The meeting of the Lake Wales City Commission was held on March 1, 2016 in the Commission Chambers at the Municipal Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eugene Fultz at approximately 6:00p.m. following the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Dr. Jim Moyer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terrye Y. Howell; Pete Perez; Christopher Lutton; Jonathan Thornhill; Eugene Fultz, Mayor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Kenneth Fields, City Manager; Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk; Albert C. Galloway, Jr., City Attorney

5. MAYOR

Agenda Item 5.I. Municipal Election Public Announcement

The Mayor read the Municipal Election Public Announcement prepared by the City Clerk.

Agenda Item 5.II. PROCLAMATION: Women's History Day; March 1, 2016

The Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming March 1, 2016 as "Women's History Day." AAUW Chairman Charlene Bennett and other AAUW members accepted the proclamation.

Charlene Bennett announced two upcoming events hosted by AAUW: Women Who Made History on the Ridge, March 29, 2016; Candidate Forum for the City Election, March 18, 2016. She invited everyone to attend the events.

Agenda Item 5.III. PROCLAMATION: Read Across Lake Wales Day; March 1, 2016

The Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming March 1, 2016 as "Read Across Lake Wales Day" Library Director Tina Peak accepted the proclamation.

6. PRESENTATION/REPORT

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Charlene Bennett, AAUW Chairman, requested that the City Commission look into the possibility of allowing candidate forums and other people's business to be held in the Commission Chambers. She said the candidate forums are people's business and the Commission Chambers is owned by the people. Mr. Fields said he didn't think it is a legal prohibition, but a matter of setting policy for its use and any cost that might be involved in terms of someone being present to close up the building after a meeting takes place. He said a proposed policy will be brought back to the Commission on that.

Gregory Massey, non-resident, requested that the City Commission revisit its ordinance regarding beer and wine bars in the northwest section that was passed in 2009. During that time he had one of those establishments that he closed on his own due to personal reasons. His intention was to reopen it about a year ago but someone else beat him to the building that he planned to go back into. Now, in accordance with that ordinance and the changes that were made to it during that time period, he is unable to reopen an

establishment. Mr. Massey said he understands the issues that the City has in the northwest section but his issue is that there is nothing there in a legal form beyond Elks, which is a private establishment.

Peggy Hawkins, representing the VFW Post 2420, announced upcoming events the VFW is sponsoring, which includes an Easter Egg Hunt at Lake Wailes Park on March 26 that she requested donations for.

Dr. James Moyer, non-resident, announced the Warner University Workday on April 6 and said the event is in cooperation with the Lake Wales Care Center and the City through James Slaton.

The event be held on April 6. He said this is a volunteer opportunity to bring about 550 to 600 people to Lake Wales to do service project throughout Lake Wales consisting of primarily painting projects. The event has the potential to give the City about 1,500 to 2,000 volunteer hours.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda Item 8.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 16, 2016 Regular Meeting

Agenda Item 8.II. Florida Stories Community Audio Walking Tours grant

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS

A grant application to the Florida Humanities Council for \$5000 to develop an audio walking tour that highlights the historic architecture of downtown Lake Wales

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Commission approve a grant application to the Florida Humanities Council for \$5,000 to develop an audio walking tour that highlights the historic architecture of downtown Lake Wales.

BACKGROUND

Under the guidance of the Florida Humanities Council (FHC), this initiative supports the creation of cultural, historical, and architectural walking tours for communities across the state of Florida.

If our grant application is accepted, the FHC will invest \$5,000 into the development of an audio walking tour that highlights the historic architecture of downtown Lake Wales. Their investment goes towards a sound engineer, studio space, voice talent, application development, and marketing.

Support from the City would be symbolic; there is no fiscal impact for this particular grant. The grant requires a 1:1 match; however, \$2,500 has been secured from Ray Brown and \$2,500 in-kind has been secured.

OTHER OPTIONS

Do not apply for this grant

FISCAL IMPACT

If awarded, the required match will be donated from private sources.

[End Agenda Memo]

Agenda Item 8.III.

Emergency Sewer line Repair on Russell Ave

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS

Staff requests commission approval after the fact for the expenditures of \$48,215.00 for an emergency sewer main repair to Evans & Lyles.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission consider taking the following action:

1. Approve the expenditures after the fact of \$48,215.00 for the emergency repair of the sewer main of Russell Ave.

BACKGROUND

Staff received a call on February 4, 2016 that there was a depression in the road on Russell Avenue. Maintenance crews were called out and because they are of the knowledge and are aware that there are sewer mains in the road, the wastewater camera truck was dispatched to the location. Upon inspection of the sewer main, it was discovered that the main was broken and was causing the road to sink and taking in water. Staff immediately began making contact with several contractors to obtain pricing to complete the repair. Three contractors were able to provide pricing for the repair with the lowest price to be obtained from Evans & Lyles in the amount of \$48,215.00. A purchase order was obtained and the contractor was instructed to make the repair. The dewatering process took several days, due to the extremely wet conditions. Once all the water was removed from the work site the sewer main and road were able to be repaired.

Staff is seeking commission approval after the fact for the expenditures of \$48,215.00 for the emergency sewer main repair on Russell Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Wastewater Department has submitted a request to the Finance Director to include this expenditure to the next budget amendment as to not deplete the M & R Systems line item for the remainder of the fiscal year. Funds are able to be transferred from the Capital Line item of Lift Station Rehabilitation for this emergency purchase.

[End Agenda Memo]

Agenda Item 8.IV.

Approval of Election Workers

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS

It is necessary for the City Commission to approve a list of election workers provided by the Supervisor of Elections to work in the City of Lake Wales Municipal Election on April 5, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

It is necessary that the City Commission appoint the following list of election workers provided by the Supervisor of Elections to keep the polling place open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Municipal Election on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at the Municipal Administration Building:

Working:

Patricia "Tish" O. Pike, Precinct Clerk Susan J. Giacherio, Voter Information Specialist Lori Hudson, Voter Information Specialist Marietta K. Burbank, Book Inspector Doris Powell, Book Inspector Gabriella Sabree, Book Inspector Cynthia C. Leeson, Deputy Robert "Bob" F. Lansford, Voting Equipment Operator

Alternates:

John "Mike" Taft, Voter Information Specialist Diane C. Eschenburg, Book Inspector Mildred "Jean" H. Scott, Deputy William "Bill" A. Rapp, Voting Equipment Operator

BACKGROUND

On February 3, 2004, the City Commission approved the consolidation of 7 polling locations into one (1) polling location in the Municipal Administration Building for City elections only. By consolidating the City Clerk does not have to staff all polling locations. The persons selected by the Supervisor of Elections are registered voters and will receive mandatory training from the Supervisor of Elections prior to Election Day. The alternates will only work on Election Day if needed.

OTHER OPTIONS

None

FISCAL IMPACT

The necessary funds covering the cost of election workers are provided for in the FY2015-2016 Budget.

[End Agenda Memo]

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Lutton "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 10.I. Agreement - City of Lake Wales/Police Benevolent Association

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS

The City Commission will consider ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission ratify the proposed amendments to the agreement between the City of Lake Wales and the West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

BACKGROUND

On August 20, 2013, the City Commission approved the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Lake Wales and the Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (PBA) for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2014. The general purpose of the agreement is to provide wages, hours, and other conditions of employment for the employees in the police department bargaining unit of which all are sworn officers in the classification of police officer, corporal or sergeant.

Management staff and the Police Department union representatives have reached an agreement for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017.

NOTE: The amendments are presented to the City Commission for ratification at this time. The changes to the existing agreement are highlighted below:

Proposed Contract Changes

Article 16 Wages

16.1 Effective October 1, 2014 employees shall receive <u>1%</u> cost of living increase to base annual salary._

Effective October 1, 2015 employees shall receive 1% cost of living increase to base annual salary.

Effective October 1, 2016 "me too" is in the event the city agrees to a cost of living increase, shift premium rate increase, call back pay increase, standby pay increase, or lump sum payments PBA members will receive the same.

16. 3 Step Plan. Employees hired on October 1, 1994, and thereafter shall not be covered by Article 20 (Longevity Pay), but shall be paid in accordance with the Step Plan set forth in Appendix D.1.

20.5 Longevity Pay

DEFINITIONS:

Continuous service: For the purposes of this article continuous service shall mean uninterrupted service of the employee with the City since the last date of hire.

Educational requirement: For the purposes of this article the educational requirement shall be deemed as completion of nine semester hours of college per two year block of service.

Or

<u>Successful completion of one hundred twenty (120) hours of advanced and specialized training per two year block of service at an approved agency as set forth in Appendix E.</u>

The educational requirement for additional steps may be completed during previous steps.

28.1 Tuition Aid

Reimbursement of admission examination, books and/or tuition fees of a maximum of \$2,500 \subseteq 1,500 will be provided by the City per employee per fiscal year for degree curricula or specialized training as long as the expense is job related and may include on-line classes. Any costs or fees paid from other sources shall not be reimbursable by the City.

38 Duration of Agreement

This Agreement shall become effective upon ratification by the bargaining unit members and approval and ratification by the Lake Wales City Commission and shall continue in full force and effect until midnight of September 30, 2014 17 with a re-opener anytime after October 1, 2015, but before September 30. 2016 to negotiate and implement Article 16(A) in accordance with Senate Bill 172 2015-039 Laws of Florida. (Premium tax revenue)

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of living adjustment of one percent (1%) for October 1, 2014 and 15 (this is the same as the general employees and fire department employees received) is budgeted in FY 15'16 budget. There could be a slight increase in step plan costs, because more officers may take advantage of specialized training in lieu of nine credit hours of college.

OTHER OPTIONS

Don't ratify the contract.

[End Agenda Memo]

Human Resources Director Sandra Davis reviewed Agenda Item 10.I. In answering questions from the Commission, she said the term of the agreement expires in 2017, 1% salary increase from 2014 to present had been budgeted and that employees would have to show proof to receive tuition aid and stay employed with the City a year after receiving it or it would have to be reimbursed.

Commissioner Lutton made a motion to ratify the proposed amendments to the agreement between the City of Lake Wales and the West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Commissioner Lutton "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Item 10.II. Resolution No. 2016-05 – Corrective Resolution

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS

This resolution will correct a scrivener's error in a resolution adopted May 6, 1953.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Resolution 2016-05 after reading and public hearing. Notice requirements have been met.

BACKGROUND

On or about May 5, 1953 the City of Lake Wales passed a resolution closing a portion of Lakeshore Boulevard in the original plat of Lake View Heights. This resolution failed, due to scrivener's error, to recognize that Lot 14 of LAKE WALES HEIGHTS was the subject of a Replat known as COUCH'S RE-SUBDIVISION as recorded in Plat Book 18, at Page 27, of the Public Records of Polk County, Florida.

This oversight has resulted in a potential cloud on title of certain properties.

C.B. Myers III, P.A. is requesting that the City take this action. City Attorney Galloway has prepared the corrective resolution presented for action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact on the City.

OTHER OPTIONS

None

[End Agenda Memo]

City Attorney Chuck Galloway reviewed Agenda Item 10.II, He explained the corrections that needed to be changed, which he said was cleanup for title purposes.

The Mayor asked if the resolution needed to be read by title although it was done in 1953 and the City Attorney said it should.

The Mayor asked the Commission if there were any questions or comments before going forward.

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan read Resolution 2016-05 by title only:

A RESOLUTION CORRECTING THAT CERTAIN RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON MAY 6, 1953, BY THE CITY OF LAKE WALES AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 957, AT PAGE 37, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-05. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

By Roll Call Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Item 10.III.

Appointing an alternate member to serve on the Canvassing Board if necessary; designating the City Clerk as the L&A Testing Representative; rescheduling the first Commission meeting in April; and scheduling a date and time for the post-election manual audit

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS

The City Commission is asked to make approvals regarding Canvassing Board activities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission take the following action:

- 1. Appoint the City Manager, City Attorney, or a citizen/s to serve as an alternate member on the Canvassing Board to avoid a possible lack of quorum;
- Designate the City Clerk to represent the Canvassing Board on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.;
- 3. Reschedule the first regular Commission meeting in April from Tuesday, April 5 to Monday, April 4 or Wednesday, April 6 so the Canvassing Board may canvass the election on Tuesday, April 5. Meeting time is 6:00 p.m.; and
- 4. Schedule a date and time for the Canvassing Board to conduct a Post-Election Manual Audit

BACKGROUND

The City Commission serves as the Canvassing Board and has legal responsibilities related to the conduct of the Municipal Election. Because of busy schedules it is necessary to review the responsibilities well in advance to prevent calendar conflicts because a quorum must be present.

The following rules apply to all members of the Canvassing Board:

No member can serve if he or she is a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed or is *actively participating* in the campaign or the candidacy of any candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed. Actively participating means undertaking an intentional effort to demonstrate or generate public support for a candidate beyond merely making a campaign contribution. Refer to DE 8-10; 09-07.

If a lack of a quorum is created on the Canvassing Board due to this rule or any other unavoidable cause, the City Commission may appoint the city manager, city attorney, or a resident/s to serve as a member to the Canvassing Board in the absence of the Commission member creating the lack of quorum (Sec. 8-26, Lake Wales Code of Ordinances).

Per Florida Statute, Canvassing Board members are required to attend the following meetings.

Pre-election Logic and Accuracy Testing of Tabulating Equipment

Election Headquarters, SOE, Bartow - 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2016

It is mandatory that the City Clerk be present at the L&A Testing. The Canvassing Board may designate the City Clerk to represent them at the L&A Testing.

Election Night Canvassing of Ballots

Election Headquarters, SOE, Bartow - Tuesday, April 5, 2016. A quorum must be present and members must remain until all ballots are tabulated.

It is necessary that the City Commission reschedule its first regular Commission meeting in April from Tuesday, April 5 to Monday, April 4 or Wednesday, April 6 so the Canvassing Board may canvass the election on Tuesday, April 5. Commission meeting time is 6:00 p.m.

Certification of Election & Randomly Select a Race that appears on the Ballot for the purpose of conducting the Post-Election Manual Audit

City of Lake Wales Municipal Administration Building – 5:00 pm, Thursday, April 7, 2016 (A Quorum must be present)

Post-Election Manual Audit

Election Headquarters, SOE – Date and Time to be scheduled by SOE.

In accordance with F. S. 101.591, the manual audit must be completed and the results made public no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 7th day following certification of the election and a report be made to the Department of State by the City Clerk within 15 days after completion of the audit. The Canvassing Board will certify the election on Thursday, April 7 at 5pm and must conduct and complete the manual audit no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14.

It is necessary that the Commission set a date and time for the manual audit. The Election Headquarters requested that the event be scheduled between 9 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 or Wednesday, April 13. A Quorum must be present.

Run-off Election – Same requirement as above

Election Headquarters, SOE - To be held in case of tie vote

[End Agenda Memo]

The City Commission consented to designating the City Clerk to represent the Canvassing Board on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

The Mayor recommended Jacquie Hawkins, a former employee and citizen, to serve as the alternate member.

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to appoint Jacquie Hawkins, citizen, to serve as an alternate member on the Canvassing Board to avoid a possible lack of quorum. Commissioner Lutton seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Lutton "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Howell recommended having the Commission meeting on Monday, April 4. Commissioner Lutton said he could not attend that night.

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to reschedule the first regular Commission meeting in April from 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 5 to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6. Commissioner Lutton seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Lutton "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Lutton made a motion scheduling the Canvassing Board meeting to conduct a Post-Election Manual Audit at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Election Headquarters in Bartow. Deputy Mayor Thornhill seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Commissioner Lutton "YES"
Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Item 10.IV. City Manager Performance Evaluation

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS

Commissioners will discuss the performance evaluation of the City Manager.

On July 19, 2013 the City executed an Employment Agreement with the City Manager. In accordance with Section 3 Paragraph 3.2 of the Agreement states, "the City Commission shall evaluate the performance of the City Manager at least once annually no later than 30 days prior to the City Manager's Anniversary Date.

Based upon the results of the annual evaluation, the City Commission may, in its sole discretion, grant a salary increase, bonus and/or grant additional benefits to the City Manager effective with his anniversary date.

Performance evaluation forms were completed by the City Commissioners and returned to staff as requested. Evaluation forms completed by the Commissioners are available for review in the Human Resources Department.

Ratings in the various evaluation categories have been compiled in a chart which is provided with this memorandum.

[End Agenda Memo]

Human Resources Director Sandra Davis said this item is just to be put on record.

The City Manager said spoke to each of the Commission members individually to get the policy filled out and that he greatly appreciates the feedback. He said he thrives in everything that he does to be as professional as he can, to move the City forward as best he can, and most importantly to do it in an ethical and upright manner. As he has stated on numerous occasions this is a City that is really on the move right now and he is very proud and honored to be a part of it, and he really enjoys what he does. There is always room for improvement. Some of the Commission members were tougher graders than others and he appreciates the comments. A number of them said he should make an attempt to be out in the community more and be more assessable to the public. He said instead of someone asking for him to come see them, he will take a more proactive role and make more of an effort to go see them, not just to the business community like EDC and the Chamber of Commerce, but to other groups and organizations in the City. He said he takes the comment constructively and will work on that in the future, and if that is the direction of the Commission he will follow up on that and let them know he is making that effort.

Mr. Fields said as part of this evaluation, it is up to the Commission to make any salary adjustment to his contract at that time. He requested that he get the same 1% across the board increase that the employees got, his contract be extended another year from 2017 to 2018, and a one-time 3% bonus for his performance over the past year in terms of economic development and everything else that is going on in the City.

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion granting the 1% across the board salary increase. Commission Howell seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Lutton "YES"
Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to extend the city's manager's contract for one year from 2017 to 2018. Commission Howell seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Lutton "YES"

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES" Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion granting the city manager a onetime 3% bonus. Commissioner Lutton seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Lutton "YES"
Commissioner Perez
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 5-0.

The Mayor commented on the success of economic development in the City and praised the city manager, Kathy Bangley, and Kevin Kieft for making that happen. Mr. Fields gave credit to all the other administrative staff as well.

Mr. Fields said it is an honor to serve the Commission and the citizens of Lake Wales. Good things are happening in the City although we still have our problems that we need to address. Through it all, he is hoping for a very long and productive relationship with the City.

Commissioner Lutton said he wanted to make everybody know that when opportunities arise in the EDC, he had been told by them that the city manager, the mayor, and Ms. Bangley are always positively putting their best foot forward in getting the outside entities to come into the city and invest their capital. He said the Mayor could not do it by himself and Ms. Bangley could not do it without the support of the city manager and that is something not always mentioned in the newspaper of community.

The Mayor thanked the Commission for approving the partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to allow them to do the economic development because without Kevin Kieft we would still be behind the eight ball. He travels all over looking for people that he can entice into coming into this area of the state. People are beginning to listen to him and the negotiating skills of the city manager. Mr. Fields commented that it is not just Kevin Kieft and Ms. Bangley. It takes the entire staff to make this a business friendly community.

The Mayor said because the evaluation scores are going into the media he would like them to know why his evaluation of the city manager probably ranked higher than the others. Although he has been wrongly accused of being his pet puppet, he spends more time with the city manager and sees his professionalism and negotiating skills.

11. CITY MANAGER

Agenda Item 11.I. City Commission Tracking Report

Mr. Fields said the following:

- Family movie night has risen to 45 people in attendance.
- On March 12 the local churches are having a Body of Christ Work Day and the City is assisting with that.
- A Commission workshop will be scheduled probably in conjunction with the planning and zoning board in the next few weeks to discuss a number of planning issues such as the donation boxes and the item mentioned earlier [revisiting the beer and wine ordinance].

Agenda Item 11.II.

City Commission Meeting Calendar

Agenda Item 11.III

Other Meetings & Events Calendar

Agenda Item 11.IV.

Information: Boards, Commissions, and Committees

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Perez commented on the hotel and said he appreciates how it appears that someone is doing something there instead of it appearing to be an eyesore. Commissioner Lutton commented that we must be patient. The Mayor commented on how he believed the hotel will become the controlling car of the city, like a beacon.

Commissioner Perez complemented city employees for assisting in resolving a customer's problem when he calls them.

13. MAYOR COMMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan, MMC