

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 25, 2019

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.

AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the February 11, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. From the Public: None

B. From Mayor: Mayor Lawrence advised Council that the City received a thank-you card from Valley Vision for our 2019 contribution. Senator Schoessler was the only elected official that responded to the Legislative Agenda that the City submitted. The Senator's office advised that a copy of the agenda was placed on his desk for review.

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 25, 2019 period of \$188,906.56. MOTION BY ANDREWS/EVANS to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Larsen reported on the February 19th meeting. The first discussion revolved around fireworks. The public will be welcome to comment at our next Council meeting on the 25th. Letters have been received both pro and con in banning fireworks. Chief Hastings and Councilmember Larsen will be interviewed by Brian Shinn on the radio program Opinion Please on Wednesday, February 20th. Chief Hastings reminded us about "Soupport the Y" on Friday, February 22nd. The cost is \$25 for all-you-can-eat soup made by local police and fire stations along with other local enforcement agencies. Chief Cooper reminded us that the fire department will also be there. He also reminded Chief Hastings that the Clarkston Fire Department won the friendly "tip" competition last year. The lunch begins at 11:00am. The police department received a grant in the amount of \$1000 from the WASPC for a new radar unit. Lewiston may be losing the site that holds the repeater for dispatching services that the City of Clarkston also uses for EMS/Fire radios. Although there is no current cost for us to use this service, if the repeater site needs to be moved, the City will more than likely have to help with relocation costs. Chief Cooper also gave us a revenue summary review for 2018.

Public Works: Did not meet.

Outside Organizations: Councilmember Pierce reported on the Asotin County Health meeting. He advised that Dr. Robert Lutz of Spokane informed the board on current issues in public health such as infectious diseases, food handler permitting, especially with charitable organization that provide food for public consumption. The State has potential legislation that will affect public health. Dr. Lutz discussed vaping issues with high school students, and a county -wide potential syringe exchange. Councilmember Evans reported on the February 14 PTBA meeting. He advised that on Memorial day free passes for area kids will be starting. PTBA will begin advertising the free passes with KLEW in May. There are plans to build a new bus shelter in Asotin. PTBA reported that there were 1361 more riders for January when compared to last year. Evans also attended the Cruise Boat meetings on February 19 for the volunteer greeters, and the Cruise Boat update on February 21. A new ship, the American Song arrives March 29, 2019. This year boats will be coming until end of November. The group is looking for greeters and other volunteers. Those interested can contact Michelle Peters with Visit LC Valley. The group is also looking for vendors or entrepreneurs to provide services to the tourists.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on Fireworks Code (Public Safety) Mayor Lawrence presented the topic for discussion.

1. Communication from the Public:

Sandra Lilligren, University Street
Cindy Mosher, 917 9th Street
Ben Harrington, (Business Owner Pyro Paradise)719 Vista Lewiston
Duane Shears, 920 9th Street
Robert Dunn, 928 9th Street
Shane Harrington, (Firework Sales) Alder Ave Lewiston
Nancy Di Meo, 526 Burns St
Polly Franzen, 1993 Quailridge Ct
Denise Bissell, 526 Monroe Street

Chief Hastings spoke regarding enforcement of the current ordinance. He advised that with the enforcement of the aerial ban in Lewiston, the City began to see an influx of out of the area residents. It is hard to distinguish in the dark if there are illegal fireworks being used. Chief Hastings advised that if there was going to be a change, there are three choices: reducing the times for discharge; banning aerials like Lewiston has now; or a complete ban on all fireworks except commercial displays. He advised that the easiest for the department to enforce would be a complete ban.

Chief Cooper advised that he sympathized with those concerned with noise, and danger to homes and pets. He advised that it was mentioned at Public Safety Committee that we won't give matches to children, but will give them fireworks. In 2018 there were only two firework related responses from the Fire Department. In 2017, there were no responses. A lot depends on the weather. In 2016, there were four responses, in 2015, there were nine responses and in 2014 there were five responses. Chief Cooper said the concerns about smoldering fires on roofs that increases the threat. He advised that he supports the celebration on the 4th of July, but is in favor of a total ban.

Mayor Lawrence reminded Council that any update of the ordinance would take one year to be enacted. The earliest date for change would be July 2020.

Councilmember Larsen spoke regarding enforcing the current ordinance in relation to enforcement of a new law. She advised of letters that had been received from the community. She raised concern that a total ban would cause the fireworks to go elsewhere. She advised that she sympathizes with everyone, but something has to change.

Councilmember Evans commented on the number of people that are coming over from Lewiston to celebrate. He recognized the tradition of the display at Adams field. He advised that any change would not be taking a freedom from individuals. He emphasized respect to neighbors and the community. His concern would be the effect county wide. Mayor advised that the City would like to coordinate with the County and asked Commissioner Shinn to respond from the audience.

Commissioner Shinn advised that three years ago, the County coordinated with City. Although he advised that he could not speak in official capacity for the County, he believes that everyone would like to coordinate again. It would be good to find a common ground. He advised that he can't speak for rest of the County Commission, but he is an advocate for banning aerial fireworks. This still allows for family celebrations. He would like to see whatever change be enacted countywide like the similar ordinances that were passed concurrently before.

Councilmember Holman advised that he is concerned after hearing Chief Cooper. The best thing to do is something that is safe for the City of Clarkston. He advised that the City doesn't want to hear about injuries or death, or a fire like the Lewiston Church. Holman stated that he favored a ban on aerials, with possibly restricting times to the 4th of July and New Year's. He advised the City needs to quit rolling the dice, and do everything we can to be safe.

Councilmember Pierce advised that his preference was limiting the dates to just on the 4th of July. Currently, there is a lot of trash left at the schools, and public places. It is absurd what is left at schools and in streets. He would favor an ordinance that ends discharge of fireworks at midnight on the 4th of July.

Councilmember Andrews advised that she agrees with Pierce. The discharge time is important. She advised that a total ban will not stop people from breaking the ban. She asked if there could be more fines issued for the litter. She advised that she takes her daughter and goes to churches and neighborhoods with five gallon buckets and cleans up the trash. If the City could regulate the litter it might keep everyone satisfied.

Councilmember Murray asked if there could be a place set aside for people to light off fireworks. Perhaps getting the School District to sign off on their property. He advised that he is not sure that they would sign off on that liability, but it might be worth asking.

Mayor Lawrence asked Chief Hastings to respond on regulation of the trash that is left.

Chief Hastings advised that the litter is happening in front of every house, making it impossible to identify who is responsible. Councilmember Andrews asked if volunteers could be solicited to help clean up the trash. PWD Poole advised that it may be a liability for the City if people are in the streets with safety concerns. He advised that there should be public education, “pack it in – pack it out.”

Attorney Richardson affirmed that the City should not be coordinating or directing the volunteer effort. Instead it should be a neighborhood effort.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Profitt advised that a citizen with a family member that deals with mental health issues had contacted him and wanted to thank the Police Department for how they handled the issues. Councilmember Holman congratulated Clarkston High School Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball teams for making it to State.

PRESS QUESTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures 2/25/19	Ck # 67955-68005	\$49,325.68
Payroll 2/20/19	Ck # 67943-67954	\$139,580.88