

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 30, 2018

ROLL CALL: Russ Evans, Pat Holman Joel Profitt, Skate Pierce, Belinda Larsen, John Murray.
STAFF: Chief Hastings, Chief Cooper, PWD Poole, Clerk Austin, Attorney Richardson.

AGENDA CHANGES: Add 2nd Reading to item “A” under Unfinished Business. Change the second item “B” under New Business to “C” and add Item D: Consideration of Secretary of State Local Records Grant Application.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the July 9, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as corrected.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. From the Public: Jeanine Joly, 719 Libby Street
Jenny Hawvermale, 1202 8th Street

B. From Mayor: Mayor Lawrence attended a presentation by Veterinary students from WSU regarding care and housing for animals during a disaster. The presenters discussed plans for both small animals and large farm animals being added to the master plan for Asotin County. The Mayor has copies of the handouts for review by request. Mayor Lawrence reminded Council that the last regular meeting for the Council is scheduled on December 24, which is Christmas Eve. If Council would like to reschedule the meeting, possible dates would be December 21, or the morning of December 24. The Mayor advised that four applications for the vacant Council position were received before the deadline at 5:00pm on July 27, 2018. Council was requested to determine if the deadline would be extended, to allow more to apply. The Council decided to have interviews for the position on September 10, and will accept applications until 5:00pm on August 7, 2018. The Mayor distributed a letter to the Council regarding the annual EMS levy.

C. From Staff or Employees: PWD Poole advised that both the sidewalk project and the Relight Washington project on 6th Street have been completed. Chief Hastings commented on the public communication regarding speeding in the area of 8th and Libby Streets. He will be contacting the citizens that spoke tonight. He mentioned that the department has received a grant that will help with traffic enforcement, and that the department is now fully staffed. Chief Hastings thanked PWD for assisting in traffic enforcement by providing traffic survey data to identify times that vehicles are speeding. He advised that he will request this information for the area of 8th and Libby Streets, and place the radar trailer in that area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee reviewed Ordinances 1603 and 1604, and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the July 30, 2018 period of \$200,711.63. MOTION BY HOLMAN/EVANS to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Mayor Lawrence advised that the meeting was cancelled.

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce reported that the Committee discussed the City needs to set our stormwater rate by resolution. The alley vacation between Elm and Maple on 5th St has all adjacent property owners in agreement with the plan. The Mayor needs to assign an appraiser who will figure the costs for the property owner. The goal is to get this unused property on the tax rolls. The City will be sending out a notification to property owners and notify them when trees and shrubs from their property grow into the alley. There will also be a citizen survey sent out with this month’s City bills. The survey is for input on our Comprehensive Plan update. The City is looking for a citizens group to help with a future skate park for Clarkston. There are grant opportunities available for a skate park.

Outside Organizations: Mayor Lawrence advised that the Health District met for a routine meeting, and there is nothing new to report. Councilmember Profitt reported that he had attended the SEWEDA meeting on July 10th, in Pomeroy. The organization is busy with many projects in the area. SEWEDA has the “Cup of Joe” project in Pullman that allows businesses to network and discuss common interests. There was information about a local individual purchasing land for a sustainable shrimp farm. The number of people that are reached and helped by SEWEDA is amazing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance 1603 – Amending 14.06 Sewer Collection and Disposal Charges (Finance/Admin)
2nd Reading. Amendment to correct clerical error on the Ordinance number. MOTION BY PIERCE/HOLMAN to approve the ordinance. Motion by PIERCE/HOLMAN to amend Ordinance 1604 to be 1603. MOTION BY PIERCE/PROFIT to

approve the amendment of the ordinance. Councilmember Larsen asked for the amended ordinance to be read by title. Councilmember Murray advised that the Council needed to decide if the new policy would be applied retroactively. Clerk Austin clarified the changes that this ordinance would enact regarding commercial properties and the study period for sewer calculation of charges. Attorney Richardson spoke to the Council about the fairness that the Council would want to charge retroactively regarding the account in question. Council determined that in regards to the business owner that brought this to the City's attention, that it would be applied retroactively. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 2018-07, Excess Property Tax Levy for EMS (Public Safety) Chief Cooper advised the Council on the \$635,766 levy for fiscal year 2019. MOTION BY LARSEN/EVANS to approve Resolution. Councilmember Murray asked if the amount was an increase over the current rate due to the increase of exempt properties. Chief Cooper advised that there has been an increase of tax exempt properties. Mayor Lawrence advised that in 2016 there were 275 exempt properties, the number of properties increased to 300 in 2017 and has increased to 318 this year. Motion carried.

B. Ordinance 1604 – Amending 15.04 Building Permit Fees (Finance/Admin) 1st Reading Vote will be held at the next meeting.

C. Announcement of 2018 Street Maintenance Project Bid Award (Public Works) PWD Poole advised that there were two bidders. The project was awarded to HERCO for \$210,265. Motion to Authorize the Mayor to sign the bid award by PIERCE/LARSEN. Murray asked when the work would be completed for the project. PWD Poole advised that it would be on or before September 7, 2018. Councilmember Profitt asked if residents could ask to be added to the project. PWD Poole that there would not be any citizen additions. The streets in the project were identified for repair by City. Councilmember Evans asked if the project was funded by a grant. PWD Poole advised that it was not a grant but would utilize TBD funds. Larsen asked if the project would include the 6th and Chestnut intersection. PWD Poole advised that was included as Alternate number one. Councilmember Pierce requested that there be no work signs placed on City sidewalks. He advised that it made the areas impassable for those with wheel chairs, and he helped move them last year. Motion Carried.

D. Consideration of Secretary of State Local Records Grant Application (Finance/Admin) Clerk Austin presented Council with a grant opportunity to organize the City's records. The grant request would be between \$10,000 and \$15,000. The grant has no matching funds required for application. MOTION BY LARSEN/MURRAY to authorize application. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Pierce spoke in reference to the EMS Levy. He advised that the levy isn't taking care of what it needs to take care of. At any time the City has two EMS and two fire personnel on a shift. He advised that there is about a ten to one ratio (10:1) of EMS calls to Fire calls per the numbers posted at the Fire Station. This means that the City is paying for two Fire staff to be EMS staff. The EMS levy should reflect that cost. The City costs will get out of control if this continues. If this is a service that the citizens want, then they should pay for it, because the City could have a less expensive alternative. The City needs to find a way to make the EMS levy pay for nine of the twelve employees if that can be done legally. Pierce advised that he was in favor of a levy that would cover the EMS costs completely, would vote for it, and would also pay the costs of the levy as a resident. He further advised that there needs to be a way to take the burden off the City.

PRESS QUESTIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 07/30/18	Ck # 66669-66719	\$60,161.85
Payroll 07/20/18	Ck # 66656-66668	\$140,579.78