

**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**September 24, 2018**

ROLL CALL: Russ Evans, Pat Holman, Belinda Larsen, John Murray, Joel Profitt, Skate Pierce, Melyssa Andrews.

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

**AGENDA CHANGES:** Add Item E to New Business: Discussion of Potential Purchase of Ambulance Demonstration Unit.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**A. From the Public:** Jeanine Joly, 719 Libby Street  
Jennie Hawvermale 1202 8<sup>th</sup> Street

**B. From Mayor:** Mayor Lawrence introduced Building Inspector Jason Ewing. Ewing explained to Council the process that Jake Charais had completed to secure a building permit to install a sign for Trinity Baptist Church as part of an Eagle Scout project. Mayor Lawrence presented Jacob Charais with a Certificate of Recognition for being the youngest person to obtain a City of Clarkston Building Permit. Mayor Lawrence read a public comment left on the City website from a visitor from Walla Walla that attended a Cornhole Tournament and wanted to praise the City for the experience. Mayor Lawrence advised that October 19 is the beginning of election period. The Mayor announced the appointment of Erin Everett to fill the opening on the Civil Service Commission, the term begins on October 1, 2018. The Mayor advised that the County Commission will have a town hall meeting on October 25, at 6:30pm. The agenda includes a discussion on Fireworks. Mayor Lawrence also advised the Council that a date would need to be selected for the final Council Meeting of the year, currently set for Christmas Eve.

**C. From Staff or Employees:** Clerk Austin gave an update on the 2019 Budget Process. PWD Poole spoke in reference to the citizen comments regarding speeding at 8<sup>th</sup> and Libby. He advised that a traffic study showed that the average speed was 24mph this was the 80 percentile of the traffic. He also advised Council of the plan to install a permanent radar sign. Chief Hastings advised that Patrol officers have confirmed the data that PWD Poole had gathered. He advised that tickets had been written, and the officers continue to patrol the area.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance/Admin:** Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee reviewed and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the September 24, 2018 period of \$231,883.47. MOTION BY HOLMAN/MURRAY to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

**Public Safety:** Councilmember Larsen advised that the Committee met on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Chief Hastings began the meeting picking up the fireworks discussion. It was agreed that we should hold a public hearing and let everyone voice their opinion on either a ban or restrictions on aerial fireworks. Chief will research and present to our committee different ordinances from around the state so that we may have a more informed discussion for council at a later date.

It has been brought to Chief Hastings' attention that there is a smoking issue in our parks. Chief asked if there were some way we could combat this problem. A lot of communities have issued smoking bans completely in all parks. We discussed designated smoking areas as opposed to complete bans. Maybe no smoking in playground areas. This would not help in the Vernon Park area which is where Chief receives the largest number of complaints. More research will be conducted.

There is an increase in our transient population as of late. This is not unusual for this time of year but Chief Hastings would like input on what we might suggest to deter them from making our parks their campgrounds.

The Asotin County Jail committee continues to meet on a regular and frequent basis. The committee has met with Judge Galina, prosecutor Ben Nichols and others in regards to identifying what is the original cause of all the overcrowding and what can be done to decrease the population. They will continue to meet with others and continue to push forward on solutions.

Chief Cooper began with an explanation on the grant process that he and Ben Schuster had worked on. Unfortunately, we did not score high enough for funding. The Chief and Ben will review the process, join in on a webinar and with council approval, re-apply.

Chief Cooper has completed his research, made the necessary inquiries and concluded that the demo ambulance he found in Oregon would be the correct direction he would like to take in purchasing a new ambulance for the department. He will present his findings to Council tonight with a final determination request at our next meeting.

Civil Service has begun advertising for testing for paramedic firefighters October 19-20.

Firefighter negotiations will begin on September 28th.

**Public Works:** Councilmember Pierce advised that the Committee discussed that the City is looking to revamp the sign ordinance to address flags, flag poles and tower structures. Appendix H from the International Building Code was not included when it was adopted. That will be corrected in January when we adopt the IBC. Leavenworth has good language on an ordinance limiting flags and flagpoles to acceptable size. The committee recommends to move ahead with the corrections. The street and alley vacation ordinance currently has confusing language requiring payment up front with no guarantee that the council will allow the vacation. We're looking to change the language so that the petitioning parties will make all payments at the time of closing. An Ecology grant application is available. We have multiple projects to use with this grant. We're looking to contract out with Keller to file for the Ecology grant. All projects deal with stormwater. Director Poole is working with the Clarkston Police Department to install a radar speed signs on the South entrance to Clarkston on Hwy 129. We can use TBD money to pay for the sign. We have a potential issue with a city maintained sewer line that runs under Tri-State memorial hospital. We need to get an easement, protection against damages and access agreement to continue maintaining that section of line, otherwise the hospital will take it over. It's possible the easement is recorded with the county. Zone Change 2018-02 was approved by the Planning commission with a 5-0 vote. We will discuss it as a council. We'll be asked to approve the change, but not the type of business that will be located there. We need to surplus 3 pieces of equipment. A resolution is needed to surplus: '86 Ford garbage truck for sale, the '97 Mac garbage truck sold to the Wastewater Treatment plant, we also have a '76 water truck to surplus for sale. We need to transfer around \$200,000(estimated) from TBD to pay for work done this year as a budget amendment. We received about 10% of our surveys back. Don Brigham analyzed and sorted the data for us. We had a discussion about starting a citizens Parks Commission to help with planning and development. We also had a discussion on a youth commission using high school students to provide input to the city and city council

**Outside Organizations:** Councilmember Evans reported on his attendance September 19 at the Age Friendly Alzheimer Forum.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Findings of Fact & Conclusion of Law, ZC-2018-02 (Public Works)** PWD Poole presented Council with the staff report and finding from the Planning Commission. MOTION BY PIERCE/HOLMAN to accept the findings of fact & conclusion of law. Councilmember Murray asked if the existing structure was a residence. PWD Poole advised it was a rental house and an old gas station. Murray asked if changing the zone would make them non-conforming structures. PWD Poole advised it would, but pre-existing can be grandfathered in in order to maintain the structure or rebuild to existing footprint. Councilmember Larsen asked if this was the zone change. PWD Poole advised it was just for the Findings. Vote was 6-1 in favor, Larsen voted nay. Motion Carried.

**B. Ordinance 1605, Zone Change – 422 Highland Ave, 1st Reading (Public Works)** Vote will take place at next meeting.

**C. Agreement for Professional Services, Keller Associates – Ecology Grant (Public Works).** PWD Poole proposed to Council to have Keller Associates partner with the City to apply for a Depart of Ecology Grant. MOTION BY PIERCE/EVANS to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Motion Carried.

**D. Ordinance 1606, Ambulance User Fees, 1st Reading (Public Safety).** Vote will take place at next meeting.

**E. Discussion on Potential Purchase of Ambulance Demonstration Unit.** Chief Cooper presented Council with a proposal to purchase an Ambulance Demonstration Unit for a substantial savings over purchasing a new vehicle. The Demo Unit will have some equipment installed and will be practically new. Councilmember Evans asked if the City has saved money for purchase. Chief Cooper advised that there had been money set aside for the purchase. Councilmember Andrews asked if there would be a warranty on the purchase and the plans for the old ambulance. Chief Cooper advised that it would have the remainder of the new vehicle warranty minus one year of the demo. He advised that the old Ambulance would be disposed. Councilmember Larsen commented on the numerous discussions at Public Safety Committee regarding the purchase of a replacement ambulance and Chief Cooper has done excellent research on this matter. There was consensus of the Council to draft a resolution for a sole-source purchase.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilmember Holman asked if the speed limit on Hwy 129 could be changed to 25mph closer to the roundabout at Southway Bridge. PWD Poole advised we could change it as far as the right of way for the City limits. Councilmember Larsen thanked the citizens that are brave enough to come and voice their opinions to Council.

**PRESS QUESTIONS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Executive Session for Negotiations and Litigation began at 7:50pm. There are no decisions that are anticipated to be made, the session is expected to last 30 minutes. An extension of 10 minutes was requested at 8:20pm. A 5 minute extension was requested at 8:30pm. At 8:35pm there was a request for 3 minutes more. Council returned to session at 8:38pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Steve Austin, City Clerk

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Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 09/24/18	Ck # 67010-67070	\$94,664.77
Payroll 09/20/18	Ck # 66996-67009	\$137,218.70