

**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**November 27, 2017**

ROLL CALL: Belinda Campbell, Terry Beadles, John Murray, Skate Pierce, Brian Kolstad. Kelly Blackmon excused on a motion by CAMPBELL/KOLSTAD

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

**AGENDA CHANGES: None**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC HEARING: 2018 Budget**

Mayor Lawrence opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Lawrence opened the floor to comments from the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

The public hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**A. From the Public:**

Jill Eckberg - 1126 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Janet Hix 827 Beachview Blvd

**B. From Mayor:** Mayor Lawrence distributed a report to the Council with The Wesley Group Billing and Debt Services Totals for 2018. She explained that any changes to current City services have to be bargained with unions for any impact to the employment contracts. The Debt Services Totals are what we are paying on loans. The Fire Engine will be paid off next year, and the Sanitation Truck will be paid off in a few years.

**C. From Staff or Employees: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance:** Councilmember Beadles reported the bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Total expenditures for the November 27, 2017 period of \$240,137.94 and June through August End of Month Periods of \$9902.08. MOTION BY BEADLES/KOLSTAD to approve the bills as read.

**Public Safety:** Councilmember Beadles reported that committee met November 21. Chief Hastings reported that cell phone tracking software is an important investigation tool that is used by the Police Department. Officer Bryon Denny coordinates the updates on this installation. Clarkston schools are installing swipe cards on entrance doors to enhance security. Officer John Morbeck continues to instruct safety and security training for local business. Security audits for local employers are also conducted by Officer Morbeck. Chief Hastings attended a conference on hiring, retention, and leadership. The emphasis was on employing members of the “Millennial” generation (ages 19-35). The upcoming Christmas Parade will require all officers be on duty for traffic control.

Chief Cooper reported he has been successful in recruiting two EMT personnel to join the Fire Department. Employment offer letters will be sent this week with a start date of early January. The Fire Department is having difficulty with staffing due to three staffing members being injured in off duty activities. A GEMT (Medicaid additional reimbursement) feasibility study has been initiated Chief

Cooper. Department manager salary increases for budget 2018 were discussed. \*(agenda item for Council discussion).

**Public Works:** Councilmember Pierce reported that detour plans for the upcoming Red Wolf Bridge repair are finished. The detour will go through downtown Lewiston to Down River Road. Hopefully we can make provisions for Emergency vehicles to traverse the bridge. The Committee discussed the process for annexation to the west. The stormwater improvement project is planned between Maple Street and Elm Street, between 13th Street and Burns. There will also be improvements on the corners of 7th, 8th and Poplar Street. The City has a plan to repair 52 areas of sidewalk that have been identified as not meeting ADA requirements. Residents adjacent to the sidewalk sections are responsible for maintenance by city ordinance. A form letter will be drafted and sent out to the home owners informing them of their responsibility. Paid in advance, there can be savings, via economy of scale and the lack of need to apply for a construction permit. Refusal to repair will lead to a lien on the property that is collected when the home is sold. The Beachview shelter will be demolished soon. Naslund Disposal is selling a garbage truck. It's a good used truck. It was inspected by city employees. It's extremely affordable and funds are available. There are multiple benefits to the purchase of this truck. We've identified some methods to improve home values and appearances in the city: Establishing a CDBG loan and grant program; an Ordinance dealing with unsafe and unfit structures; Local Improvement Districts; and establishing landlords as business owners.

**Admin Committee:** Councilmember Murray advised that the committee had met earlier tonight. There was a discussion on salaries with the Department Heads. The committee also discussed a gambling tax reduction with Lance Rinard.

**Community Development:** No meeting.

**Outside Organizations:** Mayor Lawrence and Councilmember Pierce attended the Public Health Meeting. Councilmember Pierce advised that an onsite septic inspector has been hired. The budget is lean the same as Public Health is now. Councilmember Kolstad reported on the PTBA meeting. PTBA offers free rides for Veterans during the month of November. He talked to the Manager about increasing visibility for that program. The PTBA performs a lot of good services, but they need to get the information out to the public better.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Ordinance 1588 – Sewer Collection and Disposal Charges (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Ordinance read by title. MOTION BY BEADLES/KOLSTAD to approve ordinance. Councilmember Beadles commented that the rates are well in line with the surrounding communities. Mayor Lawrence advised that the result would be a \$.93 average increase. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Resolution 2017-08 Property Tax**

Resolution read by title. MOTION BY BEADLES/PROFITT to approve resolution. Councilmember Beadles commented that the Property Tax total increase was around \$9000, which will help in the long run. Councilmember Pierce asked about the total of the EMS levy last year. Chief Cooper advised it was just under \$600,000. Vote was 5-1 in favor, Councilmember Pierce voted nay. Motion carried.

#### **B. Resolution 2017-09 Sole Source Purchase of Garbage Collection Vehicle**

Resolution read by title. PWD Poole advised the City was approached by Naslund Disposal offering a self-loading garbage truck for sale. PWD Poole had the sanitation supervisor inspect the vehicle and found it was in good condition. An online check by PWD Poole found that average price was between \$29-40,000. This vehicle would fill a vacant slot in our fleet, as we don't have a self-loading truck now. MOTION BY BEADLES/MURRAY to approve resolution. Councilmember Beadles commented that this was excellent opportunity. He commended Sanitation Supervisor Kammers on his mechanic ability. Councilmember Murray asked if this was the purchase, or just the request to talk with Naslund. PWD

Poole confirmed it was to deal with Naslund for a sole-source purchase. Councilmember Campbell asked for clarification if this was for the actual purchase of the vehicle. PWD Poole advised it was to approve a sole-source purchase from Naslund of \$10,000 or less. Councilmember Kolstad asked why the value was \$29,000 or more, and we are able to purchase for only \$10,000. PWD Poole advised that Naslund is buying a new truck and not getting good value for the trade-in. It had been listed for sale at \$25,000, but had no takers. It is their oldest truck and being cycled out of the fleet. Councilmember Beadles commented that the new truck we purchased cost \$220,000. PWD Poole advised that it was actually \$280,000 and now would be over \$300,000. Beadles commented that a self-loading truck is also less of a liability to the City. PWD Poole explained that he wanted to reduce employees riding on the outside of the trucks. Councilmember Kolstad asked if this would be used primarily as a backup. Poole advised it would be backup, but would also allow us to enhance current business pickup by modifying the type of totes. Councilmember Profitt asked how much life would be left in this vehicle. PWD Poole advised that they may be 5-10 years possibly. Campbell what year the vehicle was. Poole advised it was a 1998 model. Vote was 5-1 in favor. Councilmember Campbell voted nay. Motion carried.

**C. Discussion on 2018 Administration Wages**

Mayor Lawrence mentioned that department heads do not get overtime, get limited comp time, attend meetings in the evenings, and other various activities happening outside of regular working hours. Department heads are always on call. If there is any type of crisis or unusual activity, they are on scene or in touch by phone. They rarely take a sick day, and we more than get our money's worth out of them. Mayor Lawrence advised that right now there is a 3% increase in the budget, but there is talk by council of a different amount, and I will let the Council speak to that. Councilmember Beadles commented that in discussions with Chief Hastings and Chief Cooper over a year ago, he found out that there are supervisors that work below them that make the same or more. We operate an extremely efficient City. There is a discrepancy in wages between the management and staff. A year ago the Council decided that we would re-address the issue this year in the budget. We need to bring in about a 5.5% increase to have a little distance between management and staff. Mayor Lawrence advised that the difference would be a \$10,000 total increase for the year if 5.5% over 3% that is in the budget. Councilmember Pierce advised that the City took a small step last year to improve the disparity between the management and subordinates, and we said we would revisit it this year. When the current management employees retire, we need to make it attractive for new applicants. Councilmember Murray confirmed that the total increase to the budget would be around \$10,000. Clerk Austin confirmed this. Admin Committee found that if we had this increase it would put approximately a 5% difference between highest supervisor and management. Chief Cooper advised that it was not quite a 5% difference. Murray advised that these discussions were made without any overtime being considered, which still allows the staff to make more than the managers. Councilmember Campbell advised the City is looking at a tight budget. The management staff is worth it, they are doing a lot of work. For the budget, the City is looking at increasing rates here, increasing taxes, and looking at deficits. Campbell advised that this decision should be tabled for one more year. She commented that she thought that this time last year we would be in a better place this year. Councilmember Pierce asked how many years did management receive an increase beyond the cost of living. Chief Cooper advised that last year was the only year above the cost of living increase. He advised that there were three years that department heads received no increase. Councilmember Beadles commented that it was not fair to balance the budget on the backs of the managers. Campbell agreed, but commented she was still leery of the increase of 5.5%. Murray asked if she would support a 3% increase. Campbell advised she would. Motion by BEADLES/PIERCE to approve an increase for management of 5.5%. Murray confirmed that this would be able to be added to the preliminary budget. Councilmember Kolstad asked about the percentage increase from last year. Chief Cooper advised that departments received a 5.5% increase. Chief Hastings advised that the Police Commander actually received 6% to help bring his salary in line. Mayor Lawrence called for a show of hands vote. The vote was 5-1 Campbell voted nay. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilmember Campbell commented on the vote being painful. Murray asked if a hand vote was recorded in the record. Clerk Austin advised it would be. Beadles spoke regarding annexation. He spoke with city of Vancouver, WA representative that worked with annexation. She advised that if the annexation does not include commercial property, such as a shopping center, etc., the City will lose money. Mayor Lawrence advised she had been contacted by two people in the county that were interested in annexation. If anyone is interested, the Mayor can provide pamphlets on annexation. Councilmember Pierce spoke on the appointment process to fill the vacancy on the Council. He advised that Councilmember Profitt has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and also an M.B.A. He was the most qualified candidate. Profitt was also replacing the youngest member on the Council, and Profitt best widens the representation of the citizens of Clarkston. Pierce commented that the Council couldn't have made a bad pick, but it made a good pick. Pierce also spoke about annexation. The City is completely landlocked. We need to expand our boundaries. In order to raise values, the City really needs to look at it thoroughly. Campbell commented regarding appointing councilmembers that lack prior experience. She advised that before she ran, she had no experience. None of the applicants had any more experience than I had. Councilmember Profitt advised that he has a great desire to give to the community, and the time to commit to the position. Profitt agreed with Pierce on annexation. We need to be diligent in this process. We will become stagnant if we don't expand, but we need to do it responsibly. Councilmember Beadles advised that annexation plans need to include the County and the Fire District. Murray asked if the City would be looking at vacant property. Pierce advised that the City would look at areas that have potential for development. Chief Cooper clarified that the EMS levy was \$596,000 for this year, and \$625,000 for 2018.

**PRESS QUESTIONS:** Tribune reporter Sandaine asked what the total salary would be for the 5.5% increase. Clerk Austin advised it would be roughly \$85, 202 annually.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56p.m.

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Steve Austin, City Clerk

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Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 11/27/17	Ck # 65186-65232	\$79,126.71
Total Fund Expenditures Jun-Aug EOM	Ck #64306-64309	\$9,902.08
Payroll, 11/20/17	Ck # 65170-65185	\$161,011.23