, reiterating that before the bids can be opened that the \$1 million for the pav-

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City wins legal battle against Olde Towne property owner



110/112 Leake Street, owned by Texas resident Matt Wiggins, will soon become the property of the City of Clinton.

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City of Clinton officials and lovers of historic preservation have won a significant victory in the revitalization and preservation of historic Olde Towne Clinton.

On May 7, 2020, the Mississippi Supreme Court notified City leadership that it had upheld the ruling of Hinds

County Judge Larita Cooper-Stokes in favor of the City of Clinton vs. Matt Wiggins.

After nearly four years of legal battles, including preservation efforts through the City Ordinances, the City of Clinton has won a lawsuit against Olde Towne property owner Matthew D. Wiggins.

The Hon. Larita Cooper-Stokes,

Hinds County court judge, in a specially constituted Special Court of Eminent Domain, ruled on December 6, 2018: "That the City of Clinton shall be allowed to stabilize the economy of the commercial area with historic ramifications evidenced by the action of the governing authorities to enforce legislative code in special renewal districts, including the subject property at 110 and 112 Leake Street."

Clinton Mayor Phil Fisher, who initiated the proceedings against Wiggins in order to preserve the historic integrity of Olde Towne, while providing additional space for retail opportunities in the historic core of Clinton, was ecstatic regarding the ruling.

"This is an important day for our city and our efforts to bring Olde Towne Clinton to life. I am excited to have these buildings rehabilitated by a new owner who will bring a sales tax-generating retail establishment to Olde Towne," Fisher said. "For well over two decades, residents of Clinton have anguished over the neglect of two historic structures at 110 and 122 West Leake Street, and the end is now in sight."

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Archery range nearing completion at Traceway Park

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Arrowhead Archery Range at Traceway Park is coming to fruition. Construction crews are nearing completion of the registration and equipment building. Grading and forms for the 150' covered shooting platform is also underway.

Clinton's Parks and Recreation director Adam Wade estimates that the range will be complete in late May, with a grand opening to follow in June.

Arrowhead Archery will be located on the southeast corner of the soccer side of Traceway Park, near offices of the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

The range is a cooperative effort between the City of Clinton, Mississippi College, the Clinton Public School District and Clinton Christian Academy to build two archery ranges



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Pictured is the registration and equipment building.

- an outdoor archery range and a 3D archery range.

According to Clinton Mayor Phil Fisher, "Our goal is to use these ranges to draw archery tournaments at the high school and college level to Clin-

ton. Tournaments will bring visitors that will benefit our local economy. The range will also provide another outdoor activity for our residents at Traceway Park."

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