

September 14, 2023

The Clarksburg City Council met in a Conference (Work) Session on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarksburg Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia.

PRESENT:

Councilmember Martin Howe
Councilmember Will Hyman
Councilmember Marc Jackson
Councilmember Wayne Worth
Councilmember Hattie Wright
Vice Mayor Jerry Riffle
Mayor Jim Malfregeot

ALSO PRESENT:

Tiffany Fell, City Manager
Richard Marsh, City Attorney
Annette Wright, City Clerk

Following roll call, Council proceeded with the following agenda:

Discussion Items:

a. Speed humps at parks – Chief Kiddy informed that speed cameras were placed at two locations in June and July that allowed for a 10-mile and 6-mile tolerance with said information included in the packet. City Manager Fell stated that there doesn't seem to be excessive speeding and that the results obtained from the speed studies do not warrant the speed humps but she wanted direction from Council as to whether to place speed humps at parks. Councilmember Howe remarked that he was opposed to speed humps and recommended that we follow the speed hump policy that is now in place with no speed humps to be installed at the parks based on the collected information.

b. Update on moving the municipal election in 2024/Charter review as it relates to the election – City Clerk Wright informed that she and City Attorney Marsh met with County Clerk Spires concerning the county clerk's office handling the city's future elections with County Clerk Spires being in agreement thereto with an intergovernmental agreement needed therefor. Councilmember Howe inquired as to the validity of the actions taken in light of the ethics violations noting that the matter would have been defeated and never placed on the ballot. City Attorney Marsh opined that unless there is a court action dictating otherwise, the same was approved by the voters. Councilmember Howe inquired if we should seek an opinion from the Secretary of State's Office with City Manager Fell stating that she would seek such an opinion. City Attorney Marsh apprised that there would be a resolution on the next Council agenda authorizing the City Manager to begin the process of the intergovernmental agreement for the future handing of city elections.

c. Water Board funding request – City Manager Fell referenced the Water Board's request for \$350,000 to assist with the Chestnut Street Water Line Replacement project and apprised that the City has \$705,000 left in ARPA funds. Councilmember Worth stated that he believed the \$300,000 in ARPA funds for the County were to be earmarked for the Water Board with City Manager Fell stating that said funds were earmarked for infrastructure projects. Councilmember Worth pointed out that the Water Board is under the City's Charter and therefore did not qualify for ARPA funds and opined that the \$350,000 request was fair. With regard to seeking funding from the other municipalities, Councilmember Worth noted the additional cost charged to these municipalities and satellites for water which is higher than Clarksburg residents. Further, Councilmember Worth noted

the difficulty in running the City should there be a major concern with these water lines. Councilmember Howe concurred with Councilmember Worth noting that the City received \$6.2 million in ARPA funds and opined that the contribution should have been made to the Water Board noting the importance of water to economic development. Water Board General Manager Jason Myers apprised of the steps taken by the Water Board to minimize costs of the project with Mayor Malfregeot commenting that he was in support of the City's contribution of \$350,000 from the ARPA funds for this project.

d. Kayak launch upgrade

e. Splash pad – City Manager Fell stated that the kayak launch upgrade and splash pad would enhance the area and that she has discussed the same with the Park Board Superintendent Doug Comer. City Manager Fell inquired as to Council's interest in pursuing these items with brief discussion held concerning a proposed location for the splash pad. With regard to costs, City Manager Fell stated that she has not assigned such details to staff until she brought this before Council to see if it was something that they wanted her to pursue. Councilmember Worth remarked that he thought that these items were worth exploring as to costs, etc. Councilmember Howe referenced the MORE (Monticello Ongoing Revitalization Efforts) that has been around since 2017 stating that the organization has put together plans for a multi-purpose field, etc. at the Monticello Avenue Park location/vicinity and that the area would also accommodate a splash pad. Brief discussion was held concerning said area being located in a flood zone with Councilmember Howe stating that the organization was aware of the same as well as Vice Mayor Riffle commenting that many parks are built in flood zones. City Manager Fell informed that with these projects being under the jurisdiction of the Park Board, she would work with Doug Comer on these proposed projects and also see what the Park Board wants.

f. History Museum/Waldomore – Vice Mayor Riffle commented that this matter has been discussed before but wanted to know if there was any interest in the two organizations discussing how both may co-exist at the Waldomore. Discussion was held concerning the activities of the History Museum and the impact thereof on tourism. History Museum employee Marsha Viglianco apprised of the activities and tours taking place as well as the interstate signage. Not having a dedicated entrance to the museum has been an issue, stated Ms. Viglianco, and added that exhibits could be moveable to allow for needed space should the History Museum be in the Waldomore. Library representatives expressed opposition to the History Museum being moved into the Waldomore noting that the library handles the utilities at the Waldomore, there are special collections on the second floor, and various activities are held thereat. Councilmember Howe remarked that there was a master plan prepared for the Waldomore and that a culture and arts district would have been a great use of ARPA funds. Councilmember Worth commented that he was supportive in trying to find the History Museum a better location but opined that the Waldomore was not it.

g. Zoning review – City Manager Fell informed that she has been working with Code Director Ashley Carr who has been working with WVU on a zoning and code review and she would continue to provide updates to Council.

h. City boundary (Stoneybrooke/Pinewood area) – City Manager Fell informed that Stoneybrooke was accepted into the City in 1971 and that she would make Public Works aware. Public Works Superintendent John Workman acknowledged the same and advised that he would have a crew addressing the concerns tomorrow and the street would be added to the paving list.

i. Waive competitive bidding for purchase of pick-up truck(s) for Public Works – Mr. Workman explained the difficulty in purchasing vehicles, trucks, in particular, which is being experienced by other municipalities and that he would like authorization to purchase from a private entity/dealership. Water Board General Manager, being in attendance, confirmed such difficulty and apprised that they have had to go out of state to find a truck, etc. Mr. Workman informed that he would continue to obtain three quotes with City Manager Fell suggesting a resolution to waive competitive bidding for the next two trucks in the budget with Council being in agreement thereto.

j. Property Maintenance Standards regarding grass mowing – Councilmember Hyman referenced a previously passed ordinance setting fines for grass height violation, etc. and that he was suggesting a change thereto to include the disposal of grass clippings. Council was in agreement thereto.

k. Health and Wellness Committee – Councilmember Jackson stated the he wanted to pull the various organizations and agencies together to share their resources, etc. with Councilmember Worth confirming the fragmented services and the benefit of a committee.

City Clerk Wright informed that she has been receiving inquiries regarding the observance of Trick-or-Treat and that it would be on the next regular meeting agenda.

Meeting concluded.

James Malfregeot, Mayor

APPROVED: October 5, 2023

Annette Wright, City Clerk