

# CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 25, 2014

## 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	

Motion by Blackmon/Beadles that Baumberger's absence be unexcused. Motion carried, 5-1, Kolstad opposed.

## STAFF:

Chief Hastings  Chief Cooper  Clerk Storey  City Attorney Grow  PWD Martin

## AGENDA CHANGES:

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MOTION BY NASH/MANCHESTER to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2014, Regular Meeting. Kolstad commented that his vote on Ordinance would have been in the affirmative had he been allowed to voice his vote. Motion carried.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

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

Jedidiah Haney, Yakima, is the executive director of the Committee for Adult Use Standards and Ethics of Marijuana, CauseM. He addressed the council regarding the public safety aspect of the moratorium. He said the moratorium is exacerbating public safety because there is a flourishing black market for marijuana on the streets. He said the voters of Washington decriminalized the possession of one ounce of marijuana. It also takes away the adequate access and puts the city in a precarious position. He left a packet of educational material on marijuana.

Vaughn Wasem, 1035 Liberty, addressed council on three issues. He said he did not vote for I-502, but it is here to stay and the city needs to deal with it. He said that while the tax revenue may not be much, it will bring foot traffic to Clarkston commercial areas. I-502 will regulate the quality of marijuana for sale. He believes legalization will spur research on the benefits of marijuana. Wasem said that Mr. Jackson is an upstanding business person and should be given a chance. He asked that a motion be made to lift the moratorium.

Kelly Jackson, 1045 Liberty, asked if the city received any letters or emails since the last meeting. Mayor Warren said the city received several on-line comments. He said that he hasn't seen any of the downtown business people protesting the location of marijuana business in downtown.

Jill Eckberg, 1126 5<sup>th</sup> Street, asked if there will be a hearing on the proposed vehicle fee. Mayor Warrens aid there will be a separate Transportation Benefit District after the council meeting. Eckberg said she has spoken to council several times regarding code enforcement. She said she has seen no action since her previous complaints about junk vehicles, weeds, unlicensed vehicles. Why does Lewiston have a code enforcement officer and Clarkston does not. She said a neighbor verbally harassed her because of her complaints. She suggested council look in their own neighborhoods to see what code violations there are. She said if there is sufficient time for an officer to serve as the Asotin County sheriff, there should be time to take care of our city.

Rob Sinner, asked why the councilmembers who voted against the zoning ordinance didn't just abstain. He commented that the voters of Clarkston approved I-502 and wondered whose agenda the council is following.

- B. From the Mayor:** Mayor Warren reported that the VFW is planning a brief ceremony at the Clarkston City Hall flagpole commemorating the events of September 11. Warren apologized to Councilmember Kolstad for taking away his right to vote at the previous meeting.

She said that in future if there is an error noticed, a point of order can be called at the time. Mayor Warren read a statement to those who have commented on the failure of Ordinance No. 1529 to pass. She said that action did not ban marijuana business, but only left the zoning issues open.

**C. From Staff:**

Chief Cooper announced that the City received an extension of the SAFER Grant to allow the City to expend the remainder of the funds. The funds will cover approximately 60 days of wages and benefits. Cooper said the firefighters raised about \$5,550 in donations towards Muscular Dystrophy on Saturday during the “Fill the Boot” event.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Councilmember Provost reported the bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Total expenditures for August 25, 2014, of \$229,015.45. MOTION BY PROVOST/BEADLES to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**Public Safety:** Councilmember Beadles said committee met on August 19. Chief Hastings is researching body cameras for the officers. An ordinance will be presented that would ban smoking near playgrounds in the parks. Chief Hastings is preparing an ordinance to allow ATV’s on city streets.

**Public Works:** Councilmember Nash reported that committee met on August 20. There was some damage to pipes in the aeration basin at the treatment plant. The city is looking at an agreement with a soccer club to use Arnold Park. The automated sanitation service is moving forward and should start in October. A rate increase of \$2.00 will be proposed for January 1. Councilmember Provost asked if the \$2.00 increase is to finance the new sanitation equipment. Nash said it is.

**Admin Committee:** Councilmember Manchester said committee met earlier today. Marshall Doak, SEWEDA, presented a proposal for the city to sponsor a CDBG grant for the entrepreneur program at WWCC. They are in the beginning stages of applying, but the grant has to be awarded to the city or the county and passed through to the college. Committee discussed the county’s letter regarding court filing fees.

**Community Development:** No meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Kolstad said he visited a marijuana retail store in Prosser recently. He said it was a bit boring. There was someone in an entry area checking ID’s. He said he saw seven employees, in uniforms, working there. Security cameras were evident. He said it seemed to be a very safe feeling experience. Two grams of marijuana sold for \$70. Customers ranged in age from mid-twenties to their 70’s. He said it was like walking into a nice restaurant, not what you would think of as a drug dealer. He doesn’t think there is anything for the community to fear from a regulated marijuana industry in Clarkston. He had a sample and discussed the labeling information. He stated that the council should lift the moratorium and adopt appropriate zoning.

Councilmember Beadles said he attended the Mud Run, although he did not participate. He commented that there are a lot of activities in the valley if you just look for them.

**MEDIA QUESTIONS:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Potential Litigation and Negotiations**

Council went into executive session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss union negotiations and potential litigation. Session is expected to last about 15 minutes with no decision to be made as a result. The

session was extended for an additional 5 minutes. Council returned to open session at 7:59.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Vickie Storey, City Clerk

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Kathleen A. Warren, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 8/25/14	CK #57213, 57237-78, 20140801-03, Jul excise	\$95,904.36
Payroll, 8/15/14	Ck #57214-36	\$133,111.09