

**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JOINT MEETING WITH ASOTIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
September 5, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Jeffords, 7:00 p.m. at Walla Walla Community College

COUNCIL:

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

STAFF:

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Jeffords, Shinn, Brown

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Asotin County Aquatic Center

Commissioners Jeffords said that Asotin County made a decision to fund \$110,000 to open the waterpark for the 2012 summer. He said they have looked at a lot of options to reduce the amount of the subsidy. They are considering opening the concessions stand again, but feel it would be a minor contribution to funding. Corporate sponsorship was a new effort. They got off to a slow start due to the uncertain future of the facility. They have the potential to raise about \$68,000 per year. Jeffords asked the City why they decided not to contribute this year and what plans are for future years.

Mayor Warren said uncertainty over the state funding and reduced revenues played a big part in the decision. Councilmember Beadles said revenues are down this year and he is concerned with next year. He suggested a tax levy as a possible answer or a parks and rec district.

Commissioner Shinn asked if the city would support a parks and rec district. Beadles said that he couldn't speak for the council, but he would support one.

Councilmember Provost referred to RCW 82.14, which states that the optional sales tax the city is collecting is intended for use at the discretion of the local government. Shinn said the commissioners do not question that the city's action to impose the tax was legal. He asked if the county should assume they will not see any contributions from the tax revenue in the future.

Provost brought up prior revenues sources such as, the snack bar, tube rentals and retail sales. Jeffords said they are not sure it would be cost effective to prohibit picnic coolers if the result would be that families do not come to the park. The commissioners are having some discussion with the fair board regarding the snack bar. Provost also asked about revenue generated from parties, room rental, gym equipment and savings from the use of pool covers. Jeffords said they have made some cost savings changes, such as intermittent pumps and are looking an energy audit for lighting.

Councilmember Blackmon said any contribution would have to depend on the city's budget. If the commissioners send a letter requesting funds, it would be reviewed during the budget process.

Commissioner Brown commented that the feasibility study said the pool would lose money and the study was correct.

Shinn said the board has done some research on forming a parks and rec district. It would take between 6 and 18 months to get in place. The commissioner's will continue to look for other funding sources.

Stormwater

Councilmember Beadles said he has done a lot of research on stormwater. He said the City

would like to see the ERU rate dropped to \$3.50. HE commented that there seems to be some confusion as to where stormwater regulations are going. Councilmember Nash commented that maybe stormwater fees could be dropped and that could offset the tax increase from a parks and rec district. Mayor Warren said the city currently makes up \$1.50 per ERU from the general fund. She would prefer to see the fees kept as low as possible, but covering costs and keeping some in reserve. Commissioner Shinn commented that creating a new taxing district costs money and suggested that the stormwater fee could be reduced and the city could contribute the amount that is being used to subsidize the stormwater fund to the aquatic center.

Commissioner Brown said they will be starting work on the stormwater budget soon and will be looking at some different ideas. He said there could be some major stormwater projects coming up and funds will be needed.

Mayor Warren said a lot of work went in to establishing the system we have. We should be sure of the program before we start changing things. Brown commented that more regulations will be coming in the future, not less. Jeffords added that the Phase II permit was pushed back a year. But we could potentially be lumped in with larger entities like Pullman and Spokane, which would not be good for us.

Jeffords said it sounds like the city is asking the stormwater management team to take a hard look at costs.

Mutual Aid

Mayor Warren said she sits on the Regional EMS Task Force, but that group does not address mutual aid. She is concerned with the lack of fire mutual aid for Clarkston. She said we realize the commissioners are not in control but would like to see them encourage cooperation.

Commissioner Brown suggested the city meet with the fire commissioners.

Councilmember Nash commented that this should not be a political issue. It should be about the citizens.

Commissioner Shinn said the commissioners would be willing to draft a letter to Fire 1 to encourage a meeting.

Councilmember Beadles commented that there seems to be a lot of resistance to any compromise.

Additional topics

Commissioner Shinn said he has heard rumors that the city is considering annexing between 13th and 15th Streets. Councilmember Beadles said that rumor makes the rounds often, but the council has not taken any action to start annexation proceedings. He said annexation in that area is not a council goal.

Commissioner Shinn said he appreciated the opportunity to sit with council and have an open dialogue. Jeffords said at least the commissioner know now that they need to look for other avenues to fund the aquatic center.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Vickie Storey, City Clerk

Kathleen A Warren, Mayor