

**MINUTES**  
**CLARKSTON CITY COUNCIL**  
Tuesday, October 4, 2011, 7:00 PM

Officials Present

Mayor:	Emanuel Ransom
Council:	Warren Hadlock, Dianne Leonetti, Dean Moore, Joan Swaney, Jean Brown, Adam White
City Manager:	Keith Barker
City Clerk:	Tracy Ashby
City Attorney:	Stephen Quinn

Mayor Ransom called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Invocation: Joan Swaney

The Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Council Minutes**

The minutes from the September 6, 2011 Council meeting were before Council for approval. Ms. Brown moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Hadlock seconded the motion. Mayor Ransom opened the floor for discussion. **A vote was called and the motion carried. (6/0)**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Chris Busing, Mauck Street, commented on an open records request he made concerning bids on the repair of the old pool and the copy of a rejection letter from the state or county stating we could not repair the old pool. The open records showed no bids were done for the repair and no letter prohibiting the repair of the pool. Mr. Busing made comments on the current council members.

Graham Thomas, Market Street, suggested we take down the torn banners before we put up the Christmas lights.

Mayor Ransom stated he would not let someone attack the council when they have been doing a fantastic job.

Jan Gardner, Rogers Street, was concerned with the conflict of the work session and a long standing meeting (Clarkston Health Collaborative) on the same Tuesday which makes it impossible for a number of people to attend both meetings. Ms. Gardner spoke of a branch that was resting on the power lines and having cones put around this part of the road to prevent cars or a pedestrian being hit if it was to come down.

Carol Johnson, Noble Vines Drive, said that there needs to be a street sign for Noble Vines Drive at the entrance to Avalon from Montreal Road.

Ms. Tesfamichael, manager of property at 1020 Montreal Road, is having problems with their neighbor Southern Place Apartments whose residents are using the private road which is owned by the homeowners (condominiums) and because of this they are experiencing crime issues and increased maintenance. So Ms. Carmichael is asking if Southern Place could get access from another road. Mayor Ransom instructed Ms. Carmichael on what steps she would need to take concerning this problem.

Bobby Wright, Cranford Drive, spoke of needing signage for the bicycle riders and mentioned the white directional signs that are painted on the road (seen in Decatur) and how this might remedy our issues. The City

Manager informed everyone that the city had applied for and received a grant. Mr. Barker will be meeting with the same contractor that did the work for the city of Decatur.

Andrew Brim, Hill Street, stated that he is running for city council and he introduced himself to everyone and mentioned that he has many interesting ideas and some long term concerns.

MALE, Debelle Street, spoke of an annual Food Festival on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Rosemarie Nelson was wondering on the marketing for the new pool, the projected revenues and the amounts for admission.

Sonny Knox, corner of Market Street and Poplar, asked everyone to consider carefully for whom they cast their vote for at the polls and gave his endorsement for Chris Busing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Public Art Project – McKenzie Wren/Jeff Manther**

Ms. McKenzie was not present. Mayor Ransom explained that this organization (Clarkston Community Center) is requesting the city to donate money to the Public Art Project and he further explained that the city is unable to make donations with the taxpayer's money so the correct way to proceed would be to establish a grant fund so the city can be supportive of any community activity. No motion was made to approve or disapprove so the motion dies.

### **Gardens in the Park Policy – Jean Brown**

Ms. Brown is presenting a policy for gardens in the park and green space which would provide an opportunity for non-profits and other neighborhood groups to be able to establish gardens and promote healthy living in the cities open spaces and parks. Ms. Brown read the policy. Mr. Moore made the motion to approve the Gardens in the Park Policy. Mr. White seconded the motion. A discussion followed. Ms. Whitney with DeKalb Board of Health addressed that this is a more specific health issue and not solely as a beautification space. This policy would only cover public land. Mr. Moore withdrew his motion to approve and asked that an inventory of the city properties that would suit the needs of the project be presented at the next work session.

### **Employee Handbook – City Manager**

Mr. Barker introduced Mr. Phil Davis with Flex HR who was brought in as a consultant to help with the employee handbook. Mr. Barker then did a power point presentation of the Employee Handbook. Mr. Barker also had the City Attorney look at the ordinances and the employee handbook so there would be consistency between the documents. Mr. Quinn (City Attorney) drafted an ordinance that he then preceded to read giving the City Manager the leeway to put in place the specific policies. Ms. Swaney made the motion to amend the charter; chapter 14 of the city code. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Discussion followed. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

The second part concerning the employee handbook is a resolution. Mr. Barker read the resolution to adopt the employee handbook by the City Council. Ms. Leonetti made a motion to adopt the resolution as read. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. A short discussion followed. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (5/1, Mr. White Abstained)**

The last item is the City of Clarkston Total Compensation Philosophy and Practice. Mr. Barker asked Mr. Davis to explain the purpose of the philosophy and to talk about the process where we are benchmarking our salary wages to achieve both external and internal equity. Mr. Davis explained that a total compensation philosophy is to set up guidelines and the philosophy through which the city runs its compensation program. Ms. Leonette

made a motion to accept the Total Compensation Philosophy and Practice. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

**ROW (Right of Way) Bids for Mowing&Landscape Maintenance-City Manager**

Mr. Barker explained that the city put out a bid for mowing and landscaping proposals for the CSX right of way. Five landscape contractors submitted bids for the referenced project. The low bidder is Patillo Grounds Maintenance Inc. provided all required documents as identified in the bid package. Mr. Barker's recommendation is to allow the City Manager to enter into this contract to privatize that service so we will have the opportunity to see the difference in appearance and some flexibility if we need to get out of the contract. Mr. Barker's recommendation is to approve the bid tabulations results; that we approve the low bidder, Patillo Grounds Maintenance Inc. and that we approve the City Manager signing the contract with Patillo Grounds Maintenance for one year contingent on the City Attorney's review of the contract documents. Ms. Leonetti made the motion to approve. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. Discussion followed. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

**Resolution-LCI Implementation Grant**

Mr. Barker explained that the City of Clarkston has applied for an LCI Implementation Grant, (Livable Communities Initiative). The City Council will need to vote to confirm our commitment to implementation of this grant. Mr. Barker read the resolution. Mr. Moore made the motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Hadlock seconded the motion. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

**Milam Pool Contract Change Orders – Mr. Larry Kaiser**

Change order #14 - Mr. Kaiser provided the City Council a recommendation to share equally with Leslie Contracting the cost for a new sewer line (four inch sewer line) which will be a cost to the city of \$3,024.00. Leslie Contracting has agreed to the cost share with the city (Leslie will pay \$3,024.00). Mr. Hadlock made a motion to accept the change order. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. A discussion followed. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (5/1, Mr. Moore-No)**

Change order #16 – Mr. Kaiser explained this is for the stone entrance sign to Milam Park. The City Council at the work session had asked Mr. Kaiser to bring back additional quotes for the 3x3x6 foot and a 4x4x8 foot stone entrance sign attached to this change order is the same diagram, same conceptual plan that I presented to council in the past and you will see that I received one additional quote and that quote was higher than the one presented by Leslie Contracting.

\*\* The 3x3x6 sign - \$3,114.00 and the 4x4x8 sign - \$5,573.88. Ms. Brown made a motion to accept option B. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (5/1 Mr. White-No)**

Change order #17 – Backflow valve. Mr. Moore made a motion to approve change order #17. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

**PLANNING & ZONING REPORT**

Mr. Wright gave the report on the September 19, 2011 meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

## CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

## COUNCIL REMARKS

Ms. Leonetti – none

Mr. Moore – none

Ms. Swaney – Discussed the Clarkston Community Center events.

Mr. Hadlock – Questioned the status of the Carole Park Estates.

Ms. Brown - Rivers Alive on October 29<sup>th</sup>, Montreal Road.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Ransom thanked everyone for their support announced the following events:

October 15, 2011 is the Milam Aquatic Center Pool Opening 2:00pm to 6:00pm. The Candidate Forum is October 15, 2011 at the Clarkston Women's Club 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Mr. Hadlock made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting and pay Council bills. Ms. Swaney seconded the motion. **A vote was held and the motion carried. (6/0)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

[\*\* From this point on, due to technical issue of recording system, the remaining minutes, are from notes only by the City Clerk.]