

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Joint Meeting with Asotin County Commission
at Asotin County Courthouse Annex
April 20, 2015

COUNCIL:

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

STAFF:

- City Attorney Richardson Chief Hastings Clerk Storey

Others Present: Asotin County Commissioners Jeffords, Fuller and Shinn

Commissioner Jeffords called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Mayor Warren called the council to order at 5:45 p.m.

DISCUSSION: District Court Fees

Jeffords stated that the last discussion on the court fees contemplated a tiered approach. Shinn commented that current proposal is for fees to be \$30 for infractions and \$135 for criminal citations. Fuller stated that the County has a budget to cover for court and the fees need to be adequate to meet that budget. He said that based on 2014 citations, the proposed fees would not cover the budget, but the County is willing to cover the gap for now. He said the costs of court were met for many years, but the state has increased the share of fines they take and raised the judge's salary, all of which are out of the County's control.

Provost commented that court fines were never set to make a profit, only to help cover the cost of the system.

Richardson said that deferred prosecution revenue should be part of the equation. Fuller disagreed. Richardson said there is an administrative fee that the county keeps and that should be calculated in. Fuller said he will check with the judge on the distribution of those fees. Fuller commented that there are times that cases are extended unnecessarily, increasing costs and those additional costs should also be considered. Richardson asked for details and Fuller said he will get more information to him. Shinn said we need to take things one step at a time. That would require setting some standards and figuring out how to establish penalties. But the deferred issue should be explored. Richardson said half of the deferred fee goes to the City and half to the County. He suggested looking at a formula instead of a flat fee.

Beadles said the fee could change annually based on court expenses and the number of citations processed. Shinn said if we postpone a decision to work on a different formula it will just delay the process. The fee could just be based on the prior year's expenses and citations.

A representative from City of Asotin asked why they were not included in these discussions. Jeffords said they were not at the table because they had not requested to meet with the County. They had requested a meeting with just City of Clarkston prior to meeting with the County. He said Mayor Warren had asked for a meeting between Clarkston and the County and this meeting is in response to that request. Jeffords commented that he had met with Asotin Mayor Bonfield twice.

Jennifer Bly clarified that citations written by state agencies are not part of the cities' fees.

Provost said it seems like this is just catching up with the way most of the state is handling court services. Clarkston said they would like to have legal review of the proposed contract and get more information on the deferred fees before moving forward.

Provost suggested using a three year rolling average to determine fees, since that would help level out peaks and valleys in the costs and the citations processed from year to year. However, he suggested that could be looked at in future discussions and this agreement shouldn't be held up.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Vickie Storey, City Clerk

Kathleen A. Warren, Mayor
