

**CLARKSTONCITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Budget Workshop**  
**November 17, 2015**

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

COUNCIL:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beadles  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provost  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackmon |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kolstad  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nash     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campbell |  |

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.

Storey said she distributed some corrected pages for the budgets and the requested capital expenditures.

Nash commented on the landfill tipping fees. Storey explained that Asotin County has increased the tipping fee from \$40 per ton to \$48 per ton, a 20% increase. That price is supposed to remain the same for ten years. Staff is proposing at least a 7% rate increase to cover the increase. Beadles asked if an 8% increase would cover expenses better. Storey said she provided a proposal which shows both a 7% and 8% and what the customer rates would look like. Nash asked if we would need another big rate increase next year. Storey said we should not, as long as tipping fees stay at this level. PWD Martin commented that Asotin County negotiated this rate with City of Lewiston and it is passed on to their other users.

Nash commented that the current expense fund is decreasing and he would like to see items that are funded from current expense covered in some other way to maintain reserves. Alley maintenance is one thing he would like to fund from TBD funds if possible, but isn't sure there will be funds available in time.

Campbell asked if there are any significant increases in this budget. Storey said there are no new programs and no new positions requested. Increases are to cover wages and benefits and other expense that we believe will increase.

Blackmon asked how much the new sales tax increase will generate. Storey said she has estimated about \$300,000 next year. The tax will begin April 1. That revenue will be in a new, dedicated fund.

Provost noted that there are not many capital projects in this budget. Storey said the document they have does not include the new brush truck or the exhaust system for the fire bay. But all but 5% of those expenses are covered by grants. A patrol car is in the budget. There are no construction projects planned.

Provost said this budget appears to be pretty bare bones.

Provost commented on a letter he received today that he feels is full of errors. It talks about legal fees of \$300,000 and suggested they consider what is in the budget and not other material that may not be accurate.

Beadles commented that 75% of the budget is in personnel costs.

Kolstad commented on outside legal costs. He commented on the \$50,000 in the 2016 budget, which he feels is a complete waste. He said that there is a budget for a DARE officer, but said many studies have shown that DARE is not effective. Chief Hastings explained that the City has not done the DARE program for a couple of years because of staffing issues. Hastings said the DARE officer provided many other services besides DARE, such as training and patrol. That officer is now the school resource officer. If it were to be started again, it would be a less significant part of the officer's time than in the past. We no longer provide the program to Pomeroy or Asotin schools as we did in the past. Hastings said the DARE officer has had a big impact on the relationship of the police with the youth. Hastings said the kids and the parents are very positive about the program, but it is unlikely that we will provide the program this year.

Kolstad said the \$50,000 budgeted in outside legal services seems excessive. Beadles commented that lawsuits are very expensive and the city doesn't always have control over those. He also commented that much of the expense over the last two years was over a construction project.

Provost asked Storey what needs to be done. Storey said she needs direction on rates for sewer and sanitation. There is currently 3% planned for sewer and 7% planned in sanitation. He asked about the supplemental budget requests. Storey said most of the items are in the budget with the exception of the brush truck and the exhaust system which will be added to the next version, along with any other changes the council decides on tonight. Storey added that the legal expense is an estimate she put in because there is no way of knowing where expense for the existing lawsuits will come in. If council wishes to change the amount, it can be done easily.

Nash said the 3% sewer rate increase sounds okay. Beadles said he would prefer to see 8% in sanitation to be sure we can maintain the trucks.

PWD Martin said earlier in the year council had authorized \$12,500 for a study on Southway Bridge. That estimate was lower than the proposals came in and now each agency's share is \$20,000. Blackmon asked how the estimate was so far off. Martin said some new technology using ground penetrating radar is being proposed to determine what is actually under the surface of the bridge. He said Lewiston will cover the cost and the City's share would not be due until October when the Southway expenses are distributed.

Martin said there has been discussion about improvements to the Costco / Walmart intersection. He said it is the number one project in the six-year plan and he believes it could be done for less than \$20,000. He asked to add \$20,000 for the project and that it could come from the TBD funds. Chief Hastings asked if that change would force Costco customers to use the 3<sup>rd</sup> & Fair Street intersection and how that would impact traffic. Martin said this planned change came from the North Clarkston traffic study and he will review that study. Add funding of \$20,000. Project will be reviewed further.

Martin said he has had a request for additional ADA compliant playground equipment. He is thinking of a swing for wheelchairs. He requested \$5,000, to purchase and install swings, starting with Beachview Park. Kolstad said he would like to see the website redone or upgraded. He said the current website is not tablet friendly. His research indicates that it might cost \$15,000 to \$20,000. Storey said the company that does our website now offers other options and council could certainly look at what they have to offer and compare with others. Blackmon commented that he thinks that is too much to spend. Storey said the company that maintains the website now has options available and we could look at improvements. Storey suggested that if a couple of the council is interested in a presentation from our current vendor that could be arranged. Kolstad said we obviously have plenty to spend on lawsuits. He said that Storey clearly does a lot of work that would be done by two or three people in Lewiston.

White said that a few weeks ago there was some information provided about the distribution of marijuana tax revenue and it says that money can only be used for marijuana enforcement and not streets or websites or other projects.

Provost said he sees no harm in researching the website improvements since websites are the way people get information.

Consensus for sewer rates is 3% increase and 8% increase to sanitation. Storey said another option would be to take the Sanitation truck payment from vehicle replacement (\$36,000) and reduce the rate increase. That would allow the large increase to be spread over a couple of years instead of it hitting all at once.

Kolstad said that overall it is a pretty good budget. He would like to see some priorities that would do more for the people.

Provost said management wages should be discussed. Beadles said 5% is included in the budget. Kolstad commented that Clarkston operates on a lean budget and demands a lot from everyone who works here.

Kolstad asked if the budget can be amended. Storey said council can amend anytime.

Mayor Warren announced that there will be a public hearing on Monday night where the public is invited to comment.

Campbell said the City would welcome comments from citizens. They can be emailed and they would be shared.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

---

Vickie Storey, City Clerk

---

Kathleen A. Warren, Mayor