

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 10, 2020

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

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

AGENDA CHANGES: Executive Session for five minutes on evaluating a complaint on an elected official.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

Announcement of Police Department New Hire (Public Safety) Chief Hastings introduced Patrick Stilson. Officer Stilson transferred from Garfield County Sheriff's Office.

Announcement of Police Officer of the Year (Public Safety) Chief Hastings introduced Anthony Bennett, officer of the year for 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. From the Public: None

B. From Mayor: Mayor Lawrence advised there was a good attendance at Thursday's open house for the Bridge/2nd/Diagonal intersection options. She reminded everyone about the importance of the 2020 Census. The Mayor spoke on how the Census affects children. She advised that critical funding for schools, head start, classroom technology, and food assistance is determined by the Census. Historically, children under five years old are undercounted which effects health insurance, child care, hospital and early childhood development programs. She advised that more information could be found on the Census website www.2020Census.gov. This is the first year that the Census can be completed online. However, forms will still be sent to homes as well as reminders to participate.

C. From Staff or Employees: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee reviewed and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the February 10, 2020 period of \$496,420.36. MOTION BY ANDREWS/HOLMAN to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Larsen reported on the February 3rd meeting. Chief Hastings announced the Officer of the Year, Anthony Bennett. Chief Hastings and Asotin County Sheriff John Hildebrand attended Lewiston's Police Department awards ceremony to receive a plaque for help the LPD received from our agencies during the shooting event this past summer. We have a new hire for the CPD that will start on Tuesday, February 4, Pat Stilson. While the City is working on rebuilding the website, the Police Department is working on re-branding the department with a new mission, vision and values statement, a 5-year strategic plan and also updated arm patches. CPD is also recruiting for a new evidence technician. Chief Baskett reported that the SCBAs and new monitors have all been tested, everyone has been trained, and all are in use. The department had to also acquire new smart phones to update the technology to use the new equipment. The Fire Department also has a new hire, Firefighter Paramedic Blake

Perks who begins service on February 18th. The Department is looking to apply for the AFG grant to request new radios. Interviews for the new Fire Chief have been progressing well. Hope to have a decision by February 7th. The Chief also reported on House Bill 2462. The Bill was pulled off the floor but may be back at a later date. A sign dedication ceremony was held at the corner of 6th and Chestnut to honor resident Charles “Chuck” Mingus who lost his life to a drunk driver. Mayor Lawrence, Chief Hastings, City Councilor Russ Evans, Public Works Director Kevin Poole, family, friends and many others were on hand to honor Mr. Mingus.

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce reported on the February 4th meeting. The committee discussed the open house held this last Thursday to go over the 2nd/Bridge/Diagonal intersection design. Once the results are received, they will be forwarded to Keller and the City can negotiate the scope and design. The 8th/Elm/Diagonal project needs to have a preferred design forwarded to Keller. Council needs to determine how we want to proceed with this intersection. The committee feels that we should be consistent and have an open house for this project as well. The earliest potential dates would be the week of February 17th. The Committee reviewed the RFP received on the City-owned billboard. There’s some ambiguity about the rates and the role the City would have. The committee would like Council to review this. There are a few options that will be presented. As of now, the committee recommends removal of the billboard.

The Committee received an update on the HVAC contract review. All work done on City Hall would have to be paid prevailing wage. It’s potentially an expensive contract. We’ll see what the bids come out to before making any further decisions. Director Poole is working to finish the Road Safety Plan, so we are eligible to apply for Federal highway safety dollars. The Committee had a discussion regarding City owned dumpsters. City Ordinance dictates that we are able to charge \$25/month rental for dumpsters. That’s higher than the market rate. The language could be changed for Budget Year 2021. The cost and program are still being discussed. The City needs to advertise for RFPs for the WWTP Master Plan update. The City needs to adopt a purchasing policy. We were operating under Washington State guidelines, but those changed during the 2019 legislative session. Until we have a policy in place, we are going to advertise for proposals for all consulting projects. CEDA and Habitat for Humanity met with the city to discuss our previous CDBG program, and the possibility of applying for a new CDBG grant. It would cost \$5000 for CEDA to file the grant application. Habitat for Humanity will administer the grant for the City. The City will help consult and inspect the work. The grant would fund a low income, owner occupied, home improvement program.

Outside Organizations: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on Preference for Bridge/2nd/Diagonal Design (Public Works) PWD
Poole introduced Scott Linja from Keller Associates who presented Council with the alternatives for the Bridge/2nd/Diagonal. Linja gave the history of the project and outlined the stakeholder and community input. Councilmember Larsen commented that the roundabout seemed cost effective and what makes sense for the future. Councilmember Andrews advised that she prefers the roundabout as a long-term solution. She advised that if the power goes out, the intersection keeps working, and seems to be a safer alternative. Councilmember Pierce confirmed that the curbing and barriers in the roundabout will be mountable by large vehicles. Linja confirmed that the aprons will have rolled curbs, and the median and dividers will allow for large truck traffic. Councilmember Evans commented that the roundabout provides long-term traffic control for 20

plus years. Councilmember Holman agreed with the long-term advantages. PWD Poole advised that the intersection currently is rated with a level of service of “B”, if nothing is done by 2040 the level of service would be “D”. He advised that the roundabout would provide a level of service of “A”, and in 2040 would still be a level of service “B”. This indicates that the roundabout option would provide up to a 40 or 60-year service. He advised that the alternatives cost about the same, but the City would not have to redo the intersection again for a long period if a roundabout was selected. Pierce asked if the State had a stance since they are the owners of highway system. PWD Poole advised that the State liked the idea of the signals going away and would be reviewing the design and construction. Councilmember Ebert commented that after traveling through the intersection this past weekend, he would certainly be in favor of the roundabout. Pierce asked if left turns would still be allowed from Riverview. PWD Poole advised that it has not been determined yet. Evans confirmed that the business owners had been consulted. Linja advised that they had received the input from the businesses and also community evaluations. Murray asked about concerns with traffic if the drawbridge is raised. Linja advised that it is hard to plan for every event that may occur. The Council consensus was to proceed with the roundabout.

B. Discussion on Preference for Elm/8th/Diagonal Design (Public Works) Poole explained the alternatives and advised Council that an open house will be held the week of February 17 to get input from the public. A decision will be made after that meeting.

C. Discussion on Billboard RFP (Public Works) PWD Poole advised that only one RFP was received from Lamar Advertising. He advised that Lamar did not offer anything for rent of the billboard, they only offered the City a six-foot by four-foot digital reader board. Although the billboard cannot be electronic, the reader board is allowed. The reader board would be for community approved events and have to be maintained by the City. It would only be single sided, facing east. Public Works committee wanted Council direction on what to do but recommends removing the billboard. Pierce asked if the Chamber of Commerce or some other entity could be in control of the reader board to take the pressure off the City to post updates, otherwise he would not be in favor of the reader board. Evans agreed. Murray commented that the reader board was being offered in lieu of rent, when the idea was to get the rent from the billboard, and there is no way to monetize the reader board. Councilmember expanded on Pierce’s comment that maybe Hell’s Canyon Visitor Bureau and Valley Vision help with the posting of events. Atty Richardson advised that the reason it was allowed would be that the City was the controlling entity, and it WSDOT may not allow the reader board if other entities were in control. Chief Baskett advised that he oversaw installing three reader boards while with the previous fire dept. He said they received a lot of complaints about the timeliness of the messages. Larsen asked what would happen if Council decided not to go with a new billboard. PWD Poole advised that it would be removed and would not be replaced. Council gave the consensus to remove the billboard.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Authorization to apply for Assistance to Firefighter Grant (Public Safety). Chief Baskett advised the AFG Grant for radios for \$325,000 with a 5% match. MOTION BY ANDREWS/LARSEN to authorize Fire Chief to apply for grant. Motion Carried

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Larsen advised that since February 17 is a holiday, there will be no Public Safety Committee meeting. She advised that she would not be here for the last Council meeting of February. She thanked Chief Baskett for his time working with the Fire Department.

PRESS QUESTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Mayor announced an executive session beginning at 7:55pm to discuss a complaint against an elected official. The session is expected to last five minutes. No decision will be made. The Council returned to regular session at 8:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures 2/10/20	Ck # 69968-70057	\$190,972.95
Payroll 2/5/20	Ck # 69938-69965	\$305,257.41