

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession
February 14, 2019
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Walt Perry, Edna Campau, Dave Beyerl, Bob Rossiter, Audrey Webster, David Watkins

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Mayor Michael Myers

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, City Recorder; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Deputy Olson, and Sgt. Parise from MCSO

I. **COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE** – In the absence of the Mayor, Council President Dave Beyerl called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute.

II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

A. Frank and Patti Ball Re: Conser House Grant

Frank and Patti Ball approached the table before the Council and received a compliment from Councilor Beyerl on the materials included in their packet. The Ball's proceeded to go through their materials, providing an update on the CLG grant status and on down the information they included in their proposals, including dry wells, getting the water away from the structure, a feasibility study, etc. Frank Ball shared information on his findings of a dry well and conversations he'd had with surrounding neighbors. Councilor Beyerl understood in talking with the Public Works Director that dry wells were no longer legal by current standards, to which Frank and Patti indicated they were not aware. Jeff Buskirk explained that the EPA had banned dry wells in the entire US several years ago and many locations in town had to do away with them on their properties. He also shared there had been downspouts and splash boxes to keep the water a little farther away from the structure, but that they'd been stolen. He offered to put the splash boxes back and fix the drains for better flow.

Moving on, Mrs. Ball directed the Council to the pictures in the packet, many of which had been taken from under the building. They suggested installing insulation properly and then went on to discuss their proposed budgets, offering 2 options. When they became aware of the City's desire to have a feasibility study, they shifted the budget projects to accommodate that option. Councilor Beyerl was of the understanding that once the building was vacated the City would bring it back to a habitable status and then would work on a feasibility study. He thought the money would be better spent to fix the building so you could safety get into it first, and then worry about its best use later. After clarifying for Councilor Perry what a feasibility study would do, he agreed with Councilor Beyerl's approach. Councilor Campau pointed out that because it was a City owned building, BOLI prevailing wage law would apply. Mr. Ball indicated they had spoken to some contractors they knew personally for purposes of obtaining some numbers to put into the grant application. Councilor Webster confirmed the consensus that she was hearing was that the Council would like the grant to be prepared in a way that would set the Conser House up for a more durable future, noting problems with rot were important to address, and that perhaps in another year they could go to a feasibility study. Councilor Beyerl confirmed her summarization and sought a motion. Councilor Rossiter moved that the City apply for the grant to address the upgrade needs and postpone the feasibility study. Councilor Webster seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

B. Amendment #1 to the COJ & MCSO IGA Re: Overtime Patrol Service

Having reviewed similar drafts the last couple meetings, Councilor Webster moved to approve the amendment. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

Deputy Garrett Olson spoke on several cases they'd closed, drug busts, search warrants, etc. He informed the Council specifically of the amount of drugs and money discovered during a search warrant at 286 High St., which included meth, cocaine, and 270.25 grams of heroin with a street value of over \$54k. In addition, they confiscated \$22k in cash. He shared the levels of drugs taken from that home were dealer levels and more than he'd ever seen in one house during his entire career. He credited the ability to close in on these cases to the great relationship formed with LINE, the Linn County Drug Task Force, which included involvement from Linn and Benton Counties, as well as OSP and APD. Council directed the City Recorder to prepare a letter of thanks for the partnership and efforts made in and around Jefferson to keep the community safe. Sgt. Don Parise offered big thank you to the Council, staff and citizens, noting how impressive it was to see the relationships between the deputies and all of us, working towards positive changes in the community. He was very proud of his deputies who worked so well together and this City, who was instrumental to their work.

C. Funding Options for Police Services

Councilor Webster pointed out for the people in the audience that the information in the packets was good and very informative and could be found online. City Recorder, Sarah Cook went on to explain the packet materials, including the data obtained from other cities to show comparisons of those that charged a public safety fee, tax rates from the county with examples of costs based on varying levy amounts, and a history of the costs for police coverage. Councilor Watkins said he was completely in favor of putting a fee out to fund police, but understood the fire department was going out for a levy too so he felt it could be a tough year for a lot of residents. Open discussion went on about the options and materials. Deputy Olson spoke about the use of the funds for overtime, to at least fill some of the gap while saving funds, also noting MCSO was a good year out in getting a dedicated officer to town. Councilor Webster really wanted to get to a third deputy and wasn't happy about the idea of spending \$40k on overtime.

Councilor Campau felt they could save everybody time by dismissing the idea of a levy altogether and all agreed. There was general discussion about the stability of the fee, how it would increase year to year, to which the City Recorder suggested building in the COLA increase in the adopting document so it automatically increased every July and all agreed. There was a consensus of the Council to move forward with a public safety fee, plan for public education and outreach, with the hope of implementing it in the new budget year.

III. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - David Watkins moved to approve. Walt Perry seconded. Discussion: Bob Rossiter was pleased with the Librarian's \$12 Tuesday audio book purchase. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. VISITORS – None

V. COUNCIL COMMENTS

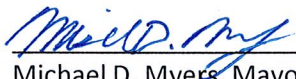
David Watkins talked about the hassle between MC and Union Pacific during the railroad crossings and suggested writing a letter about how disappointed the City and citizens were with the emergency ramp. He suggested seeing if the Fire Dept would entertain a joint letter, noting the emergency crossing was a real concern and there was poor communication all around.

Audrey Webster said the School Board was hiring a permanent Superintendent and she was part of the hiring process. 25 people applied and they narrowed it down; interviews had been conducted and the board was very receptive to feedback. She felt it would be a very challenging job in selecting the top 2-4 candidates. Once that was done, they would invite them to the community to walk through the facilities, meet staff, students, and conduct public forums where questions would be asked of each candidate. She also shared information on a Marion County group that had been working with community members to look at drug and alcohol use and abuse in the Jefferson area, which had been identified as an area of need by that task force. They had done a lot of data collection and analysis and would be holding a town hall meeting at the community center on Sunday, March 3rd from 1-2:30pm.

Bob Rossiter attended the Marion County leadership breakfast and many new Councilors were in attendance. The fire that occurred in Stayton was discussed primarily.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Edna Campau moved, seconded by Councilor Watkins. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 28th day of March, 2019.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Recorder