The Clarksburg City Council met in CONFERENCE (Work) SESSION on Monday, August 26, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. at the Clarksburg Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Marshall Goff
Lillie Junkins
Gary Keith
Jim Malfrugeot
Jimmy Marino, Vice Mayor
Ryan Kennedy, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT:
Annette Wright, Interim City Manager
James Cann, City Attorney
Paula Hardman, Interim City Clerk
Rick Scott, Fire Chief
Paul Lehosit, WWTP
Tom Brown, City Engineer
Kaylee Murphey

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:
Frank Ferrari

Following roll call, Council proceeded with the following agenda:

Discussion of Needle Exchange Ordinance (prior to second reading and public hearing) –

Interim City Manager Wright discussed the Needle Exchange Ordinance at this time informing she invited Mr. Chad Bundy along with some Health Department Board members welcoming their comments as to the ordinance also.

Mr. Chad Bundy addressed council and others present at this time regarding the Harm Reduction program explaining the same as such also providing a handout of the CDC guidelines for HIV testing, providing a background on Health Department operations addressing any area of concern. A detailed discussion ensued touching upon several issues including problems with ID verifications and local businesses during the hours of the needle exchange with Mr. James Harris also addressing council at this time voicing his opinion on the said ordinance.

Vice-Mayor Marino voiced his concerns at this time with the way local business owners are being treated verses people within the needle exchange program using his own business as an example having problems with the Health Department Inspector explaining that Mr. Bundy did send another inspector out to remedy any issues, however his main concern was with the help being more focused on the people using the program rather than the importance of the business owners within our city using My Little Cupcake as an example of running businesses off instead of helping our businesses flourish with our city because businesses in our downtown are struggling bad at this time and we need to help them suggesting we get creative to find ways to keep businesses within our downtown area. He stressed the importance of this in moving forward.

Councilmember Malfrugeot stated at this time his belief in his opinion that not one person setting at the table didn’t believe in the needle exchange and trying to help people, especially diabetics, voicing concerns with the location of the program being within the downtown area during a busy time interfering with the downtown businesses explaining the same as such using a fight that had broke out at the bus stop directly after one of the needle exchanges using that as an example of the concern this causes. The discussion of changing locations for the needle exchange took place at this time in detail also considering Highland Hospital as an alternate site. Funding was also discussed at this time along with cause of the epidemic itself here in Clarksburg and the surrounding areas including tracking of infectious diseases and some way to keep track of the needles being given out in a safe way.

Update on long-term control plan /MS4 Program- Dan Ferrell (Thrasher Engineering and Tom Brown, City Engineer)

Interim City Manager Wright informed this was to educate and update everyone on the MS4 Program, the long term plan and the phase we are entering into also providing a handout for review.

Next was an update to council explaining in detail operations as such including the long term plan. A detailed discussion ensued with regard to Phase one through four of the program touching on highlights as such providing maps of all areas involved for line improvements and storm drains also explaining future projects addressing any area of concern.

At this time council was explained in detail the MS4 Program also being provided a handout for review and information on the Storm Water Management Plan put together by Adam Barberio and Tom Brown explaining a way to treat your storm water without directly treating it including what homeowners and business owners can do themselves to make it better giving examples such as washing your own car in your yard as opposed to the street. Fall Clean-up was also discussed along with construction site run-offs with on site
inspections as a way to help also explaining current testing and annual reports available for review in the City Managers office and with the City Engineer.

**Health Access- FY 2019-20 Funding Request (Jim Harris, Executive Director, Health Access)**

Mr. Harris addressed the Board at this time requesting funding also explaining the Health Access Free Clinic including renovations in detail providing pictures for review. He explained the importance and need for funding at this time requesting additional funds of $1,000, to take care of dental needs and eye exams along with new renovations accordingly also inviting everyone to visit and tour said facility.

**CKG Consulting (Councilmember Junkins, et al.)**

Interim City Manager Wright informed of CKG Consulting being able to provide us with the opportunity to work more efficient as a business versus a government explaining the same as such also providing a proposal for council to consider and if it be their pleasure, have them attend a future council meeting to explain further in detail the benefits as such with council agreeing to do so.

**Videotaping of Council meetings.**

Interim City Manager Wright informed council of using Benjamin Dyer of Illumedia, LLC for services in the past for videotaping previous council meetings providing an estimate for their review and consideration. A detailed discussion ensued with Ms. Wright stressing the need for a good quality product if the council meetings were going to be videoed. Several options were discussed at this time with a decision to discuss it further in detail at a future meeting.

**(A recess was provided at this time)**

**Discussion of proposal of ordinance to address:**

a. possession and carrying of weapons
b. sitting/lying on public sidewalks, etc…

Interim City Manager Wright informed this was provided by Councilman Keith also including a handout for review and discussion as such.
A detailed discussion to place at this time with Interim Police Chief Snider explaining in detail above item addressing any area of concern including carrying a machete and problems with people blocking sidewalks and laying around in busy areas.

**Discussion regarding camera(s) in the Glen Elk area, as well as other ideas to deter illicit behavior and/or property damage**

Interim City Manager Wright explained said agenda item being provided also by Councilmember Keith with Mr. Keith stressing the importance of having a camera installed in the Glen Elk area going as far as also installing an extra monitor in the squad room as to maintain a visual contact with regard to helping keep the sidewalks clear explaining the same as such. A detailed question and answer period ensued.

At this time, Interim Police Chief Snider updated Council on the Clarksburg Police Department along with the DNR, Code Enforcement and the Mission together doing a sweep on the homeless camps in the area on Friday, August 30th at 6 am informing of the success they have had in working together as a team with believe it or not more mission members than police thanking everyone for all their help to solve homelessness explaining in detail the process stressing the importance of follow-up visits to make sure people are following through with instructions given to them by the homeless outreach team made up of selective members from multiple agencies involved trained accordingly addressing any area of concern. He then explained of writing tickets to those homeless people made contact with knowing full well they would see no funds from the tickets wrote only necessary information for tracking those within these camps being able to get them in some sort of treatment, temporary housing etc. stressing the importance in building relationships of trust with these people as to provide aid where needed. Council commended Interim Police Chief Snider and everyone involved at this time showing sincere appreciation for their efforts at this time. A detailed discussion ensued with Chief Snider addressing any area of concern also informing of future plans to continue and maintain the program.

**Discussion regarding Charter amendments and timeline therefor**

Mayor Kennedy addressed council regarding said agenda item explaining of informal talks of running a special election explaining the same as such referring to piggybacking off one of the County Clerk’s elections as to reduce cost to the city possibly next May adding some things to the bottom of their ballot. A detailed discussion took place at this time with regard to any charter amendments also discussing ways to increase voter turnout with the Interim City Manager also voicing concerns as such including poll workers and total cost of the city elections.
A detailed discussion took place at this time with regards to election matters including Wards, election expenses, voter turn-out and Initiative, Referendum and Recall explaining the same as such. A detailed discussion ensued with Mayor Kennedy addressing any area of concern also giving examples of several surrounding areas using this touching upon the advantages as such. At this time Council directed the City Attorney to look into said ordinances.

Detailed discussion on term limits for council, Wards and direct election for Mayor took place at this time with Mayor Kennedy informing most areas handle it already in this way explaining the powers of the Mayor as such stating he believes the citizens of Clarksburg have the right to vote for their mayor.

**Discussion on TABLED anti-nepotism policy.**

Interim City Manager Wright addressed Council at this time voicing concerns with matters reflecting Civil Service and Public Works with the union contract in regards to the anti-nepotism policy also providing a handout (the Ethics Act) for their review pointing out that this already covers nepotism explaining the same as such addressing any area of concern in detail.

Concluding a detailed discussion, it was decided to exclude Civil Service with Police and Fire directing the city manager to reach out to the city attorney as to the correct language to be addressed at the next council meeting.

At this time, Interim City Manager Wright proposed another work session to discuss the Levy election with everyone in agreement for discussions on September 12th.

Meeting adjourned.

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Ryan Kennedy, Mayor

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Approved

Paula Hardman, Interim City Clerk