

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Budget Workshop
November 25, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Warren, 6:00 P.M.

COUNCIL:

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

STAFF:

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

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Mayor Warren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Provost started the discussion by saying he had compared the 2013 and 2014 budgets and see a trend that the beginning fund balance is dropping. He is concerned about that trend. He noted that the revised preliminary budget shows an increase to the beginning balance of about \$200,000 and asked where that is from. Storey said it is one time money that she missed in the first version. Provost said that will help with the 2015 budget, but it is not ongoing funding.

Councilmember Nash commented that council is considering the optional 2/10 sales tax which will bring in around \$400,000. Storey pointed out that she looked back at the 2008 annual report. The City received about \$927,000 in sales tax. The anticipated sales tax for 2014 is \$1,600,000, and increase over the years of \$700,000 and we are no better off than we were in 2008. She said that if council moves forward with a sales tax increase, that is the last option available for increased revenue.

Councilmember Baumberger said he looked at ending balances from 2009 forward and the 2015 anticipated ending balance is almost the same as the 2009 budget. He agreed that we can't keep going this way.

Councilmember Beadles stated that we should not spend more than our revenues and we have been doing that for several years. Baumberger said wage increases need to be controlled. Beadles said that a salary of \$100,000 with a 3% increase every year for 10 years is \$134,000 at the end of the cycle.

Provost said council needs to look at the two positions in the fire department that were hired on a temporary basis with grant funds. He said he realizes that it is easier to run the department with the staffing, but at some point we are going to have to cut expenses in the general fund and one area he would look at is the ambulance service.

Nash asked about the court issue. Provost said he has looked at the report that was presented and he thinks it has some flaws. He encouraged council to look at it closely before a decision is made. Provost said he would not want to see court held in the council room. He doesn't believe that additional work from holding a court can be added to existing staff. Mayor Warren agreed.

Councilmember Blackmon suggested reducing water in the parks. Baumberger said we tried that several years ago and the parks looked terrible and people complained. Plus, it doesn't save that much money.

Nash said he is opposed to cutting public safety. Provost asked if going back to the staffing levels of two years ago is cutting public safety. Baumberger said the call volume is increasing and he thinks the staff is needed. Storey pointed out that the volume is in ambulance, but we are paying out of current expense. Shouldn't those expenses be part of the EMS levy? Baumberger agreed that the levy should be increased to pay for actual expenses. The consensus was to leave the two firefighter positions in the budget.

Sales tax increase was discussed, but council not ready to move forward.

Storey asked for direction on Jim Grow's request for an increase. He has requested an increase of \$8,620 for the 2015 contract. Council recommended an increase of \$7,000.

Council agreed to increase the emergency services budget to \$6,500.

The door opener for the fire bay was added.

The pole building for Sanitation was not added because there are no funds for it.

Mayor Warren asked council for a recommendation on management salaries. Storey said there is 3% in the budget. There was no dissent on that amount.

PWD Martin said if funds become available he would like to look at improvements to the Costco/Walmart entrance on 5th Street. He anticipates it would cost around \$16,000 to make the suggested improvements. Chief Hastings expressed some concern about how that would impact traffic at the 3rd Street exit from Costco. Martin said that would have to be looked at before changes are implemented.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Vickie Storey, City Clerk

Kathleen A. Warren, Mayor