The Clarion City Council met in regular session Monday August 20, 2018 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers with Mayor Duane Asbe presiding. Present were Council members Dave Maxheimer, Andy Young, Dan Hennigar, Teresa Lancaster and Jim Williams. Also, in attendance were City Administrator Jordan Cook, DPW Jon DeVries, City Attorney Rich Bordwell and Police Chief Steve Terhark.

Mayor Asbe called the meeting to order and polled the council for any conflicts with the agenda, none were reported. Asbe then inquired if there were any citizens present to address the Council. Lance LaRue addressed the Council regarding the alleyway to the east of his property. He had received a letter requesting he remove personal items that are currently blocking access to the alley. LaRue asked why the alleyway was going to be re-opened. He was told by Bordwell that the City has never closed or vacated the alleyway even though it hasn’t been maintained for some time. The City has received a request from Bob Powers to make the alleyway accessible again so that he can use it to access the rear of his building. Sue and Rich Hammen were also present to ask about the same issue as their property also abuts the alleyway. They were concerned that their driveway will be used to access the alley since it has been an issue in the past. Mayor Asbe thanked both parties for their input and the Council will take it into consideration.

A motion was made by Maxheimer and seconded by Hennigar to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of August 6, 2018; financial claims –August 6, 2018 through August 19, 2018; no revenue report; no financial transfers; building permits for Josh Rosenkilde, garage & driveway; Clarion Locker, expanding retail area; Josh Schaffer, deck; beer/liquor license for Hearts & Flowers, Dollar General, and Shopko Hometown; a sign permit for Centrum Valley Farms; no street closures; Roll call vote, Maxheimer, aye; Williams, aye; Young, aye; Hennigar, aye; Lancaster, aye; Consent agenda was approved.

Art Cady and Tom Madden were present to speak with the Council on the final pay request for $125,000.00 to Grundman-Hicks for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements. Cady explained that he, DPW DeVries, Madden and Cook had attended mediation in Des Moines and that his was the amount that was agreed upon to close out the project. Motion by Hennigar to approve the final payment of $125,000.00 to Grundman Hicks, seconded by Maxheimer. All ayes approved the payment.

Motion by Maxheimer, seconded by Williams to open the public hearing on the request to change City of Clarion Zoning, specifically to re-zone property at 709 2nd Street NW from 165.04 (R-1) Residential to 165.09 (C-2) Highway Commercial District to allow for personal business, which was not recommended by the Planning & Zoning Board. Bordwell explained that the property in question is zoned R-1 and that changing this one lot to C-2 would constitute spot zoning. Bordwell went further to explain that if this rezoning was challenged the decision would most likely be overturned in court and both the City and property owner would lose. Bordwell also spoke of the option of the City to look at its Comprehensive Plan to see if it may want to consider changing the current plan for future land use to allow for business in that area, however if that was done there could be a negative effect on the homeowners in the area. The Council asked that staff look into the process and cost of updating the Comprehensive Plan. Motion by Lancaster to close the public hearing, seconded by Young. All ayes closed the hearing. Motion by Lancaster, seconded by Maxheimer to deny the request to change City of Clarion Zoning, specifically to re-zone property at 709 2nd Street NW from 165.04 (R-1) Residential to 165.09 (C-2) Highway Commercial District. All ayes approved.

Motion by Hennigar to approve pay request #3 in the amount of $179.60, Notice of Acceptability of Work and pay request #4-Final in the amount of $2820.40 to King Construction for the Lift Station Improvements. The motion was seconded by Williams and all ayes approved the payment.

Motion by Maxheimer to approve pay request #1 in the amount of $56,244.70 to Heartland Asphalt for the 1st St NE Parking Lot Improvements, seconded by Lancaster. All ayes passed the motion.

Motion by Young, seconded by Hennigar to approve pay request #1 in the amount of $35,458.51 to Heartland Asphalt for the Library Parking Lot Improvements. All ayes approved the motion.

Cook reported to the Council that the Public Safety Committee had met several times to discuss the position of Code Enforcement Officer. Officer Ted Knutson has agreed to take on this position, spending 15 hrs a week of his duty time addressing code/nuisance violations. Knutson handed out a spreadsheet detailing his activity enforcing City code. He will continue to update this spreadsheet and work with his fellow officers to address issues. Since Knutson will be spending part of his time as Code Enforcement the Committee felt it necessary to hire another officer due to the recent resignation of Shayne Hennigar. A motion was made by Lancaster, seconded by Hennigar to approve the hiring of a fulltime officer. All ayes approved the motion.

Ambulance Director Tiffon Willey asked the council to approve the hiring of 2 part-time EMT’s instead of 1 fulltime EMT which she has previously received approval for. Willey explained that hiring 2 part time positions would allow for more flexibility in scheduling and save the City money in benefits. She has had interest from a couple of volunteers in the part time spots. Motion by Lancaster, seconded by Maxheimer to approve the hiring of 2 part-time EMT’s, all ayes passed the motion.

Motion by Lancaster to change the date of the regularly-scheduled Monday, September 3rd Council meeting to Tuesday, September 4th due to the Labor Day holiday. The motion was seconded by young and all ayes approved.

Motion by Lancaster, seconded by Young to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Hanson, Deputy Clerk

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Jordan Cook, City Administrator Duane D. Asbe, Mayor