

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 10, 2018

ROLL CALL: Russ Evans, Pat Holman, Belinda Larsen, John Murray, Joel Profitt. Skate Pierce excused on a motion by LARSEN/PROFITT.

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

AGENDA CHANGES: Add Item D to New Business: Proclamation request from Daughters of American Revolution of September 17-23 as Constitution Week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the August 27, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as presented.

INTERVIEWS OF COUNCILMEMBER APPLICANTS:

1. Richard Kennedy
2. Melyssa Andrews

EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSSION OF APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS: Executive session began at 7:25pm. Mayor Lawrence advised it was expected to last 10 minutes. Attorney Richardson announce a 5 minute extension at 7:37pm. Council was called back into session at 7:41pm.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER: Councilmember Murray nominated Melyssa Andrews. Councilmember Evans seconded. Mayor Lawrence called for a vote by raising of hands. Councilmembers Evans, Murray and Profitt raised hands in favor. Andrews appointed to the vacant position by 3/5 majority. Councilmember Andrews was sworn in by Clerk Austin.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. **From the Public:** Wendy Stelmack, 1218 2nd Street
- B. **From Mayor:** Mayor Lawrence provided Council with a handout of the PTBA Ridership Numbers. She also advised that there was an opening on the Civil Service Commission. Applications are available at City Hall and online. The Commission meets at noon on the 2nd Friday of the month.
- 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 September 10, 2018 period of \$382,711.52. MOTION BY MURRAY/PROFITT to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

Public Safety: Councilmember Larsen advised that the Committee met on September 4th. Chief Cooper began the meeting with a reminder that fire prevention week will be coming up in October. An open house is being planned that might include a CPR demonstration, fire extinguisher demonstration, maybe a puppet show. Our fire department will be in the 9/11 procession again this year that will begin in Asotin and end at the station in Lewiston. We will need to update our contract for ambulance billing. Chief Cooper is reviewing this need and will make suggestions for updating at our next meeting that might include changing from percentage billing to per call billing. On tonight's agenda, we will be discussing an ambulance user fee increase of 3%. This will generate about an extra \$3,000 per year. Chief Cooper has extensively researched the costs of a new ambulance. He has found an ambulance that is a demo unit in Oregon with 8,000 miles and a 24 month warranty. Chief will also be reaching out to a purchasing group with a detailed list of needs to see if they can match or beat the deal from Oregon. The Chief has been working with the surrounding fire departments to ensure that we have a shared vision for better functionality. This includes communications, joint training and positive good will. This benefits not just our firefighters but our community as well.

Chief Hastings brought us up to date regarding the acquisition of a drone. Research has been completed, policy has been developed, a drone has been selected and an officer has begun the training required to navigate the drone including completing the FAA application required to operate the drone. This will be moving forward. Chief Hastings talked about the need for speed calming devices in different areas of the city. Chief also reviewed that last week was an education week for drivers to remind them to slow down as school is back in session. This week, enforcement will be in place. The Police department will also have a presence in the 9/11 procession as well as the Lewiston Round Up parade. Fireworks was a large part of our discussion. This is also an agenda item. The discussion ranged from enacting an ordinance to ban fireworks completely or to at least limit them to ground display fireworks only with all aerials being banned from City limits.

Public Works: PWD Poole advised that the Committee discussed landlord registration and needing to get the process going. The Committee recommends coupling it with the business license ordinance that needs to be enacted by the end of the year.

Outside Organizations: Councilmember Murray advised that he attended the Regional Stormwater meeting today. The budget status for Regional Stormwater was discussed. For the year, Stormwater is at 56.6% of revenue received and expensed of 59.9%. Currently Regional Stormwater is operating in the black.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proclamation of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Mayor Lawrence advised Council of the request. MOTION BY LARSEN/ANDREWS to approve the Mayor to sign the proclamation. Motion Carried.

B. Discussion on Ambulance User Fee Increase (Public Safety). Chief Cooper advised Council on the need to increase the ambulance billing rates. Fees were last adjusted in March 2016. Chief Cooper advised it was important to keep the increases equal with CPI. Private insurers with private insurance will be the most affected by this rate change. The rates for Medicare and Medicaid will not change. This leaves only 11% of customers that would see the increase. Chief Cooper asked Council to draft a resolution to increase the fee. Councilmember Murray asked if the GEMT income would change the outlook. Chief Cooper advised it would not. Councilmember Evans commented that he liked that it is only for private insurance, so it won't affect the majority of customers. Council gave direction to proceed with a resolution.

C. Discussion on Fireworks Usage in the City of Clarkston (Public Safety). Chief Hastings and Chief Cooper presented Council with information from the past years regarding the private use of fireworks. The problems usually occur with aerial fireworks as opposed to fireworks that are designed to stay on the ground. After discussion there was a consensus to proceed with exploring at least a partial ban on aerial fireworks. This would not impact the professional community display that is staged at Adams Field. Any change to the ordinance would have to be in effect for at least one year before it can be enforced in the City. No action was taken by Council at this time.

D. Proclamation of September 17-23 as Constitution Week. Mayor Lawrence advised Council of the request from the Daughters of the American Revolution. MOTION BY HOLMAN/EVANS to approve the Mayor to sign the proclamation. Motion Carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmember Holman shared an idea from a citizen directed to the Public Works Department. The citizen advised it would be a great idea in the future to convert the infilled pool into pickle ball court. Currently there are over 200 pickle ball players in the area. This includes a lot retirees, who travel here on the weekends for tournaments. Currently the only available facilities are in Lewiston at Sunset Park. Councilmember Evans asked what pickle ball was. Councilmember Larsen explained that it was played with a short paddle with a softball sized whiffle ball, and it is a lot of fun. Councilmember Andrews thanked her colleagues for the opportunity to serve on Council. Councilmember Evans extended his congratulations to Andrews.

PRESS QUESTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 09/10/18	Ck # 66931-66993	\$382,711.52
Payroll 09/05/18	Ck # 66898-66929	\$295,400.76