

**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**March 10, 2014**

COUNCIL:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beadles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nash
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baumberger
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kolstad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackmon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manchester	

STAFF:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Hastings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk Storey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PWD Martin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Attorney Grow			

**AGENDA CHANGES:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MOTION BY BEADLES/NASH to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014, Regular Meeting. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Public Hearing on Proposed Transportation Benefit District**

Mayor Warren opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Councilmember Beadles commented that sealcoating of the City's streets costs \$75,000 - \$100,000 annually. And that only does a small amount of street. If the City allows the streets to deteriorate the cost of rebuilding is prohibitive. He said the council is proposing a fee of \$20 per vehicle to supplement the budget for maintenance and improvements of the transportation infrastructure.

PW Martin explained that the Street Fund only has two major sources of revenue. One is fuel tax and the other is property tax. He said property tax is about \$340,000 annually and fuel tax brings about \$150,000. Martin said the city has about 50 miles of streets. The cost of a mile of chip sealing is about \$50,000. He said we typically do a mile to a mile and half a year. At that rate, we are falling behind in maintenance. The revenue generated by this fee would be dedicated to specific uses within the street system. Martin said that the cost of reconstruction is about \$500,000 for two blocks. He said we also do crack sealing to help extend the life of the streets. Martin said the budget for the Street Dept. is about as tight as it can be.

Councilmember Beadles said current estimates indicate the revenue from this fee would bring about \$100,000 per year.

Scott Eckberg, 1126 5<sup>th</sup> Street, said it is a pleasure to address the council. He said he understands the need for additional revenue to maintain the condition of the streets. He said he has four vehicles and the fee won't break him. But there are a number of vehicles in his neighborhood that are registered in Idaho. He feels that there is an issue of fairness that should be addressed. He said those licensing issues should be addressed before imposing any fees. He asked if the city has a code enforcement officer who would enforce registration of non-licensed vehicles and those licensed in other states.

Howard Miller commented that the city, state and federal government don't care about the little people. He mentioned the aquatic center, the bike path, sewer and garbage fees as examples. He said he is looking at the legality of the fee and thinks the council is out of control when it comes to spending.

Jill Eckberg, 1126 5<sup>th</sup> Street, said she also appreciates the difficulty of managing a city on limited funds. She was happy to see the street sweeper for the first time in several months. She said she agrees that many of the streets need work because she has seen a lot of patching. She suggested that the City of Asotin and Asotin County should also impose the fee to give more matching funds for grants. She asked if anyone looked at Yakima's decision not to impose a license fee as she had suggested two weeks ago. She said House Bill 1129 will add more fees to licensing if it is passed. She thinks there would be more money available for streets and other expense if the city didn't have its own ambulance service. She said the EMS service should be a line item in the budget, not a separate levy every year.

Jim Bridges, Asotin County Engineer, but was speaking on behalf of the MPO. He said the MPO

is not there to support or oppose a transportation benefit district. But the City should consider how to make best to fund not only street maintenance, but to obtain matching funds when state or federal funding is available. He said that this year Asotin County received \$450,000 from the Surface Transportation Program for urban streets. The money can go to Clarkston, Asotin or the County or can be split. It requires a 13.5% match. He said the \$98,000 in funds from this source could be used to match about \$625,000, which would greatly increase the city's leverage. Bridges said there are other ways to maximize these funds. The City has several projects in the long term plan that could be funded if match money was available. He said the City should decide if they want to fund the program through a TBD or some other funding mechanism, but it is imperative that the City look at a long term plan and how to implement it. He said as the County engineer, he thinks the TBD is a good idea. He said chip sealing only a mile a year is not adequate. The streets should be on a seven year program in order to maintain them properly or we will start losing streets and eventually be driving on gravel.

Mayor Warren asked Chief Hastings to address the issue of Idaho plates. Chief Hastings said that when the cost of Washington plates was much higher than Idaho, there were a lot of complaints. There aren't very many complaints now. He believes that there will be complaints if this fee is adopted. They will be investigated as they are received.

Councilmember Blackmon said he has looked at House Bill 1129. If it passes it could create a \$37 increase in license fee. He questioned the accuracy of the number of vehicles. Clerk Storey said she got information from the Department of Licensing and it is the best estimate we have at this time.

The hearing was closed at 7:25.

Mayor Warren said the next step is a decision. Councilmember Baumberger said he isn't ready for a decision. He still wants to gather information and the issue should go back to committee.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

##### **A. From the Public:**

Alice White, 732 13<sup>th</sup> Street, asked about her Avista utility bill. She said there is a 6% city tax that started appearing on her Avista bill in November. She was told by Avista that it is a tax the city asked for. She wanted to know why people weren't informed and what the city does with the money. Clerk Storey explained that there is a 6% utility tax that has been in place since 1981. The city has not made in changes. If Avista has changed their billing practices, it is not at the direction of the city.

Mike Tatko, of Avista, addressed Mrs. White's questions. He said last fall Avista did some updating to their GIS maps and that may have impacted her bill if her address is one that had boundary adjustments. He said the tax has been in effect since 1981, as Storey said. They checked their boundary maps against the City's maps and found some addresses were not reflected as being in the city limits on the Avista maps. Adjustments were made as a result of that project and many of those were on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. He said he would be happy to speak with individuals who have questions.

Jill Eckberg, 1126 5<sup>th</sup> Street, asked who to give the junk vehicle ordinance samples to. PWD Martin said he will take them. She asked about a property line survey that she heard was being done. Martin said the City is not involved in any surveying project. Eckberg asked why the city doesn't do curbside recycling. Martin said it is a matter of funding. We are currently addressing automated pickup service for regular household garbage.

Rose Bunch, 1845 Solar Hills Drive, told council about a Remembrance Project. It's about illegal immigration and created in 2009 to honor citizens who killed by illegals. She said people in the Northwest often don't think there is a real problem in this area. She said there is a woman who comes from Texas to give presentations. Two suggested strategies are English only spoken and navigated and an e-verify system for hiring. Chief Hastings said if there is training available he would probably send officers.

Brian Shinn, Asotin County Commissioner, invited everyone to a town hall meeting tomorrow night at 6:30.

##### **B. From the Mayor:**

**C. From Staff:** PWD Martin there is a new stormwater manager who is working to come up to speed. The management team has requested that Cheryl Sonnen be hired on a contract basis to assist with annual reporting this year. MOTION BY NASH/BEADLES to authorize a contract

with Cheryl Sonnen to assist with annual reporting. Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Councilmember Provost reported the bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Total expenditures for March 10, 2014, of \$395,242.73. MOTION BY PROVOST/BEADLES to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Public Safety:** No meeting...

**Public Works:** Councilmember Nash said committee met on March 5 and discussed the Transportation Benefit District.

**Admin Committee:** Councilmember Manchester said committee met on March 10. There was nothing to report.

**Community Development:** Councilmember Kolstad said he met with Whitney Aguilar from Ida-Vend Broadcasting. She was requesting the City participate in an Earth Day event to be held on April 17. He said it would be an opportunity for the City to showcase activities that relate to Earth Day. And showcase something like the Community Garden.

Councilmember Beadles reported that the high school has nominated a candidate for and AWC scholarship. MOTION BY BEADLES/KOLSTAD to nominate Kayla Dice. Motion carried.

Beadles said the committee will meet with Kris Rathbun on the mural project Tuesday at 4:30.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Proclamation – Recognizing Avista’s 125 Year Anniversary**

Mike Tatko, Avista Utilities, said Avista’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary is this week. They were originally incorporated as Washington Water Power. He said there are some events planned for 2014 that he hopes the city will participate in. MOTION BY MANCHESTER/NASH to authorize the mayor to sign the proclamation. Motion carried.

##### **B. Request to Participate in Earth Day**

Councilmember Kolstad said this would be an opportunity for the city to promote itself through this event. Expected attendance is 2,000 to 4,000. Promoting the Community Garden is one idea that was put forth. He said the financial commitment would be \$500 for a booth. Councilmember Provost asked who would man the booth. Kolstad said he would be willing to help. He was looking for input since he is new to the council. Beadles said he would not be in favor of participating. He thinks it is something more related to private industry. Councilmember Nash said in light of the tight budget situation, he doesn’t think we should be spending funds on this project. MOTION BY KOLSTAD/BLACKMON to participate. Motion failed, 1-6, Kolstad in favor.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Nash congratulated Rolin Heytvelt for the fire department’s win in the ‘Souport Your Shelter’ fundraiser at the YWCA.

Councilmember Baumberger said Public Works Committee will have more discussion on the Transportation Benefit District.

### **MEDIA QUESTIONS:**

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

---

Vickie Storey, City Clerk

---

Kathleen A. Warren, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 3/10/14	CK #55952,53, 56008-56078	\$119,252.74
Payroll, 2/28/14	Ck #55954-56007	\$275,989.99