

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 23, 2015

COUNCIL:

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

STAFF:

Chief Hastings Chief Cooper Clerk Storey City Attorney Grow PWD Martin

AGENDA CHANGES: Councilmember Nash added a Citizen Appointment to New Business. Councilmember Kolstad referred to a tabled motion on lifting the marijuana ban from last meeting and said it should be on the agenda, but he wasn't sure where. Mayor Warren said it should probably be added after Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION BY BEADLES/BLACKMON to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2015, Regular Meeting and the November 17, 2015 Budget Workshop. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. From the Public: Tom Martin, 421 11th Street, thanked Beadles for his comments regarding care givers. He disputed Councilmember Beadles' comments on the marijuana tax revenue in Pullman. He stated that voter turnout was a record high. He challenged Councilmember White's comments that the marijuana revenue shared by the state can only be used for enforcement. He commented that Steve Skaggs who will speak later in the meeting, may do good for the community but his material is full of lies and inconsistencies. He asked who the code of ethics officer is. Sandy Fromdahl, 1759 6th Ave, said she has known Steve Skaggs for many years and respects what he done for the community. She said that everyone can benefit from daily consumption of cannabis. She asked the council to let Canna 4 Life and Greenfield open and stay open. Azura Grende, 522 5th Street, commented on signs suggesting that people should not give money to panhandlers, but to give money to charity instead. She said the signs are misleading and the panhandlers have the right to do what they do. She said the signs are a waste of money. She said Clarkston is wasting money on marijuana lawsuits. She commented on cuts to the Health District funding. David Dolomency, 1430 Chestnut, pointed out that Asotin County as a whole did not vote in favor of marijuana in Initiative 502. He said it is still illegal by federal law. Monika Beauchamp, 610 Sunrise Drive, said she attended the budget workshop last week and believes that Walmart should help fund a resolution to the traffic problems at their entrance. She said the council has mismanaged funds at a ridiculous level. She said there are other issues the city should be addressing, such as the Health District, and not wasting money on the marijuana lawsuits. Melyssa Andrews, 721 11th Street, thanked the council for adding funding for handicap playground equipment and for recognizing caregivers. Andrews said she works for Walmart and she thinks they have enough money to help with traffic revisions. She said it isn't all about marijuana but about people's rights. She said there are a lot of programs and regulations to keep marijuana away from children. James Evans, 1115 Highland, said there are 15 million people dependent on alcohol in this country. 32% of traffic fatalities are related to alcohol. He quoted several statistics on drug and alcohol use. He said the ban on marijuana is a waste of taxpayer money. It is creating a demand in the black market.

B. From the Mayor:

Mayor Warren reminded council to be practical when considering the budget because the state is looking at a \$500 million shortfall and may not be sharing as much revenue as expected. The latest

Eyman initiative may impact state revenues and the state is still dealing with education issues.

C. From Staff: PWD Martin said the Sycamore Street drainage project is complete. It should alleviate flooding in that vicinity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Councilmember Provost reported that committee has reviewed the bills. MOTION BY PROVOST/BLACKMON to approve the November 23, 2015 invoices for \$218,434.42. Motion carried.

Public Safety: Councilmember Beadles reported on the November 17 meeting. Committee discussed the current climate of lawsuits and had suggested ordinances be revised to provide for attorney fees when sued over business license regulations. He has since learned that the law would not allow that. Chief Cooper discussed a future grant application for replacement of SCBA air packs. Chief Hastings presented a Traffic Safety grant opportunity. The police department will be testing for entry and lateral officers.

Public Works: Councilmember Nash reported on the November 18 meeting. Michelle Bly of TD&H discussed an opportunity to apply for a planning grant for sidewalk design in the Grantham School area. There was discussion on licensing rental properties. Beekeeping was discussed. Traffic calming was discussed. PWD Martin reported that the Sycamore Street drainage project has been completed. Discussed the impacts of the proposed changes to the Costco / Walmart intersection.

Admin Committee: Councilmember Nash said committee met on November 23. Nash said Ordinance No. 1551 which is on agenda was discussed.

Community Development: Councilmember Nash said committee met on November 17. Committee interviewed the applicants for the Planning Commission. Appointments to Planning Commission and to Community Development Committee are on the agenda

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing on or the 2016 Budget

Mayor Warren opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m. Storey said she made changes to the budget as discussed at the workshop and provided an updated document along with the Mayor's budget message.

Melyssa Andrews asked if the City has gotten any quotes on improving the website. Nash said there is no new information yet.

Councilmember Campbell asked if the Health District funding is included. Storey said it is.

The hearing was closed at 7:29 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance No. 1548, Assuming the Rights, Powers, Functions and Obligations of the Clarkston TBD, 2nd Reading for Action

Ordinance No. 1548 was read by title. MOTION BY NASH/BEADLES to adopt Ordinance No. 1548. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Steve Skaggs, Community on Call

Steve Skaggs, director of Community on Call, addressed the council as a service provider to members of the community. He said he is not here to argue with supporters of marijuana. This information is derived from his experience of 16 years of working in the community. He said there are 40 people he has worked with who are now deceased due to drug use. He said THC is a nerve irritant. He said he does understand medical use and believes it does have a use for pain relief. He said many people in the area do not have disposable income to purchase marijuana and purchase through cooperative efforts. He said it is cheaper to purchase on the street and there is more available on the street now that there are legal shops.

Skaggs said the majority of alcohol is purchased by people who have disposable income, but a lot of marijuana is purchased through criminal activity. He touched on the conversion of marijuana into oil. He said many of the people he works with are under the age of 20 and have serious marijuana problems. Expanded use of marijuana will impact the availability of workers for the job market because employers can still refuse to employ someone who uses marijuana. He said marijuana use, or lack of availability contributes to domestic violence. He asked the council to do some research on how legalizing marijuana will impact the community.

B. Appointment to Planning Commission

Councilmember Nash said Community Development Committee recommends appointing Terry Owen, Jr. to the Planning Commission. MOTION BY NASH/BLACKMON to appoint Terry Owen, Jr. to the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance No. 1549. 2/10ths Percent Sales Tax for Trans Benefit District, 1st Reading

Ordinance No. 1549 was read by title.

D. Ordinance No. 1550, 2016 Budget, 1st Reading

Ordinance No. 1550 was read by title.

E. Ordinance No. 1551, Amend CMC 2.44, 1st Reading

Ordinance No. 1551 was read by title.

F. Resolution No. 2015-12, Health & Welfare Benefit Disclosure

Resolution No. 2015-12 was read by title. Storey explained that this policy is required by the Affordable Care Act because the City is designated as a large employer. It defines classifications of employees, sets work hour limitations, sets measurement and stability periods and other requirements of the Act. It was based on a sample document provided by the AWC Health Trust. MOTION BY PROVOST/CAMPBELL to approve Resolution No. 2015-12. Motion carried.

G. Resolution No. 2015-13, Property Tax Levy

Resolution No. 2015-13 was read by title. Storey said it included a 1% increase to property tax. MOTION BY BEADLES/NASH to approve Resolution No. 2015-13. Motion carried.

H. Ordinance No. 1552, Sewer Rates, 1st Reading

Ordinance No. 1552 was read by title. It includes a 3% rate increase.

I. Ordinance No. 1553, Sanitation Rates

Ordinance No. 1553 was read by title.

J. Authorization to Apply for Traffic Safety Grant

Chief Hastings said the City has received this grant for several years. This year it would be used to purchase a new radar unit. The grant will cover about \$1,000 of the cost. MOTION BY BEADLES/NASH to authorize the grant application.

K. PRTPO Planning Grant Application for Grantham sidewalks

PWD Martin said Michelle Bly of TD&H Engineering brought this grant opportunity to the City. The project is on our Six-Year Transportation Plan. It is a no-match grant. Michelle Bly said we applied twice previously for Safe Routes to School funding and were not awarded. Bly said this grant would be for design only to make the project shovel ready and the city would then apply for funding for the project. Provost asked when the next step would happen. Bly said it would probably be the next round of applications, in about 1 ½ years. MOTION BY BEADLES/NASH to authorize the grant application. Motion carried.

L. Citizen at Large to Community Development

Councilmember Nash said there is an application for a Citizen-at-Large to Community Development Committee. MOTION BY BEADLES/KOLSTAD to appoint Patricia York to Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember White read a statement in which she thanked those who allowed her to be a part of the city council. She said serving on committees was the best part and feels the committee meetings are very important. She said the real work of the council is accomplished in committees. It gives people an opportunity to speak on topics that are important to them. She said that the committee meetings are open to the public and encouraged them to attend. She referred to the personnel policy and the ethics policy. She said council members who serve on committees should make every effort to attend those committee meetings. White said the personnel policy states that no employee may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when they come to work. She said elected officials should fall under the same rules.

Councilmember Nash wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He also congratulated the Clarkston football team on their season.

Councilmember Beadles commented on traffic issues. He said he doesn't believe there is a real problem at the Walmart/Costco entrance. He thinks maybe expectations are too high and people are impatient. He wants to be sure that we don't create a worse problem while we try to solve this one.

Councilmember Kolstad agreed with Beadles on traffic issues. He also took ownership for the panhandler signs. He said it was in response to an issue brought forth by a business owner and this was a solution used in another community. Mayor Warren said the intent was not to take away the rights of panhandlers, but to encourage people to give to charities that provide services to the homeless.

Councilmember Kolstad commented on Steve Skaggs information. He said he believes there are a lot of misconceptions in the information presented, but believes Skaggs is concerned about the citizens of Clarkston.

Councilmember Campbell thanked the firefighters for the opportunity to see what they do.

Councilmember Blackmon said he still feels that not enough people vote and they should exercise their right to vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss litigation with legal counsel present. There may be some action taken after the session. Anticipated length of session is 30 minutes. Session was extended for an additional 10 minutes. Council returned to open session at 8:56 p.m. No action was taken after the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Vickie Storey, City Clerk

Kathleen A. Warren, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 11/23/15	60397-60459, Oct2015Excise	\$71,497.71
Payroll, 11/15/15	60374-60396	\$146,936.71