

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 14, 2018

ROLL CALL: Pat Holman, Russ Evans, Joel Profitt, Skate Pierce, John Murray, Belinda Larsen. Kolstad excused on motion by HOLMAN/PROFITT. Motion Carried 5-1. PIERCE voted nay.

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

AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the April 23, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. From the Public:

B. From Mayor: Mayor Lawrence reminded everyone that the Amateur Radio operators at Vernon Park on June 23.

C. From Staff or Employees: Chief Cooper advised that there had been a house fire, and a resident of Lewiston dropped off water and groceries to the family. Also, Jim Braddock (former City employee) assisted with a medical emergency on Elm Street. Braddock repaired the door jamb and installed a Knox Box to allow Fire Department access to the residence in the future. PWD Poole advised that the Beachview Park facelift is almost complete. Structures have been painted and refurbished. The water fountain has been rebuilt and the area where the structure was removed has been seeded with grass.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee discussed revisions to the Employee Handbook. The bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Total expenditures for the May 14, 2018 period of \$823,375.84. MOTION BY EVANS/HOLMAN/ to approve the bills as read. Murray asked why the Mayor purchased flowers. Mayor Lawrence explained that the flowers were for the planters at the entrances of City Hall. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Larsen reported that the Committee discussed some solutions to educate the public about the panhandlers in Clarkston which she will discuss during the Council Comments portion of the agenda. Chief Hastings will also bring some ideas back from his Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association conference at the end of the month. Chief Hastings recognized Officer John Morbeck as Officer of the Year at the Clarkston Rotary April 24th luncheon meeting. As a dedicated City of Clarkston Police Officer for over 30 years, Officer Morbeck deserves this recognition for his outstanding work with the Clarkston School District and the community at large. Chief Hastings is currently filling two positions. One officer the Chief has hired is currently attending the academy in Spokane. The second officer the Chief is looking at is currently meeting the standard requirements to fill the position. Thursday all officers were updated on new and current laws. The Chief is expecting the new patrol vehicle to arrive this month. Everything has been purchased to update and install equipment once the vehicle arrives.

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce reported that the City has been awarded the \$10,000 grant toward the National Fitness Challenge. The City is looking into other grants and local business sponsorship. A grant through the AARP has been identified and is perfect for this project. Council will be asked to approve a shared sewer connection, since this is outside of our established ordinances. We've received preliminary plans for an entrance on Fair Street into the WalMart parking lot. The new entrance would be between 6th and 7th Street. The City's approval of the Fair Street entrance is contingent on a Memorandum of Understanding with Costco and WalMart to improve the intersection of 5th and Fair and the intersection of the 5th Street entrances to both businesses. The modification would place two mini roundabouts, one in each intersection. This would allow for over 1,000 vehicles an hour to move through that area, and

would allow the City of Clarkston to remove its sole traffic light. We're asking that each entity pay one-third of the cost of the project. The Committee discussed some grants – the TAP Grant - Safe routes to schools grant for the Poplar St project will be before council soon for approval. The Committee also discussed the CDBG(Community Development Block Grant) - We would like the Community Action Partnership to partner with us and administer the CDBG home improvement loan program.

Outside Organizations: No Reports

PUBLIC HEARING: 2018 Sidewalk Project

Mayor Lawrence opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.

PWD Poole presented the Council with the information on the project. He advised that there had been multiple complaints regarding safety and ADA issues. It was explored in Public Works Committee. There was also an issue with the recent upgrades on Bridge Street at the Taco Time and Tomato Brothers sidewalks. The State has agreed to pay for the cost of repairs to these areas. The City received a good response from the 59 locations homeowners affected, with only 12 that didn't respond. The City has over 90% compliance from landowners willing to participate. This project will address safety issues and bring the sidewalks in question up to ADA standards. The bids came in at \$9 per square foot instead of \$12.50 as projected. Councilmember Larsen asked for clarification on the number of houses affected. PWD Poole advised it was 59 locations. Councilmember Profitt asked how much the cost would be if the homeowner were to do the work their selves. PWD Poole advised that it would cost approximately \$24 per square foot for a short load of concrete.

Mayor Lawrence opened the floor to comments from the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alice White: 742 13th Street
Todd Snarr: 1867 Fredrickson Drive

Councilmember Evans asked what the average cost of replacement for each homeowner would be. PWD Poole advised that he did not have an average, but the lowest for some homeowners is only \$250. Some are requesting that the whole sidewalk be replaced. Councilmember Evans commented that it is fairer to do this project, instead of raising property taxes. Councilmember Profitt advised that after Snarr's comments at the last council meeting, he had researched and discovered that there are a number of cities that are doing the same type of projects, even some bigger cities. Profitt stated that the council is considering every comment and not taking this lightly. Murray advised he also struggled with the issue of the costs to the citizens after the last meeting. However, the RCW states that lack of action by the City after becoming aware of deficient sidewalks put the City in danger of not acting. Murray asked if the City is in danger of not acting at this time. Attorney Richardson stated that the City is not liable at this point. That is why we can't allow it to go on. Larsen advised that when she had read the ordinance, she thought that it could also mean that kids couldn't use chalk on the sidewalk. Larsen advised she is struggling with this decision as well. She stated that she believes that some residents can't afford at any cost. Councilmember Pierce advised if the homeowner is unable to pay, then the cost can be deferred until the property is sold. The repairs will also improve the property value. Murray agreed that properties with sidewalks have higher valuation. The property owner will receive the benefit of that value. Larsen asked if the deferred cost comes with an interest rate for payback. Attorney Richards advised that the City will have to have a hearing at a later day with the decision on how to charge interest and the lien procedures. Pierce asked PWD Poole if someone doesn't have the money but wants to work with the City, is there a process to help the homeowner. PWD Poole advised that there are some grants from HUD that can help

with this. PWD recommended that no interest rate would be added to the lien, only the amount of money that was the cost of the sidewalk repair. Murray commented that there was no other way to get sidewalks fixed. Mayor Lawrence advised that the City needs to be ADA compliant. Evans asked how many times the City would be contacting the homeowners. PWD Poole advised that they had all received the initial letter. There will be follow up contact and if they don't respond, then the address and homeowner will be put on the assessment roll. Attorney Richardson advised that the affected homeowners have also received the public hearing notice that explained the process.

The public hearing was closed at 7:46 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance 1602 – Amend 16.32.060 Maintenance of Sidewalks and Driveways 2nd Reading (Public Works). Motion by PROFITT/PIERCE to approve the ordinance. Motion to amend by PROFITT/PIERCE. Amend Motion carried. Motion as amended carried by a vote of 5-1. Larsen voted nay.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Presentation of “Spare Change for Real Change” (Public Safety) Councilmember Larsen presented a program to educate the public about the panhandlers in the area. The City of Billings, Montana has implemented a process to try to keep donations going through charities to help those in need. She explained the difference between the homeless and the panhandlers.

B. Findings of Fact & Conclusion of Law: VAR-2018-01, 1022 10th Street (Public Works) PWD Poole provided the Council with the determination of the Hearing Examiner regarding the variance request at 1022 10th Street.

C. Announcement of 2018 Sidewalk Project Bid Award (Public Works) PWD Poole advised that McCall's Classic Construction had been awarded the 2018 Sidewalk Project. Motion by PIERCE/EVANS to approve the Mayor to sign the Contract. Motion Carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

PRESS QUESTIONS: Tribune reporter Kerri Sandaine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:03p.m.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 05/14/18	Ck # 66205-66290	\$574,942.89
Payroll 05/5/18	Ck # 66169-66201	\$248,432.95