

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 9, 2020

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

STAFF: Chief Hastings, Chief White, Clerk Austin.

AGENDA CHANGES: Add Item A to New Business: Authorization for Mayor to send letter to the Department of Revenue and state legislators.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

Oath of Office: Fire Chief Darren White. Mayor Lawrence introduced Darren White as our new Fire Chief/EMS Director. Mayor Lawrence administered the oath and badge pinning of the new Chief by his family.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. From the Public: Malick Prior, Four Horses Apartments, Lewiston
Beau Tanner, 600 10th Street
Chip Wahlberg, Twin River Physical Therapy

B. From the Mayor: Mayor Lawrence announced Census 2020 kickoff on Thursday March 19, 5:30-7:30 at Holy Family Parish Center with Pizza provided. Census takers will be available to answer questions. The City of Asotin and the County will also have kickoff meetings on the same date. Flyers are available on the table in the lobby. She also advised department heads have been meeting on the Corona Virus to develop contingency plans for the City. She suggested that citizens go to DOH website link (doh.wa.gov) for information on the Corona Virus. There is an information sheet in the lobby. Mayor Lawrence also advised that she attended a Women's Leadership conference last Friday.

C. From Staff or Employees: None

Visit LC Valley Presentation: Michelle Peters. Director Peters gave an update on tourism and growth in Clarkston and the valley. She reported on the new Best Western hotel being built with 84 rooms. She also advised on an update of Quality Inn changing to Holiday Inn. Lodging tax revenue in Clarkston for 2019 was down about 5% from 2018. January 2020 has seen an increase in Lodging Tax over last year. She provided information on the lodging tax revenue over the past few years. She said that she anticipates an increase of visitors this summer. At this time, there is no indication of canceling of the river cruise boats. The first cruise begins April 8, 2020. Director Peters presented the new Visitor Guide for LC Valley. The highlights include an article on the local wine industry. The guide is produced with VLCV advertising dollars and support from area business. She discussed the options of having an assessment completed that would focus on the downtown areas of the cities for the local stakeholders to address increasing tourism. She also provided an update on recent legislation that deals with tourism promotion areas. Councilmember Andrews asked if the visitor guide could be expanded to promote a larger area. Peters advised it was primarily focused on the local tourism, but focused on a "cloverleaf" approach that would increase interest in the surrounding areas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee reviewed and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the March 9, 2020 period of \$472,349.11. MOTION BY ANDREWS/EVANS to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Evans reported on the March 2nd meeting. Chief Hastings informed us that we are getting ready to order a new patrol car. After all the necessary options and technology is installed the quote was around \$39,000.00. If everything goes according to schedule, we should get it in June or July. The Eligibility list for new officers should be out soon. The department will be sent a Lateral list of the top 3 candidates. This Lateral list is made up of applicants who have already completed the police academy. Choosing from this list saves the city about \$60,000.00. compared to an entry level candidate who need to attend the 5-month Police academy. Testing will start in April. The department has hired an Evidence Tech and she should start sometime in the middle of March. Governor Inslee has declared the State of Washington in a state of emergency. Several people have already been quarantined in the Kirkland hospital because of the Corona-virus. Chief Hastings has the Police department stocked up on supplies such as disinfectant, rubber gloves, antiseptic wipes and so on. Many of these items are in short supply or out of stock in local retail stores. The police department has a communicable disease policy in place and has received additional information specific to the Corona-virus from the Washington State Department of Health that will assist in evaluating plans and approaches to performing their duties. The police department has also received prevention and treatment guidance that can be shared with the public. Chief Hastings and Sheriff Hildebrand will be meeting this week to discuss a plan to share resources should personnel be quarantined. Alive after 5 will be on June 11th and July 9th this year. It was mentioned that the 4th of July this year will be the first year the new fireworks restrictions will take place. Chief Hastings informed us that this first year especially will be an educating year for the public.

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce reported on the March 3rd meeting. The committee discussed an update on the Bridge/Diagonal/2nd Street design project. PWD Poole is reviewing the Scope and Fee for the design. Review and recommendation from this committee will occur at the next PWC meeting. There is an open house this week concerning the 8th/Elm/Diagonal intersection options. It will be on 3/5/2020 in the council chambers from 6pm-8pm. PWD Poole submitted a grant application in to WCIA for the Demo of the Billboard on Confluence Way. A new application request was received to purchase the billboard. The Committee discussed the WWTP forklift purchase. A sole source resolution and budget amendment should be on our agenda for the upcoming council meeting. Our current forklift is becoming obsolete. The department budgeted for \$10,000 but are unable to find anything that meets our criteria for less than that. HSIP Safety Plan is ready for adoption by the council. It will be presented to the council at the second meeting of the month. The Regional Recycling meeting was last week. Representatives from local municipalities and universities attended. The feeling is that the region produces enough recycling material to justify a Mini-MERF, which processes recycling. The involved parties are going to collect their local quantity numbers and put them together to get a better idea of what the region produces as far as recyclable materials. Anything we can do to extend the life of the landfill has the potential of saving us hundreds of dollars per ton in post-closure costs. The City has a small property, south of the hospital that extends the city limits across Fleshman Way. We tried to de-annex the property but were unable to do so. PWD Poole gave an update on the IPMC new landlord policy. There have been two issues this week that fell under our new policy. The policy made these issues much more manageable for the city.

Outside Organizations: Councilmember Evans advised PTBA will meet on Wednesday. He reported that there were 347 more riders this February over last year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance 1639, Code Enforcement Officer – 2nd Reading (Finance/Admin) MOTION BY PIERCE/MURRAY to approve Ordinance. Chief Hastings explained the Ordinance modifies the code so that the police could handle nuisance code enforcement. Atty Richardson advised that this update makes the process better, speeds it up, and provides better results. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION BY HOLMAN/LARSEN to approve Consent Agenda. Motion Carried

- A. Special Event Permit/Street Closure – Alive after Five (Public Safety)**
- B. Authorization for Police Vehicle Purchase (Public Safety)**
- C. Resolution 2020-02, WWTP Sole Source Forklift (Public Works)**

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Authorization for Mayor to compose and send letter regarding to Department of Revenue and elected Legislators. MOTION BY PIERCE/LARSEN to authorize the letter. MOTION TO AMEND to include the TSMH Board by ANDREWS/EVANS. Amendment carried. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Murray commented that PUD did a very poor job of filling in the asphalt cuts on Libby. Councilmember Evans advised that the issue will be fixed in two weeks. Councilmember Larsen commented that it was like driving in Spokane. Councilmember Andrews welcomed Chief Darren White, and thanked students in attendance. Councilmember Larsen advised that she attended the COVID 19 update. One main concern is that if anyone has symptoms the suggestion is that they do not go to the clinic or ER. Instead, call first so that everyone does not get infected by being in proximity. This limits disease transmission.

PRESS QUESTIONS: Lauren Kahl with KLEW asked Atty Richardson for clarification regarding the TSMH exemption and local taxpayers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures 3/9/20	Ck # 70154-70230	\$160,580.64
Payroll 3/5/20	Ck # 70123-70153	\$311,768.47