

**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**June 13, 2016**

ROLL CALL: Terry Beadles, Skate Pierce, Belinda Campbell, Kelly Blackmon, Monika Beauchamp, John Murray, Brian Kolstad  
Absent/Excused:

**STAFF:**

Chief Cooper, Chief Hastings, PWD Martin, City Attorney Richardson, Clerk Storey

**AGENDA CHANGES:** Councilmember Murray added Relay for Life to New Business.

**APPROVAL OF:** Minutes of the May 23, 2016, Regular Meeting were approved as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**A. From the Public:**

Richard Hayward, 1480 Terrace Drive, Clarkston.

**B. From Mayor:**

Mayor Lawrence updated the council on some of the events that are happening around the City. PW Martin said that the WWTP staff put together a demonstration of how the sewer line video camera works for Public Works Day. He said there were over 500 kids who attended the event. He gave kudos to Darin McCall for his work on the project.

Mayor Lawrence announced that the state auditor's office will be starting our audit in about a week. She had Clerk Storey explain what happens during the audit.

Mayor Lawrence said she attended a training on best practices for hiring last week and also attended a hearing at the appellate court related to a city case on marijuana.

Mayor Lawrence commended the new council members on how hard they have been working since they came into office.

**C. From Staff:**

Chief Hastings reported that our newest officer graduated from the police academy last week and started work this week.

Clerk Storey reported that the Annual Report was completed and submitted in May. She gave a brief explanation of what is included and said that Mayor Lawrence had reviewed the report before it was submitted.

Chief Cooper reported that the new brush truck was delivered last week. There are still a couple of issues that need corrected, but that will be done in the fall after fire season.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance:** Councilmember Beadles reported the bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Total expenditures for May 31, 2016 of \$996.10 and for June 13, 2016 of \$927,839.69. MOTION BY BEADLES/KOLSTAD to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Public Safety:** Councilmember Pierce reported on the June 7 meeting. Chief Cooper requested permission to apply for an amendment to the brush truck grant to use appx. \$1,300 in remaining funds. The city attorney is reviewing the state's lemon law to see if it might apply to an ambulance that has had numerous oil leaks.

Whitcom has detailed a plan to provide police and fire with unlimited licenses for Spillman mobile computers for a onetime payment of \$3,600. Cost will be shared between police, fire and ambulance.

Chief Hastings reported on the WA Association of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs conference that he recently attended. Chris Lorz is graduating from the police academy and will be starting work soon.

**Public Works:** Councilmember Pierce reported on the June 7 meeting. Committee discussed nonconforming use of a property on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Clerk Storey informed the committee about how the city determines sewer rates and how charges

are impacted when a property comes off vacancy credit.

PWD Martin is working on the 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan.

There is a potential project to run fiber across Southway Bridge.

The City will be going to bid soon for the Grantham safe routes to school.

The upgrade project for the Sunrise lift station is progressing.

PWD Martin provided information on the International Property Maintenance Code.

**Admin Committee:** Councilmember Kolstad reported on the June 13 meeting. A noise exemption for the Relay for Life event was discussed. Gambling taxes were discussed.

**Community Development:** Councilmember Campbell reported on the June 7 meeting. Committee discussed adding chickens to the animal ordinance. Size of coops and other requirements were discussed. City policy that prohibits animals in city parks was discussed for possible changes.

**Outside Organizations:** Councilmember Murray reported on the Regional Stormwater meeting. He reported on upcoming projects. An “effectiveness study” is being required by DOE. Councilmember Kolstad shared some ride numbers for the new Saturday service. Children can get a free pass for the summer.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Ordinance No. 1566, Amend CMC 9.16.030, Discharge of Fireworks – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Ordinance No. 1566 was read by title. MOTION BY BEADLES/BLACKMON to approve Ordinance No. 1566. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Mark Green, Owner, Lancer Casino, re: Gambling Taxes**

Mark Green, owner of Lancer Casino, addressed the council regarding a potential increase to the gambling tax on card games of 2%. Green explained that slot machines are only allowed in Indian casinos and that is where the big profits are because slots don't require employees like card rooms do. Green said competition from the tribal casinos is making mini-casinos like Lancer difficult to maintain. Revenues have dropped by almost half in the last eight years. He commented that the city taxes on gross revenue. He said Lancer Casino has paid over \$500,000 in taxes to the City since 2008. He said every one percent of city tax is 9% of his profit. Green said his business provides 50 jobs in the valley. They also do community outreach and benefits. He said increasing to 8% would take 73% of his net profit. He asked council not to increase the tax rate. He also commented that the proposal to increase minimum wage to \$12.50 per hour will cancel out all profit. He asked the council to consider dropping the rate, as the City of Spokane has done. He suggested the city should tax on the net rather than the gross.

#### **B. Approval to Seek Amendment to Fire Dept Grant - Chief Cooper**

Chief Cooper explained that there is about \$1,300 left in the original grant award from the brush truck purchase. He said his original plan was to spend the funds on fire prevention, but the rules do not allow that. It can, however, be spent on fire equipment and he would like the council to approve his proposal to move forward with the amendment request. The City's match is 5%. MOTION BY BEAUCHAMP/BEADLES to authorize Chief Cooper to expend the balance of the grant on allowable equipment. Motion carried.

#### **C. Appoint Gayla Filler to Planning Commission**

MOTION BY PIERCE/KOLSTAD to appoint Gayla Filler to the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

#### **D. Ordinance No. 1567, Budget Amendment – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Ordinance No. 1567 was read by title. Clerk Storey explained that most of the amendment is to adjust beginning and ending balances to actual since the budget is adopted with estimates.

**E. Relay for Life**

MOTION BY KOLSTAD/CAMPBELL to recognize Relay for Life as a city sanctioned public event which allows for an exemption to the noise ordinance. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Beadles commented that on a recent trip to Kansas, he read an article about a county that was scammed for \$50,000. He reminded people to be cautious.

Councilmember Pierce commented that public comment often is about the lack of activities for kids. He said that Lancer Lanes is a kid friendly place and he appreciates what they do for the community.

Councilmember Campbell agreed that Lancer Lanes is a great place for kids and is family friendly. She also thanked Mayor Lawrence for the job she is doing.

Councilmember Murray commented that he reviewed state law on gambling tax and believes it only provides for the city to tax gross receipts. He said it was originally intended to help fund law enforcement related to gambling. Chief Hastings said they are occasionally called to the casino, but it is not a regular occurrence. He said oversight of the gambling operation is done by the state. Murray said he believes any tax on a single entity that doesn't have a direct impact is an unfair tax.

Councilmember Kolstad agreed with other comments from council. He said he remembers when Lancer was in a state of disrepair and it has been improved a lot over the last few years.

Councilmember Blackmon commented on the closure of Chestnut Beach for the summer. He said it is unfortunate that it is out of commission for the summer. PWD Martin said it is an Army Corp project and the City is not involved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council went into executive session at 8:10 to discuss union negotiations for 15 minutes and no decision is anticipated as a result.

Council returned to open session at 8:25 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Vickie Storey, City Clerk

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Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 5/31/16	Ck #61724-25, 20160501-10	\$996.10
Total Fund Expenditures, 6/13/16	Ck #61726-28, 61777-61878, 20160601	\$623,597.37
Payroll, 5/31/16	Ck #61729-76	\$304,242.32