

**CITY OF CLARKSTON
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
829 5th Street
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
3. **AGENDA CHANGES:**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
August 27, 2018 Regular Meeting**

5. **INTERVIEWS OF COUNCILMEMBER APPLICANTS**
6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSSION OF APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS**
7. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER**

8. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - A. **From the Public:** (Please limit comments to 3 minutes)
 - B. **From the Mayor:**
 - C. **From Staff or Employees:**

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - A. **Finance/Admin – Audit Report on Current Bills – Sep 10**
 - B. **Public Safety – Sep 4**
 - C. **Public Works – Sep 4**
 - D. **Outside Organizations – Health District, EMS Council, Valley Vision, PTBA, SEWEDA, MPO,
Regional Stormwater, Lodging Tax Advisory**

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Proclamation of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**
 - B. **Discussion on Ambulance User Fee Increase (Public Safety)**
 - C. **Discussion on Fireworks Usage in the City of Clarkston (Public Safety)**

12. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

13. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS:**

14. **ADJOURN:**

Time limits for addressing the council have been established by council direction. Presentations are limited to 15 minutes and public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person, per topic.

CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 27, 2018

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

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

AGENDA CHANGES: Add Item A to Unfinished Business: Trans Alta Grant Application. Add Item A to New Business: Letter in support of hydropower systems and RiverFest. Add Item B to New Business: Letter in support of LC Healthcare Foundation at the request of Interlink, Inc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the August 13, 2018 Special Meeting were approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor Lawrence introduced Mark Brigham, newly appointed Port Commissioner for the Port of Clarkston. Brigham addressed the Council regarding his recent appointment as a Commissioner for the Port. He advised he wanted to foster a good working relationship with the City.

A. From the Public: Jeanine Joly, 719 Libby
Charlie Barth, 1316 5th Street
Wendy Stelmack 1218 2nd Street
Alice White, No Address Given

B. From Mayor: Mayor Lawrence advised that the application deadline for the Council Vacancy is September 7th, the candidate will be selected at the September 10th Council Meeting.

C. From Staff or Employees: Attorney Richardson clarified previous statements made at the last Council meeting. He had indicated that Blackmon may not need to be present for the interviews. That is the reason that Blackmon asked to be considered even though he would be absent. Clerk Austin provided a timeline for the 2019 Budget process to councilmembers. Chief Cooper advised WWCC hosted a career outreach to local high school students. Chad Miltenberger thanked the Fire Department for participation for the second year in a row. Chief Cooper and Chief Hastings both addressed concerns that were brought up during Public Comment regarding fireworks in the City. There has been an increase in firework activity since Lewiston began enforcing stricter regulations. The City will need to address the increase of non-residents taking advantage of the regulations in the City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance/Admin: Councilmember Murray reported that the Committee reviewed and approved the bills for payment. Total expenditures for the August 27, 2018 period of \$217,186.37. MOTION BY MURRAY/LARSEN to approve the bills as read. Motion Carried

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

Public Works: Councilmember Pierce advised that the Sidewalk project is 100% complete. Invoices will go out soon. There are payment options included: Pay in full; Pay in 4 installments; or an option for the City to lien the property. The Relight Washington project on 6th Street is also 100% complete. TIB is going to reimburse the City for the project. The swimming pool demolition project started Monday the 20th. All pipes are removed. PWD Poole is making sure to inspect the entire project. Total compaction and free draining are required. The Street Maintenance Project is underway. This includes repairing the intersection at 6th and Chestnut, and chip sealing in multiple areas around town. The final cleanup will begin the last week of August.

The bid is out for the Walmart entrance project. The involved entities are also working on the final agreement for the 5th and Fair Stret intersection. The Committee reviewed the Street Vacation ordinance and procedure. Our

ordinance is a bit backward, requiring payment at multiple steps in the process. We should reform our ordinance so that all charges are due upon closing with a title company.

The Committee also discussed Code Compliance issues and updates. We have a couple houses with very difficult situations. We're trying to find solutions to severe code violations without violating civil rights or common human decency. Code compliance also appears to be the #1 concern returned by citizens in the most recent survey. A Landlord registry was discussed. The City is currently in violation of Washington State RCW regarding notification of the property owner when there are interactions between police and other emergency workers and their tenants (RCW 59.18.075, 59.18.125 and 59.18.150). The Committee had a discussion on business licenses for landlords. Councilmember Larsen advised she was happy with the improvements on Chestnut Street. Mayor Lawrence had PWD Poole explain why the chip seal projects are done during the heat of summer.

Outside Organizations: Councilmember Evans advised that he had attended the Forgotten Trail Tour that follows Lewis & Clark's trip to the Pomeroy area. The cost is \$45 and includes a meal at the Pataha Flour Mill. It is a great addition to the tour boat cruises and for other visitors to our area. Councilmember Pierce attended the Public Health meeting. The primary issue is getting the State to support public health. The local department needs \$289 million to support mandated services. However, only \$12-20million is received from the State to cover the costs. They also discussed that the County is facing a lot of code violation like the City experiences.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Authorization of TransAlta Energy Grant Application. PWD Poole updated the Council on the changes to the original application for the solar array to be installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. MOTION BY PIERCE/EVANS to approve the application. Councilmember Larsen asked about the grant and if the City would be committed to provide funding if it did not succeed. PWD Poole advised that if the grant is awarded, the City would have to agree to the contract to lock it in. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Letter in support of the Hydropower System and RiverFest. Mayor Lawrence advised Council of the request. MOTION BY LARSEN/HOLMAN to approve the Mayor to sign the letter. The vote was 4-1 in favor. Councilmember Pierce voted Nay. Motion Carried.

B. Letter in support of LC Healthcare Foundation from Interlink, Inc. Mayor Lawrence advised Council of the request. MOTION BY MURRAY/EVANS to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter. Motion Carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

PRESS QUESTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:51p.m.

Steve Austin, City Clerk

Monika Lawrence, Mayor

Total Fund Expenditures, 08/28/18	Ck # 66854-66895	\$84,6012.19
Payroll 08/20/18	Ck # 66841-66853	\$132,584.18

Public Safety Meeting
09/04/2018

In attendance: Mayor Lawrence, Chief Hastings, Chief Cooper, Russ Evans, Pat Holman, Belinda Larsen

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.

WHEREAS, each year in the United States more than 15,000 children from birth to 19 years old were diagnosed with cancer, equal to about 42 childhood cancer diagnoses each day; and

WHEREAS, each year worldwide, there are more than 300,000 new childhood cancer diagnoses, equal to about every 3 minutes a family will hear the words 'Your child has cancer'; and

WHEREAS, although the five-year survival rate for childhood cancers has reached 80 percent, nearly 2,000 American children under the age of nineteen still die each year from cancer, making it the leading killer of children by disease; and

WHEREAS, those that do survive will face at least one chronic health condition later on in life – not limited, but including – heart, liver, lung damage, infertility, secondary cancers and growth deficits; and

WHEREAS, the causes of childhood cancer are largely unknown and more studies are needed to understand which treatments work best for children; and

WHEREAS, cancer treatment for children often must differ from traditional adult treatments to take into account children's developmental needs and other factors; and

WHEREAS, children including Layla Beckstrand are among the hundreds of children being treated for cancer in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, Washington is a caring state and community that supports children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, _____ do hereby proclaim September 2018 as

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

CITY OF CLARKSTON

InterOffice Memorandum

DEPARTMENT: FIRE

DATE: February 6, 2018

TO: Mayor Lawrence and Public Safety Committee

FROM: Steve Cooper, Fire Chief *Steve*

SUBJECT: Ambulance User Fee Increase Proposed

Ambulance user fees were last adjusted March, 2016 - the second fee adjustment following implementation of Clarkston ambulance service in 2010. I remind you that the ambulance budget is a dedicated budget that is solely supported with user fees and the EMS levy which is voted on each year by residents of Clarkston – no current expense funding is included in the ambulance budget for fiscal year 2018.

I suggest increasing ambulance user fees 3%. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2016 and 2017 combined was 2.8% (August-August).

There are several factors that contribute to successful collection of user fee charges for ambulance transport. Is the patient covered with commercial insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or is the patient self pay with no insurance – referred to as the payer mix. The number of local emergency and non-emergency transports that occur and the number of long distance (out-of-area) transports completed during the year are also important contributors to successfully reaching the user fee collection amount necessary to fund operations.

The following table provides an overview of Clarkston Ambulance's payer mix for 2017:

Payer group	% of transports	% of user fee charges	% of user fee payments
Medicare	67% (932)	63%	68%
Medicaid	19% (271)	21%	11%
Commercial Insured	11% (158)	13%	20%
Private/self pay	3% (37)	3%	1%

Medicare and Medicaid effectively cap their payments by establishing an allowable rate for their payments.

Medicare establishes an allowable rate for a service then pays 80% of that, expecting the patient's secondary insurance or the patient will pay the other 20% (co-pay). Any amount above the allowable rate must be written off.

If Medicaid (DSHS) pays for transport services, provided a patient has DSHS benefits, there is no co-pay or additional billing. Charges above their allowable rate are written off.

In some situations, Medicare coverage may be primary for a patient with Medicaid secondary. In those situations, generally speaking, after Medicare pays the first 80% of the allowable rate, Medicaid will deny additional payment.

Commercial health insurance pays usual and customary charges for ambulance services – each policy has specific guidance for payment - some pay all, some 80% and others may divide the payment differently.

The following table provides Medicare and Medicaid allowable rates and the current ambulance user fee charges. Please remember that user fee charges were last increased March, 2016.

Medicare & DSHS Medicaid Allowable rates for 2018 are compared with our current user fees in the table – there is a reduction in Medicare payments for 2018 compared to 2017 – shown in the following table. The Medicare Ambulance Add-On Payments, an important supplemental reimbursement source from Medicare, expired on January 1. Prior to their expiration, the payments provided an additional 2% payment for transportation of Medicare patients from urban zip codes. Congressional action is needed to restore the add-on payments. If Congress does not act, this could be a loss of approximately \$5,800 in 2018, if there was no change in transport numbers for Medicare patients.

Level of Service	CLK user fee charge		Medicare (Urban) 2017	Allowable 2018	Medicaid Allowable
	Current	Proposed			
BLS non-emergency	\$252	\$259.56	\$228.80	\$226.47	\$115.34
BLS emergency	\$472.50	\$486.68	\$366.08	\$362.35	\$115.34
ALS non-emergency	\$383.25	\$394.75	\$274.56	\$271.76	\$168.43
ALS emergency	\$630	\$648.90	\$434.72	\$430.29	\$168.43
ALS 2 emergency	\$735	\$757.05	\$629.20	\$622.79	\$168.43
Miles	\$11.03	\$11.36	\$7.29	\$7.23	\$5.08

As user fee receipts (payments) go, the most significant impacts are the number of transports, the allowable rates established by Medicare and Medicaid, out-of-area transports and the percentage of transports with insurance. The GEMT program for supplemental payment for Medicaid transports is not reflected in this memo.

As user fee rates are considered, we must remember the allowable rates for Medicare and Medicaid are set by the Federal and State governments. We should not allow Medicare rates to creep above what Clarkston's user fees are or establish a user fee less than the allowable rates for Medicare, so we can capture the available reimbursements.

Only 11% of the transports should be expected to pay more for service if user fee rates are increased (those covered by commercial insurance). Ambulance service will continue to depend on the EMS levy as far into the future as I can foresee, unless a much higher percentage of the residents we serve become covered by commercial insurance or transports increase markedly.

If the user fees are changed as proposed, I forecast \$2,600-\$2,800 new revenue – I expect the additional user fee rate greatest impact will be seen in the commercial insured patrons as indicated in the earlier table.

SHOULD WE BAN FIREWORKS?

Some Americans say fireworks are a great tradition and the best part of the Fourth of July.

Fireworks are problematic for many reasons:

They damage personal and public property —in some cases, catastrophically.

They create trash and free-falling debris and the parties responsible usually do not clean up the remains.

They terrorize our pets, very literally, many of whom run away.

They disrupt our neighbors with smell and noise.

They cause **stress** and worry, both in the fear of their **potential** danger and the **suddenness** of their **noise**.

Our most vulnerable citizens, including children and war veterans, are the ones most susceptible to this stress. What about the trauma veterans with PTSD experience on the Fourth of July because of fireworks? These are the people who are honored with our most patriotic holiday; by triggering the horrors of war for them?

They cause unimaginable strain to our public resources, and create states of emergency.

Americans are injured or maimed by fireworks every year:

The **Consumer Product Safety Commission** received four death reports in 2016. It has received an average of seven fireworks-related death reports a year since 2002.

About two-thirds of the 11,000 to 13,000 fireworks-related injuries reported each year happen around the July Fourth holiday — between mid-June to mid-July.

Children under 15 years of age experienced about 36 percent of the injuries, and males of all ages were involved in 70 percent.

At least eight people lost their lives in fireworks mishaps in **2017** while another 12,900 ended up in hospital emergency rooms with injuries.

LEAVE the FIREWORKS SHOWS to the PROS!!!