

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Joint meeting
November 21, 2013

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

COUNCIL:

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

STAFF:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

City of Asotin – Vicki Bonfield, Jennifer Bly, Joe Appleton, Grey Fry, Jane Richards, Bill Derbonne

Asotin County Fire District – Noel Hardin, Ken Klug

Dispatch Contract Discussion:

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

Mayor Warren opened a discussion on possible dates to meet again with the County commissioners. Tentative dates of December 2nd, 3rd or 4th were suggested, depending on availability of the commissioners who were not represented at this meeting.

Bonfield said she wasn't sure the commissioners need to be involved in the discussion at this point. She pointed out that Asotin does not believe they owe the amount the County is asking for. There is an option to contract directly with Whitcom.

Warren commented that the County's price includes additional expenses beyond what is paid to Whitcom.

Hardin commented that all taxpayers of the county pay into the fund that provides the call takers wages. It is state shared money. Jane Richards said there is additional money collected by the state that is shared for dispatch costs. Richards said Chief Derbonne has had some discussion with City of Lewiston about dispatch services. Greg Fry said Asotin has asked the County for explanations of the expenses and don't feel they have gotten adequate answers. Joe Appleton said Asotin understands that there are costs above Whitcom that relate to dispatch and E-911 and they are willing to pay their share, but are still waiting for details. Richards said Asotin has not paid anything to Asotin County.

Todd Richardson said whether Clarkston has overpaid in the past is a separate topic. This discussion should be looking at where the entities are going to go in the future. He said he hopes that the county participates in future discussion. Clarkston should be paying its pro-rata share of the total cost, but all should be treated the same.

Richards said the spreadsheet the County has presented should be reviewed by each entity and they should determine if they are willing to pay their share of those costs. Asotin has said they are not willing to pay a share of those particular costs. Richards said her research indicates that Whitcom's cost is not based on those figures. Asotin wants the cost based on call volume. Warren said a new contract should be based on justifiable numbers.

Chief Derbonne said Asotin County has presented different sets of numbers at different times. He does not feel there is a way to contract with the County based on the information they are willing to provide. Richards asked if it is Richardson's understanding that the County wants to base a contract on the spreadsheet that has been provided. Richardson said there have not been discussions with the County on future contracts.

Chief Hardin said the Whitcom cost is a clearly available number and is included in the contract

with Asotin County. Other costs that are related to infrastructure should be looked at separately and negotiated. Richards commented that Whitcom will provide service regardless because their contract with Asotin County is an umbrella contract.

Chief Cooper said the City and Fire District have requested an amendment to the existing contract. The contract is clear in what is to be paid. The other costs are in question. Beadles asked if there should be two separate contracts, one for Whitcom costs and one for other costs. Richards said there are many items included in the spreadsheet that should not be. For example, the E-911 coordinator is already paid for by the state funds as is mapping. They should not be included again.

Hardin suggested there should be some specific goals if the meetings are to be productive. Richardson said we would prefer to work together for the good of all the citizens. A start is to determine what points we want to make to the commissioners.

Bonfield said we should ask if the County is willing to have two separate contracts; one for dispatch and one for other costs and infrastructure. Provost asked if an agreement can be reached is Asotin willing to pay their share. Bonfield said they are.

Derbonne said we should be able to get clear justification for the "other costs" that are included in the spreadsheet. Derbonne said Asotin has made some preparations in case they have to go their separate ways, but would prefer that everyone work together.

Fry said the past needs to be addressed as well as negotiating a future contract.

Cooper said again that the letter sent to the County asked for an amendment to the existing contract and that has not been addressed yet. Richardson said the county should have responded within 30 days, but the only response has been an invitation to an executive session meeting, which the City did not feel was appropriate. He said that the County's response has suggested that they are not taking the City's request seriously.

Bonfield said she feels it is important to have a back-up plan. She suggested that if there is no response by a certain date, this group should meet again. Richards said we have set tentative meeting dates and if the commissioners are not responsive, then we should be prepared to move on.

Provost said the Whitcom contract cost is clear and shouldn't really be an issue. The negotiations should be about what else should be included in the costs the entities pay to Asotin County. The revenue that comes in to offset some of those expenses should be clear.

Warren said the county should be contacted regarding the letter sent in August asking for an amendment and to see if they are willing to meet to discuss other issues. We will ask for a response as to a meeting date by November 26 so adequate notice can be given if there is a meeting the following week.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Vickie Storey, City Clerk

Kathleen A. Warren, Mayor