

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 28, 2019

ROLL CALL: Skate Pierce, Pat Holman, Joel Profitt, Belinda Larsen, Russ Evans, Melyssa Andrews and John Murray. Joel Profitt Excused from October 14 Meeting on MOTION by Larsen/Holman
STAFF: Chief Hastings, Chief Baskett, PWD Poole, Clerk Austin.

AGENDA CHANGES: Add Item F under Consent Agenda: Special Event Permit – 6th Street Trick or Treat

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the October 14, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2020 Property Tax & Revenue

Mayor Lawrence opened the public hearing at 7:03pm. Clerk Austin provided Council with the outline of revenue for the Current Expense Fund. PWD Poole presented options for Sanitation and Sewer rates. He advised that the City is not meeting the operation expenses with the current rate structure on both sanitation and sewer fees. Clarkston has some of the lowest rates in the area and is less than our comparables. Most of the other entities also charge a rental fee on sanitation carts. The City is spending approximately \$32,000 per year on cart replacements. PWD Poole recommended that the City increase Sanitation rates by 10% and impose a cart rental fee. In addition, sewer rates do not cover the cost of operation and the City has to dip into the reserves annually to pay for maintenance of equipment. PWD Poole also advised that the Asotin County PUD may not be paying adequately for the amount of flow that is contributed from their operations. He advised that the City would need to do a rate and flow study to determine if rates are matching expectations for operations. PWD Poole recommend an increase in sewer rates of 15% for 2020. Councilmember Larsen confirmed with PWD Poole that the sanitation service is compulsory. She asked if the commercial accounts were going to have to rent the dumpsters in addition to paying for the service. PWD Poole advised it was broken up to allow for the rental fees to be used for replacements and the savings to increase the equipment reserve funds. Councilmember Murray asked for clarification of the 10% rate increase in addition to a 65-gallon cart rental fee for residential customers equal to about \$3.90 per month. Poole advised that was correct and included a \$1.60 cart rental fee. Councilmember Profitt asked if the increase was to build up the reserves for purchase of a new vehicle in 3-5 years, if the City had any information on costs compared to other services in area to determine what is a fair price. PWD Poole advised that the survey he completed showed that Clarkston was the fourth lowest out of five providers in the area. Profitt asked where the City would be after the increase. Poole advised the City would be third. Councilmember Andrews asked if the City would have standard rates or discounts for seniors, disabled, etc. Poole advised that there were no discounts. Murray asked if the increases were considered enterprise funds to be kept in sanitation fund. Poole advised that they would be kept in the sanitation reserves. Murray asked if the sewer increase of 15% would only be to the base rates. PWD Poole advised it would also apply to the also to unit rate. Councilmember Evans advised that the rate increases were needed to keep the services operational. Murray asked what the average utility bill would be with the increases. Profitt advised it would be about \$36.00. Larsen also expressed concern on the cost of the rate increases for the citizens. Councilmember Pierce asked if the flow study shows that the County flow is costing the most to process, will it save residents costs. Poole advised that it would reduce resident rates if the study confirmed the information. Council directed Clerk Austin to prepare ordinances with a 15% rate increase for Sewer and a 10% rate increase for Sanitation with an additional fee for cart rental.

At 7:40pm, Mayor Lawrence opened the floor for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

The public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. From the Public:** Richard Root, 1007 12th Street
Gayla Filler, 928 Beachview Blvd
Richard Eggleston, 3495 Clemans Rd
Brian Shinn, 929 Beachview Blvd
Marvin Entel, 627 16th Street
Jennifer Menegas, 3975 Upper Foothill Drive
John Devine, 1792 Wheatlands, Lewiston
JC Rutherford, 2916 27th Street
Byron Sears, 981 Asotin Creek Rd, Asotin

B. From Mayor: Mayor Lawrence advised that the Sixth Street Trick or Treat received WSDOT approval today. It will be held on October 31st, from 4-6pm. Sixth street will be closed from 3:30-6:30pm between Elm and Chestnut. The Mayor sent a thank you letter to Jeremy Burt for purchasing Video Doorbells for all City police officers. Council has been forwarded an email from Wanda Kiefer regarding dam removal on the Snake. The Mayor advised the Council to keep this information in mind for future discussions.

- C. From Staff or Employees:** None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee discussed Resolution 2019-19, the Special Event Permit (Agenda Items) and reviewed and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the October 28, 2019 period of \$255,139.58. MOTION BY ANDREWS/EVANS to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Larsen reported on the October 21st meeting. Chief Hastings that in light of the recent shooting of a Tribal Police Officer in the Orchards, community citizen Jeremy Burt has made a generous donation to the Clarkston Police Department to install doorbell “nest” cameras at every officer’s home. Had the Officer in the Orchards had one available to him at his home, there might have been a different outcome. The City of Clarkston Council and Police Department very much appreciate Mr. Burt’s donation. Thanks also to Inland Cellular for working with us on equipment and installation. Chief Baskett has met with and reviewed hospital reporting of incidents with patients to help ensure the safety of Fire and EMS responders. There is a resolution on the agenda to sell our 2002 Ford Ambulance. We have received a \$211,000 grant to replace the SCBAs for the Fire Department. The grant money will allow the department to replace 25 SCBAs along with 50 air cylinders and 33 face pieces. As they take a few months to receive after ordering, Chief has asked that he order them now even though they will be coming out of next year’s budget. Chief Baskett would also like to ask Civil Service to update their list of EMT and Firefighter candidates. Public Safety Awareness month was very successful within the Fire Department. The Firefighters met with schools, provided posters and contests. Kids always love to see the firefighters!

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce reported on the October 22nd meeting. The Committee discussed a recommendation to have Keller and Associates perform an analysis of the traffic impact analysis for the new Dialysis Clinic at Tri-State Memorial Hospital. It will cost \$2100 for the analysis. The Committee also recommends that the Council approve the Mayor to sign the contract for Analysis and Design of the intersection at 8th, Elm and Diagonal. There have been at least 24 accidents at that

intersection in the last 4 years. If the City has the design completed, we can score higher on grant applications for this work. Director Poole will be attending a seminar for Local Road Safety Plans. The information at this seminar should also help us with grant applications. The Committee discussed the Billboard on Confluence Way. WSDOT has rules against digital billboards on their right of way. The City will have to reject the current proposals and draft a new contract for a static billboard and then request proposals for that. There was a discussion on a proposed rate increase in our sanitation fees. For years the City has failed to charge for yard waste composting and the rental/use of the bins for both garbage and yard waste. We need to start charging for these services. Yard waste bin rental and pickup is not required. The way the City has been operating, we have very little opportunity to capitalize and replace equipment. The sanitation department does an amazing job working with our aging fleet. Our newest garbage truck is 8 years old. We need to recoup our costs. The city has failed to keep up with costs and inflation. We've been providing services at a loss for far too long. The negotiations with PUD was an eye-opening experience. We need to improve our stewardship of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We have failed to invest into our reserves to regularly maintain and replace equipment. Half of our reserve accounts are tied to bonds and are untouchable by the city. We've just been operating from emergency to emergency. The council has had this discussion and should understand the need to improve our reserves for future projects. Along with a regular rate increase, we need to update the WWTP Master Plan, and do a rate study. PUD pays for 33% of the WWTP maintenance and operations. It's likely that they input far more than that into the WWTP. The rate study would help us figure out if we need to balance their rate so that they're paying a fair share. Our customers have been unnecessarily bearing the burden of the lower rate to PUD for years. We had a discussion on our livestock/animal ordinance. This discussion will need to be continued. We discussed other municipal ordinances in Washington. Spokane has some good language. The Committee recommends that P&Z look at this for a recommendation on this. We have an issue with a large backlog of historical records that the city is required to have. Public Works has obtained a bid to help rectify this problem. They have a request that we approve \$1250 to digitize the most problematic records as a test run. If that goes well, we could apply for grants to do the rest. We anticipate adding this into the 2020 budget. We've had a large influx in requests for new commercial building permits, and a couple new residential building permits. This is good news for growth and revenue generation.

Outside Organizations: Councilmember Pierce reported on afternoon Board of Health meeting. The Budget was discussed. They also received a report on vaping from the Health District Doctor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance 1632, Zone Change – 917 Chestnut Street, 2nd Reading (Public Works)
MOTION BY MURRAY/PIERCE to take Ordinance from the table. Motion Carried. The Original MOTION by Murray/Evans to approve Ordinance now reconsidered. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION BY HOLMAN/PIERCE to approve consent items. Motion Carried

- A. Resolution 2019-19, Property Tax Levy (Finance/Admin)**
- B. Resolution 2019-20, Surplus Ambulance (Public Safety)**
- C. Resolution 2019-21, SCBA Order (Public Safety)**
- D. Authorization to Sign Amendment to Owner-Consultant Agreement (Public Works)**
- E. Authorization to Sign Agreement for Professional Services (Public Works)**
- F. Special Event Permit – 6th Street Trick or Treat (Finance/Admin)**

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Larsen confirmed that the full information on the zone change would be disclosed to the buyer of the property. Councilmember Andrews commented that she

had admiration for the community members that addressed the Council. The Council often has to make tough decisions, and it is important for the community to voice opinions on these matters. Councilmember Murray thanked Gayla Filler for coming to meeting and representing the P&Z Commission. Councilmember Profitt thanked Attorney Richardson for all of his work on the zoning issue. Councilmember Pierce commented on the duty to everyone in Clarkston for the Council to perform due diligence on these matters and thanked everyone for coming.

PRESS QUESTIONS: Tribune Reporter Sandaine confirmed with PWD Poole that the sewer and sanitation rate hike would increase revenues \$150,000 for each fund. Lauren Kahl of KLEW clarified public hearing information with Clerk Austin.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:
Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures 10/28/19	Ck # 69284-69332	\$116,614.86
Payroll 10/18/19	Ck # 69273-69282	\$138,524.72