

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Joint City Council & Planning Commission
September 23, 2021
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Dave Beyerl, Walt Perry, David Watkins, David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter(zoom), Mayor Michael Myers
COUNCILORS ABSENT: Patrick McKenzie
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bruce Forbes, David Jones, Ron Gilles, Joseph Moore, Jacquelyn Deeds
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Edie O'Neil
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD

I. **CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE** – Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, led in the flag salute, and welcomed the Planning Commission, noting it had been some time since a joint meeting was held and he appreciated their time and service.

II. **PRESENTATION** – DKS Consultants Re: Update on Jefferson TSP

Lacy Brown offered a brief introduction and explained the purpose of a Transportation System Plan, noting the importance tied to future funding opportunities. The City's current plan was 20 years old and she complimented the accomplishments, as nearly every project was completed. Using a slideshow, Lacy touched upon the plan highlights and goals, specifically addressing safety, mobility/accessibility/connectivity, livability, and coordination. She spoke on deficiencies, traffic diversion from I-5, RR & transit, as well as focus projects by type, before moving on to the funding needs of the City, with the only current source being gas tax dollars.

David Helton, the ODOT rep assigned to the project, and attending via zoom, spoke on the condition and ownership of the highway, noting ODOT had no expectation of any local match or funding at the time of improvements. However, for enhancement projects, such as multi-modal pedestrian projects, he said there were other funding opportunities that may require some form of City match. Mayor Myers questioned the viability of the City looking to State Senators or lobbying the federal government for funds, as he understood some larger cities had. David said it was up to a City to weigh how urgent the need was, and it would depend on what connections the City had, but he was confident that the projects identified in the TSP were eligible for many funding sources.

Ron Gilles, Planning Comm Chair, questioned if there were plans for a traffic study, as he didn't believe there had been one since 2001, and the amount of semi-truck traffic had significantly increased; however, David Helton assured him traffic studies were being done as part of the TSP update and they were making adjustments as needed and coordinating with Marion County as well.

Melissa Berman, Cemetery Hill Rd, expressed concern with the extensions of 5th and 7th street identified in the plan, as it would affect her property. She requested that portion of the plan be set aside, noting her property had been farm land for many years. She indicated she would be willing to give a right-of-way easement on 7th St rather than going down the middle and also pointed out there was a crossing at the north end of Salamander, but somebody had to be called to open it when needed. Jeff Buskirk clarified, noting the only people allowed access were the railroad and the fire department. Lacy Brown explained the street extensions were only preliminary connections and by no means did the lines indicate exactly where the road would go. It was simply a concept to identify the desire to connect roads at some point in the future.

With that, Lacy shared the next steps, which included the 2nd online open house in October, changes to the development code, drafting the TSP document, and meeting with City Council again in February 2022. In the

meantime, she encouraged everybody to visit the project website for regular updates, tracking of the project, and participation in the online open house, www.jeffersonsp.com.

III. OLD BUSINESS – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Volunteer Application: Planning Commission & Library Board

Mayor Myers was impressed by Erica Lummer’s credentials, who was attending via zoom, and thanked her for getting involved. Councilor Perry moved to approve Erica for both the Planning Commission and Library Board. Councilor Beyerl seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

4.2 Resolution# 1078, Deeming a Sidewalk Deteriorated, Hazardous for Public Use, and Directing the PWD to Issue a “Notice to Repair” to the Property Owner of 133 S 5th Street

Mayor Myers confirmed the property owners were aware of the process. Councilor Perry moved to approve Resolution# 1078, seconded by Councilor Beyerl. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

V. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

5.1 Annual Housing Rehab Loan Update FYI – Sarah Cook provided history of the program.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA – Councilor Beyerl moved to approve. Councilor Watkins seconded. Discussion: Councilor Kellogg pointed out that a correction to the July 22nd minutes was in order to include him in attendance. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VII. VISITORS

Mersha Studer, Oakdale Ct. – Spaghetti fundraiser at Tommy’s at 4pm Saturday, benefiting JHS&M.

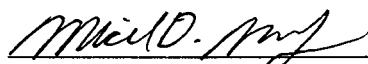
Azirra Baaz, 3rd St. – expressed concerns with visibility upon entering the highway due to overgrown bushes and wondered whose responsibility it was. Jeff Buskirk explained it was ODOT right-of-way and he had mentioned it to them before, and he would again.

VIII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

There was brief discussion about the need for better audio if the laptop was going to be used more frequently with people attending over zoom. David Watkins indicated he was in conversations to seek quotes for a type of media wall, complete with PC and improved sound system, etc.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Beyerl moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Watkins. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:40pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 28th day of October, 2021.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder