

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKSTON

April 15, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Town Council Meeting held at the Clarkston Town Hall, 50 South Main, Clarkston, UT

Attendance: Mayor N. Craig Hidalgo
Councilmembers: McCall Stephensen, Adam Hanover, Mike Kelly

Deputy Clerk: Holly Jones

Absent: Town Clerk Kristi Hidalgo
Councilmember Jared Petersen

Public Attendance: Maddie Soto – CAPSA, Bryan Low – 911, Kristi Walker – 911, Jeff Simmons – Logan City Police Chief

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hidalgo called the Clarkston Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember M. Stephensen led the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the meeting.

Mayor Hidalgo addressed the minutes of the Clarkston Town Council Meeting held March 18, 2025. Councilmember M. Kelly motioned for the Clarkston Town Council to approve and adopt the minutes of March 18, 2025. Councilmember M. Stephensen seconded the motion. All in favor “Aye” Motion Carried.

2. BUSINESS

Youth Council Liaison – The Youth council Liaison was not able to attend the meeting this month.

CAPSA (Citizens Against Physical and Sexual Abuse) – Sexual Assault Awareness Month – Maddie Soto from CAPSA introduced herself to the Council. She said that she was the Community Engagement Coordinator at CAPSA and had a brief message to share. Ms. Soto stated that at CAPSA supporting survivors of sexual assault means breaking down barriers like shame, fear and stigma. Obstacles that too often keep survivors from seeking help. Ms. Soto said that CAPSA provides confidential support, legal advocacy, and trauma-informed care. Ms. Soto declared that they can't do it alone. One of the biggest barriers survivors face is shame. To address this CAPSA created Shame Free Conversations, which is a prevention focused curriculum helping adults support youth with openness and trust. Using the SAFE framework, which stands for specific, approachable acknowledging feelings and empowering. These conversations create safe spaces for healing. Belief is the most powerful step that we can take. As a community, we can foster empathy, shift perceptions, and ensure survivors know they are not alone. Programs like shame free conversations depend on community support to reach more

youth, train leaders and sustain CAPSA services. The next Shame Free Conversations session is on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Logan Library. Ms. Soto encouraged the Council to attend and invite friends, family or neighbors. More information can be found on their website CAPSA.org. Ms. Soto asked if the Council had any questions. Mayor Hidalgo asked Ms. Soto when the Shame Free Conversations Curriculum started. Ms. Soto stated that it is a new program. The first session is on April 23, 2025.

911 Director Kristi Walker – Proposed Increase for 911 Dispatch Services – Kristi Walker introduced herself. She is one of the 911 Dispatch Directors for Cache County. They dispatch for police, fire and medical for all of Cache County. They also dispatch all non-emergency calls as well as for Animal Control for the entire county. Logan Police Chief Jeff Simmons and Brian Low Systems Administrator at the Dispatch Center were also present at the meeting.

Ms. Walker gave a brief history of the current 911 Dispatch Services Agreement that's in place right now. It started in 2002 with a \$2.00 fee that was added to the utilities. In 2013 there was an additional \$1.00 added for the Radio Fee. So, there hasn't been a 9-1-1 rate increase for 23 years (except for the \$1 fee adopted in 2013 for radio upgrade).

Ms. Walker said that the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center is located at the Logan City Police Department and extended an open invitation for the Council to visit the center and see what they do and how they do it. Mrs. Walker stated that they have twenty full-time positions. That's what they're funded for right now. Currently they have fourteen full-time employees and one that's in training. So, there are five full-time positions that are not filled. One of the reasons for this is our wages. We do not have competitive wages right now. For example, Box Elder is offering \$27.50 for a starting wage for dispatchers, Rich County is offering \$26.00, and Franklin County \$25.00. Cache County's current starting wage is \$22.85. Just this past November, it was \$20.85. They reduced one position from twenty-one full-time positions to twenty to fund an emergency two dollar raise to our dispatchers to try to get a couple of them to stay from going over the mountain for that seven-dollar difference. That's a lot of money and they were successful in doing that but it's just not quite enough. Right now, they are trying really hard to attract quality candidates that want to stay for a career. They can't get career-minded candidates without career money. It does take a very specific person to do a dispatching job and a competitive wage as well to attract them to come on in. The training is really hard and takes sixteen weeks to complete. The attrition rate for our training is high. About one in three actually make it through the training. They need to be able to offer competitive wages to attract candidates with the very specific skill set needed for the job.

Ms. Walker stated that Cache County is growing and all the cities and towns in the county are growing, and they are getting a lot more calls, but the staffing is the same. They receive approximately twenty thousand more calls than they did thirteen years ago and twenty thousand more calls a year than they did thirteen years ago with the exact same staffing level. Ms. Walker explained their funding. They are an Enterprise Fund. They do pay for themselves. They receive revenue from the 9-1-1 fees received from residential and commercial utility bills and there is a

fee that is on everyone's cell phone bill that goes to them. They also get paid by agencies that don't belong to a city or a utility. For example, Utah State University pays them for dispatch services as well as the Utah Highway Patrol. They're not attached to any kind of a city or a utility, so they pay a yearly fee for dispatching services. They also have grant funding available to them and they always try to get whatever grant funding that they can, but they can't use grants for wages because it's not a guaranteed fund. Those are those are the ways that the dispatch center is currently funded.

Mrs. Walker stated that they are proposing a ten percent increase for the first year starting July 1, 2025 and then for the next four years after that, they are asking for a three percent increase for a total at the end of a five-year period of seventy-one cents per month per household. That will be countywide. That's every household. The primary intention for those funds is an increase in wages and staffing.

Ms. Walker asked if the Council had any questions or concerns. The Council had the following questions:

- Mayor Hidalgo – Stated that he had heard that if they didn't get the proposed rate increase, they would be divesting this responsibility to the County. Mrs. Walker said that the Cache County is absolutely not interested in taking the Dispatch Center back. Mayor Hidalgo responded that considering Logan City's history right now, they divested themselves of responsibility for waste collection two years ago and four years ago, they did the same thing with fire and EMT 's. So that's why I'm asking the question. If you're planning to roll this off, I would like to know. Ms. Walker replied that they had not discussed Cache County taking it over but had discussed moving themselves over to a Special Service District. Mayor Hidalgo wondered if they did that would they be independent of Logan City. Brian Low responded that eventually the Dispatch Center will be transposed to a Special Service District. Instead of getting funds from individual cities and towns to pay for itself, it would be attached to property taxes at that point and be independent from Logan City. It is also true that if the Dispatch Center can't fund itself, then it would hasten the departure a little faster. Mr. Low said that they are looking at that in the future, within the next decade. Mr. Low reiterated that the Dispatch Center needs to get personnel and wages up to standard.
- Councilmember A. Hanover – Clarified that if the Dispatch Center were to be moved to a Special Service District the funding would get deducted from property taxes. Mr. Low concurred. Councilmember A. Hanover wondered what the dollar amount difference would be between that and the seventy-one cents over the next five years. Mr. Low said that he did not know because they are just barely looking into it right now. However, when you contemplate leaving the space that they're in into a new building and moving the technology and the tower, there will be a lot of startup money needed to make it happen. Mr. Low believes that it would be substantially more expensive to move to a Special Services District.

- Councilmember A. Hanover – Wondered what the rate increase would bring the wages up to. Mr. Low stated that the starting point would be at least two dollars an hour increase, with the starting wage around \$24.85.
- Councilmember M. Kelly - Wondered where the Dispatch Center is located. Ms. Walker said that they are located on the second floor of the Logan City Police Department building.

Resolution 25-05 “Amendment NO. 1 to the Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services Between Logan City and Clarkston Town” - Mayor Hidalgo asked if there was any further discussion by the Council prior to passing the resolution. There was none. Mayor Hidalgo read the resolution and asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 25-05. Councilmember M. Stephensen motioned for the Council to approve and adopt Resolution 25-05. Councilmember M. Kelly seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Hidalgo	<u>X</u>	Aye	<u> </u>	No	<u> </u>	Abstain	<u> </u>	Absent
Councilmember M. Stephensen	<u>X</u>	Aye	<u> </u>	No	<u> </u>	Abstain	<u> </u>	Absent
Councilmember M. Kelly	<u>X</u>	Aye	<u> </u>	No	<u> </u>	Abstain	<u> </u>	Absent
Councilmember A. Hanover	<u>X</u>	Aye	<u> </u>	No	<u> </u>	Abstain	<u> </u>	Absent
Councilmember J. Petersen	<u> </u>	Aye	<u> </u>	No	<u> </u>	Abstain	<u>X</u>	Absent

Business License Application – Heidi Fawcett – Heidi Fawcett was not present at the meeting. Mayor Hidalgo stated that Mrs. Fawcett would be teaching crochet lessons. Parking is not an issue. Councilmember M. Kelly motioned to approve the business license application. Councilmember M. Stephensen seconded the motion. All in Favor “Aye”. Motion carried.

Amphitheater Use Request – Sunnie Nield – Mayor Hidalgo stated that Sunnie Nield had sent in a request to use the amphitheater on July 18, 2025 from 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. for a Youth Conference Fireside. There will be about 150 youth in attendance. Mayor Hidalgo stated that his only concern was restroom facilities for that many people. It was determined that they would need to arrange for porta-potties to be brought in to help accommodate that many people. The Council unanimously approved the Amphitheater Use Request with the stipulation that porta-potties would need to be brought in to accommodate such a large group.

Surplus Generator Sealed Bids – Mayor Hidalgo reported that there were two sealed bids turned in on the generator. Mayor Hidalgo opened the bids. One of the bids was from Steve Moreland, a Clarkston resident, for \$400. The other bid was from John Packer of Franklin Idaho for \$311. The Council accepted the higher bid of \$400 from Steve Moreland. Mayor Hidalgo will notify him.

3. DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Hidalgo – Fire Department – had nothing to report.

Parks Department – Mayor Hidalgo reported that John the Tree Climber had started taking down the three pine trees in the park. The landscape company has been working on the ground around the town hall. They have the sprinkling system done and are now getting it ready for hydroseeding. Mayor Hidalgo said that he had the landscapers put three cement tree rings in for the new trees that will be planted.

Roads Department – Snow Grader Repairs – Mayor Hidalgo reported that MC Repair have started repairing the grader. The mechanic has found additional items that need to be repaired above the original bid on the project.

Councilmember M. Stephensen – March Warrant List – Councilmember M. Stephensen presented the Warrant List for March 2025. Councilmember A. Hanover motioned for the Clarkston Town Council to approve the Warrant List as read. Councilmember M. Stephensen seconded the motion. All in favor “Aye.” Motion carried.

Councilmember M. Stephensen – Youth Council – Easter Egg Hunt - Councilmember M. Stephensen said that the youth council would be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2025. It kicks off at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Parades – Councilmember M. Stephensen mentioned the following upcoming parades:

- Smithfield Health Days Parade on May 11, 2025 at 10:00 am
- Richmond Black and White Days Parade on May 18, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

It has not been determined if the Clarkston Youth Council will participate in the parades yet.

Service Project – Cleaning Cemetery Headstones – Councilmember M. Stephensen stated that the Youth Council have planned a service project in May. They will be cleaning headstones at the cemetery. Taylie Balls is in charge of this event and should be coming to the next Town Council Meeting with more information regarding it.

Youth Council Bylaws – Councilmember M. Stephensen reported that the youth council is working on updating the Clarkston Town Youth Council Bylaws and will present their recommendations to the Town Council for approval.

Pony Express Days – Pony Express Day plans are well underway for this year. Councilmember M. Stephensen asked the Council to think about new games and activities that could be incorporated into Pony Express Days this year.

Councilmember A. Hanover – Water Department – Had nothing to report.

Planning Commission – Councilmember A. Hanover reported that the next Planning and Zoning meeting would be held Thursday April 17, 2025. The Planning Commission will be reviewing and discussing Willis Acres Subdivision Phase 2.

Councilmember M. Kelly – Cemetery Department – Councilmember M. Kelly reported that cemetery Sexton Jeremy Hidalgo had to have the lawn mower repaired. It had an oil leak.

Cache County School Boundary Changes - Councilmember M. Kelly reported that he looked on the Cache County School District website and there haven't been any boundary changes made yet regarding which municipalities will be assigned to attend the middle schools and high schools in the north end of the valley. Mayor Hidalgo recommended that the Council encourage citizens to keep an eye on the papers and communications so they can give input on proposed boundary changes that have an impact on their children and the amount of time they have to spend on school buses.

4. RELEVANT BUSINESS

Variances – Mayor Hidalgo stated that sometimes people don't understand that the Mayor and Town Council cannot give anyone a variance for an ordinance. It is against the law. It's illegal to grant a variance to laws that are in place. The Mayor and Town Council could actually face fines and be sued if they do it. The law is the law.

Next Meeting – The next Town Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

5. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember M. Stephensen motioned that the Clarkston Town Council Meeting be adjourned. Councilmember A. Hanover seconded the motion. All members present voted "Aye." Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Kristi Hidalgo
Clarkston Town Clerk

