

Clearwater receives flag award

By LESTER R. DAILEY

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CLEARWATER – Dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms and toting a musket, drum and flag, three men marched up to the podium at the Oct. 22 City Council meeting. George Pratt, vice president of the Sons of the American Revolution, and SAR members Nelson Jensen and David Kitchen were there to make a presentation to Mayor Frank Hibbard.

Noting that the American flag routinely flies from 58 Clearwater buildings, they gave Hibbard a certificate proclaiming the city’s “exemplary patriotism” in honoring the flag.

It was a far cry from earlier this year, when City Manager Bill Horne proposed cutting expenses by eliminating the American flags at a few seldom-used maintenance and storage facilities owned by the city.

Somehow, that proposal morphed into a nationwide rumor that the flying of Old Glory had been banned on all public and private property within the city limits of Clearwater, and veterans’ groups and ordinary citizens were outraged.

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