

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 26, 2018

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

STAFF: Chief Hastings, Chief Cooper, PWD Poole, Clerk Austin, Attorney Richardson.

AGENDA CHANGES: Items D, E, & F on Consent Agenda moved to Items A, B, & C on New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the November 13, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2019 Property Tax & Revenue

Mayor Lawrence opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Clerk Austin gave a brief presentation on the revenue sources for the Current Expense Fund, including the fact that a 1% increase to the property tax levy is included in the preliminary budget. Most other revenue sources are comparable to 2018. Sales tax is holding steady, even with the loss of BiMart. It appears that the sales have been redirected to either Costco or Walmart. Business excise taxes are expected to be down slightly. Avista is the largest source of revenue in this category, but there are decreases due to less landline phones and cable television users. Excise and gambling taxes are also expected to see reductions. Court revenue continues to decline since the increase of fees began in 2016. The formula for the revenue on Marijuana taxes was modified by the state. The amount of funds that will be received is subject to the State Legislature making any changes for 2019.

Mayor Lawrence opened the floor to comments from the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wendy Stelmack – 1218 2nd Street

The public hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. **From the Public:** Wendy Stelmack, 1218 2nd Street
Kyle Goodrich, 1338 ½ Sycamore Street
Sam Skinner, Twin County United Way Director

B. **From Mayor:** Mayor Lawrence reminded Council that the Budget Workshop will be held December 6, 2018 at 6:00pm. The next regular Council meeting will be December 10, 2018 at 7:00pm, and the meeting scheduled for Christmas Eve will be moved to December 20, 2018 at 6:00pm. The Lighted Christmas parade is scheduled for December 1st at 4:30pm. An email of thanks from Grantham School was sent to the Police Department for professional response and handling of issues at the school.

C. **From Staff or Employees:** PWD Poole advised that the new entrance to Walmart is working as planned. It is diverting traffic from 5th Street and reducing traffic behind mattress store. He advised the panhandlers are beginning to congregate at the new entrance, and will have to be monitored to stay out of the City right of way. Chief Hastings advised that it was a lot quieter this Black Friday, with no major incidents. Councilmember Holman asked PWD Poole about turn signal that was painted west bound on Fair Street to 10th Street. PWD Poole advised that it a recommendation from the traffic impact study.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee met with Wanda Keefer from the Port of Clarkston regarding economic needs and impact study funding. The Committee discussed Ordinances 1609-1611,

Resolution 2018-10, and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the November 27, 2018 period of \$229,150.28. MOTION BY HOLMAN/EVANS to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Larsen reported on the November 20th meeting. Chief Cooper began the meeting with a briefing about the contract with Systems Design which is up for renewal. Chief Cooper will make an offer of \$20.00 per call for 2019, \$21.50 per call for 2020 and an increase to \$23.00 per call for 2021. This will be on the agenda for the Mayor's approval and signature once the agreement is reached. There should be GEMT (Ground Emergency Medical Transportation) cost reporting revenue for the fiscal year of July 2017 through June 2018 of over 2200 calls by Spring of 2019 once the Mayor has signed the report and submitted to the State. We will need to give the Mayor this approval on the agenda as well.

Chief Hastings began with an update on the Jail Committee. This committee will give an update to our Public Safety committee on December 4th. They will discuss the possibilities of partnerships with other entities. Shop With A Cop is coming up. This is a huge event made possible by community donations but with a majority of the funding coming from Walmart. Chief Hastings received a wonderful thank you letter from the Principal of Grantham Elementary School praising our officers and how helpful they are when called upon. The Police Department is fully staffed for the first time in quite some time. The Chief will now be able to create a position where he can assign an officer to help our full time detective and also place more emphasis on street crimes. Mayor Lawrence requested Chief Hastings to give more detail on the Shop With a Cop Program. Chief Hastings explained that the program that is funded by Walmart and private citizens and has a positive impact on low income children.

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce reported on the November 20th meeting. He advised that a renewal request was received for the lease at Gateway Park (Across from Taco Time). The committee recommends renewal to the council. However, before the next renewal, we'd like to reach out and see if we could sublet the park to a local business for naming rights, as an example of what the City could do. The Committee reviewed an analysis of our building permits. The City issued \$173,239 worth of building permits, with a valuation of \$10,280,550.50. Code Officer Ewing created a policy and procedure form for Building Permit Inspections. Mechanical Permits are a main focus (Heating and AC, water heater, etc). This is part of an effort to keep renters safe. Anyone within the city is allowed to do work on their own home, but if those repairs can't pass an inspection before being rented out, we may have to pull the Certificate of Occupancy in the name of safety. We had a thorough discussion on RV living in the city. Our Public Works Department has fielded a number of complaints about the issue. There are several ideas about how to tackle the situation. These plans will be forwarded to our legal department to see if there are legal actions we can take.

Outside Organizations: Councilmember Evans reported on the November 14th PTBA meeting. The State Auditors gave an update on accountability. PTBA received a glowing report. The fixed routes riders increased by 197 during the period from October 2017 to October 2018. Asotin routes increased by 165, and there was an increase of 1378 for Lewiston routes. The Clarkston Heights experienced an increase of 1202, this totaled a 2735 increase in ridership for all routes. Councilmember Pierce reported that the Public Health Department also met with the auditors, and received a grant that will be announced soon. He also advised that the hours will be changing to Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 5:30pm to better serve the community. The Health Department also passed the budget for 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance 1607, Amending CMC 1.01 Penalties 2nd Reading (Finance/Admin) MOTION BY MURRAY/PIERCE to approve the ordinance. Motion Carried.

B. Ordinance 1608, Zone Change – 1255 Fair Street, 2nd Reading (Finance/Admin) MOTION BY PROFITT/HOLMAN to approve the ordinance. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by LARSEN/ANDREWS to adopt consent agenda as revised. Motion Carried.

A. Resolution 2018-10, 2019 Property Tax

B. Army Corps of Engineers Contract for Gateway Park (Public Works)

C. Authorization for Mayor to sign GEMT Certification (Public Safety)

NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Ordinance 1609, Amending CMC 5.02 Model Business License 1st Reading (Finance/Admin)**
Vote will be at the next meeting.

B. **Ordinance 1610, Amending CMC 14.06 Sewer Rates 1st Reading (Finance/Admin)** Vote will
be at the next meeting.

C. **Ordinance 1611, Amending CMC 14.18 Sanitation Rates 1st Reading (Finance/Admin)** Vote
will be at the next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Holman asked if the owner had any plans for the property at 1255 Fair Street. PWD Poole advised that the owner may use it for seasonal RV storage. Councilmember Andrews thanked Chief Hastings for supporting the Shop With a Cop program. She advised that Officer Morbeck does a great job with the event. Councilmember Pierce advised that he was requested to remind the Council to speak directly into the microphones so that the citizens can hear what the councilmembers are saying.

PRESS QUESTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 11/26/18	Ck # 67373-67417	\$52,487.01
Payroll 11/20/18	Ck #	\$229,150.28