

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 25, 2019

ROLL CALL: Skate Pierce, Pat Holman, Joel Profitt, Belinda Larsen, Russ Evans, Melyssa Andrews and John Murray.

STAFF: Chief Hastings, Chief Baskett, PWD Poole, Clerk Austin.

AGENDA CHANGES: Add Item B under Consent Agenda: Contract for Domestic Violence Victim Witness Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. From the Public: Greg McCall, 841 Beachview Blvd

B. From Mayor: Mayor Lawrence advised that she received a thank-you letter from The Salvation Army for the City's Participation in the Red Kettle Campaign kickoff luncheon. She advised that the City is currently in the process of redesigning the Website with the update to be published in January 2020.

C. From Staff or Employees: Clerk Austin informed Council that newly elected and re-elected officials would take the oath of office at the December 23, 2019 meeting. Since Councilmember Andrews is running for an unexpired term, she will take the oath as soon as the election is certified. Newly elected Councilmember Steven Ebert will also need to take the oath as soon as the election is certified. The Asotin County Auditor advised that the election certification would be completed on Tuesday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee discussed the Victim Witness Coordinator Contract (Agenda Item), sanitation rates, and reviewed and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the November 25, 2019 period of \$241,431.81. MOTION BY EVANS/PROFITT to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Larsen reported on the November 18th meeting. Chief Hastings is allowing his officers to participate in No Shave November to raise money for the YWCA. The participating Police Department employees will not be required to shave, but in doing so will donate a dollar per day to the "Y". There was a jail committee meeting after the elections with the discussion centered around the sales tax. It can't be imposed until April, so we won't really start to see a collection until around May/June. The proposed timeline to have doors open and be in the jail looks to be 3 years. The jail committee has created a finance committee that will continue to work with engineers/architects/contractors and meet often. The entire committee will now begin to meet once a month or as the need arises. Chief Hastings has asked for a budget request to add a full-time code enforcement/animal control officer and shift a part time position to evidence/records keeper. Adding this full-time person will help to organize both Police and Fire Departments and Public Works to one contact person who will be able to be proactive in assessing areas throughout the City of Clarkston for weed control, deserted/abandon vehicles, illegal parking, etc. This officer will be able to enforce codes, write tickets and add consistency

for all three departments to work together. As is, we may have all three departments working on a troubled area at the same time with none the wiser. This will be recommended during our budget hearing. Chief Basket shared his Officers Meeting agenda with us. He also discussed the Civil Service Plan to refresh the new hire list. As of right now, testing will be done in January and hiring in February. Chief Baskett also shared with us the new shift schedule for the department.

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce reported on the November 19th meeting. The committee had a discussion with representatives from Naslund Disposal. There was a discussion on the State Permit for the existing billboard. (Agenda Item) There is an RFP draft for the static billboard replacement. The City received a letter from P&Z in response to our request about the livestock/pygmy goat issue. The Committee reviewed a draft RFP for annual maintenance on the HVAC system in City Hall. PWD Poole provided the consultants small works roster for review and discussed the bid award process and how we select smaller design projects.

Outside Organizations: Mayor Lawrence advised that the Board of Health met and approved the 2020 Budget. They also discussed the 120-day state ban on Vitamin E Acetate. Councilmember Evans attended the PTBA meeting on November 13th. They approved the 2020 budget. There were 1767 less boarding this month than last year. The PTBA believes that this could have been due to the cold weather this last month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance 1633, 2020 Sewer Rates, 2nd Reading (Public Works)

MOTION BY HOLMAN/PIERCE to approve the Ordinance. Councilmember Pierce spoke in favor of the increase. He advised that the City need to avoid ending up in the hole as we have been in the past. He advised that it was important the City be good stewards of public equipment, not waiting for the equipment to fail before taking care of it. The City needs to be proactive. Councilmember Larsen asked for the percentage of increase. PWD Poole advised it was 15%. Councilmember Evans commented on the amount of increase per month. Councilmember Murray advised that he concurred with Pierce. He advised that if the current rate of inflation is considered, as well as realizing that the value of this asset is the highest that the City owns, we need to have money to take care of the Sewer system. Motion Carried.

B. Ordinance 1634, 2020 Sanitation Rates, 2nd Reading (Public Works)

MOTION BY MURRAY/PIERCE to approve the Ordinance. Evans confirmed that the rate increase was to purchase a new truck. Larsen asked about the rate of increase. PWD Poole advised it was a 10% increase, with the tote rental as a separate ordinance. Larsen said that she thought the rate increase is too high and would like to see a lower rate. She advised that she could understand the need for the increase. Murray asked if the cart rental affected her decision. Larsen said that it did, she felt it was too much at this time for the community. Proffitt agreed with Larsen. He advised that although the residents are used to paying too low of a rate, the City can't get by with a lower rate. Murray asked if Larsen would propose a different rate. Larsen suggested maybe a 5-7% increase. Pierce advised that the rates would all have to be changed in the ordinance. Proffitt asked PWD Poole if the rate were lower if the vehicle would still be able to be purchased. PWD Poole advised it would take longer to have enough reserves to purchase a vehicle. Proffitt asked Clerk Austin for input. Clerk Austin advised it might be possible to still set aside money for a vehicle with a lower percentage increase. MOTION BY LARSEN/EVANS to amend 10% to 7.5% increase. Motion failed on 3-4 vote. Yea – EVANS/HOLMAN/LARSEN. Nay – ANDREWS/PIERCE/MURRAY/PROFITT. Original Motion Carried.

C. Ordinance 1635, 2020 Sanitation Cart Rental, 2nd Reading (Public Works)

MOTION BY ANDREWS/EVANS to POSTPONE the Ordinance. MOTION TO AMEND BY ANDREWS/MURRAY the motion to postpone reflecting a date of the next regular meeting. Councilmember Pierce advised that the Council did not need to postpone. He felt that the Council could just proceed. Murray withdrew and Andrews seconded. The Motion to amend was withdrawn. MOTION BY PROFITT/HOLMAN to approve the ordinance. Pierce advised that because sanitation service is compulsory, paying a rental fee seems unfair, as it should be built into rates. He advised that in 2015 there was an additional two dollars (\$2.00) added to the base rate for carts. Councilmember Andrews advised that she agreed with Pierce. Motion failed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION BY PROFITT/LARSEN to approve consent items. Motion Carried

- A. **Outdoor Advertising Permit - WSDOT (Public Works)**
- B. **Contract for Domestic Violence Victim Witness Coordinator (Admin/Finance)**

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Pierce asked if an executive session needed to be added on the next meeting. Andrews also asked, with Larsen requesting that an executive session be added to the next regular meeting. Pierce advised that he just voted himself to pay these increased rates three times. He advised that the City has to be better with our money. Larsen asked if there was a decision on increasing the Mayor’s pay. Clerk Austin advised the ordinance would be presented at the next meeting. Larsen thanked PWD Poole and Clerk Austin for all the effort to provide the information, and the work they did on these issues. Profitt advised that this would be his last meeting. He thanked all the City staff, the Mayor, present and past Councilmembers for their help and guidance Mayor Lawrence commended Profitt for being a great asset to The Council.

PRESS QUESTIONS: Tribune Reporter clarified with Councilmember Evans the average amounts that the customer bills would increase.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures 11/25/19	Ck # 69444-69515	\$56,895.88
Payroll 11/20/19	Ck # 69436-69443	\$184,535.93