

**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**April 24, 2017**

ROLL CALL: Skate Pierce, Terry Beadles, Brian Kolstad, Belinda Campbell, John Murray. Kelly Blackmon & Monika Beauchamp were excused on a motion by PIERCE/KOLSTAD.

STAFF: Chief Hastings, Chief Cooper, PWD Martin, Clerk Austin, City Attorney Richardson

**AGENDA CHANGES:** Remove Executive Session from form.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**A. From the Public:** No Comments

**B. From Mayor:** Mayor Lawrence attended the youth transition event at WWCC last Wednesday. The event focused on students at risk and their personal barriers with school or problems with returning to school. Councilmember Campbell also attended. The students told personal stories related to the program. The program is funded by grant money from Americorps. Councilmember Campbell added that the stories were very inspiring. There was also a tour of two new buildings – a welding/mechanical center and a business center. The centers will be open this fall. A letter from ACFD 1 acknowledging receipt of the letter requesting estimate of costs from city was received. The EMS council needs a citizen-at-large on the committee.

**C. From Staff or Employees:** No Comments

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance:** Councilmember Beadles reported the bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Total expenditures for the April 10, 2017 period of \$163,558.38. MOTION BY BEADLES/PIERCE to approve the bills as read. Motion carried.

**Public Safety:** Councilmember Beadles reported on the April 18 meeting.

Mark from Tristate Hospital discussed the traffic, parking, and pedestrian issues on Highland Street at the Tri State Hospital area. The Chief will meet with PWD Martin to eliminate some parking at 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Street intersections to improve visibility. Perhaps other improvements could be funded with shared costs. Next week the police department will be training with the County Attorney on legal updates. The police department will be helping with traffic control at the Seaport River Run.

Chief Cooper reported that Tri State Hospital has allowed the Fire Department to use several mobile homes for training. The fire engine and the ambulance have been repaired. There still is a vacancy for a Citizen at Large on the Asotin County EMS Council. There is a review of options for the fire engine housed at Clearwater Paper. Reserve fire fighter hours were discussed.

A copy of a request to Asotin County Fire District #1 was presented. The letter requests an estimated cost for contract services for fire and ems in the City of Clarkston.

Jim Babino stated that he and the fire union would be willing to discuss fire and ems options that are being reviewed by the council. Jim stated that additional volunteers are needed to help with Seaport River Run stations. The children's back pack/ food program received a grant for the Seaport River Run; Jim is a volunteer with this program.

**Public Works:** Councilmember Pierce reported on the April 18 Meeting

There were further discussion on the Beachview Park Skate Park. We need to find the school district's interest in that space for future high school development. Would it be possible to find a new location for a skate park and remove the abandoned former municipal pool?

Sunrise drive lift station improvement is underway. Should be finished by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

City Attorney Richardson and Director Martin have been working to finalize the language on our Transportation Benefit District Fund plan. Final language should be available to the council by May. Director Martin believes he should leave the Recycling request for proposal for his successor to finalize. We discussed the parking situation around Tri-State Memorial Hospital, and the potential for more parking restrictions on the street that will help visibility of traffic turning onto Highland.

Clarkston Free Parking: All lights but one on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot are serviced by Avista. The cost of that light is roughly \$330.00 per year. Previously an owner of one of the buildings was paying for the power to that light. That is no longer the case. Do we add it to the contract, remove it, or just let it expire and leave it alone?

Waste Water Treatment Plant Screw Press repair is set up for April 24<sup>th</sup> and may last around one week. Insurance may cover the majority of the cost.

We are performing an electrical power study to diagnose electrical issues at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Cost could be around \$12,000 to locate the source of fluctuations in power that is causing equipment to burn out prematurely.

Bike month banner brackets discussion. We are negotiating the price of the brackets. This may be an agenda item. PWD contacted FastSigns to get clarification of size and price.

**Admin Committee:** Did not meet

**Community Development:** Did not meet

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No unfinished business

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Valley Vision – Doug Mattoon: Report on Economic Development**

Director Mattoon spoke on recent development report and 2017 work plan. A report just published showed the LC Valley was tied with Grand Forks, ND for the greatest increase in construction jobs. About 400 jobs have been added in the area. The construction that will be completed will also add about 400 jobs when completed. Valley Vision is exploring supply lines for the aluminum boat industry. Currently Valley Vision maintains the website for the Snake River Boat Builders. All 6 local wineries are meeting with golf and recreation outdoor writers today. WWCC will begin a new workforce center this fall.

Recent accomplishments of Valley Vision include:

Asotin County Boat Builders – 280 jobs which is 135% above national average with average wage of \$52k/year. Renaissance & Thunder Jet are two main boat builders in Clarkston. Thunder Jet has been purchased by Brunswick. Brunswick has committed to stay in community. Brunswick already has supply lines and marketing from other companies to promote the aluminum jet boats. There has been close to \$10 million increase in sales and adding of 200 jobs. There is about \$875 thousand in taxes paid to the local communities. Overall there is about \$70 million income annually.

The LC Valley unemployment rate is below the national average consistently. In 2016, it was reported that we have the most jobs we have ever had – over 36,000 jobs in the valley. Councilmember Murray asked if the numbers include part time jobs. Mattoon advised that this includes all jobs in both counties. The top 3 employers are manufacturing, government, and medical. Councilmember Beadles thanked Mattoon for being quick to respond to requests when contacted for information.

**B. Asotin County Engineer Dustin Johnson: Report on Fleshman Way Interchange**

Engineer Johnson gave an update on the work schedule. Work started April 17. Fleshman Way is open.

As well as Highway 129 south between Clarkston and Asotin. The only closure is the left turn from Clarkston to Lewiston. Highway 129 will close on the Tuesday after Memorial Day. There will be flaggers working at peak times, primarily at 13<sup>th</sup> and Highland. There have been meetings with the Sheriff and others to identify emergency routes as well as bus routes. The Highway will be shut down for all of June and July. Project Completion date is scheduled for October 10. The ramps will be open sometime in October. Right now, Highway 129 is open for the Asotin Co Fair and Seaport River Run. The contractor is currently ahead of schedule. Johnson advised that he will return around Memorial Day with an update. Councilmember Campbell asked if residents along Highway 129 are being informed of the closure period. Johnson advised that there have been town hall meetings, individual meetings with home owners, and the County will be notifying them again once it is closer to closure. Councilmember Kolstad asked if PTBA was aware of the work schedule. Johnson advised they were at the pre-construction meetings and have been notified again this last week. Councilmember Murray asked what peak times are for the flaggers to be working. Johnson advised they will have flaggers primarily during morning and evening rush hour.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Murray asked about clarification on the letter from County. Mayor Lawrence advised it was to get an estimate from ACFD 1 to see what it would cost to contract for Fire/EMS services. The letter was delivered by Chief Cooper to Chief Hardin last Friday. Councilmember Campbell asked if there was any update on the PWD position. Mayor Lawrence advised there would be interviews this week and a decision on Friday. PWD Martin’s last day is May 26. Councilmember Beadles commented how Public Works employees do many of the repairs to city vehicles and machinery, only paying for parts, which saves the city a lot of money. Councilmember Pierce asked Attorney Richardson about the validity of going into executive session to talk about negotiations. Attorney Richardson advised that the City is doing fine to go into closed session for negotiation and litigation. Pierce asked if the union contacted the Mayor to discuss an issue, the council could convene a closed session. Richardson explained that closed sessions could be convened if union contacted city to discuss the issue. Mayor Lawrence commented that the fire fighters chose the union to negotiate for them, so any discussions without union representatives would not be binding. Richardson also advised that if the City tried to circumvent the union it could be a violation of the Fair Labor Practices Act. Councilmember Kolstad thanked PWD Martin for his work while employed by the City.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:42p.m.

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Steve Austin, City Clerk

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Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 4/24/17	Ck # 63878-63920	\$32,525.43
Payroll, 4/20/17	Ck # 63860-63877	\$131,032.95