

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting
January 23, 2020
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Bob Rossiter, Dave Beyerl, Walt Perry, Edna Campau, David Watkins, Audrey Webster, Michael Myers
COUNCILORS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Deputy Olson and West, with cadets from MCSO

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE – Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute.

- 1.1 LAC Presenting Historic Designation Award – LAC Chair, Mark Manning came forward, along with Mayor Myers to present the next award. The home being recognized was located at 426 N. 2nd St, known as the HB Looney house, built in 1910 in the craftsman style, and currently owned by Dennis and Linda Phillips.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- 2.1 Marketing Agreement Re: NLC Service Line Warranty Program

Mayor Myers recalled the presentation at the last Council meeting, noting the two contract options, one waiving the .50 cent revenue and the other accepting the .50 cent revenue and deciding down the road what to use the funds for. Councilor Beyerl was in favor of keeping the .50 cents and Councilor Campau agreed. Other Councilors felt the amount of revenue would not be that significant; however, Councilor Watkins suggested using whatever funds derived from it to help people in need with their utility accounts down the road.

Councilor Beyerl moved to adopt marketing agreement version B with NLC service line warranty program. Councilor Watkins seconded. Discussion: Audrey Webster said because the amount of money collected would fluctuate from year to year as people signed on or dropped off, it would be hard to count on and work into the budget, but creating a supporting fund for people in need would be the best use for the fund, so she would support it with that use as a goal. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

III. NEW BUSINESS

- 3.1 Agreement Related to Dedication of 5th St. ROW at Union St.

Mayor Myers explained the City's endeavor in receiving a portion of 5th street to allow for the road to be pushed through, noting that discussions with the property owners had been under way and they had signed agreement. In return for the property, the City agreed to a portion of improvements at no cost to the homeowner. Councilor Watkins shared that it had gone before the Planning Commission and was agreed upon at that level. Councilor Campau moved to accept the agreement for purposes

of dedication of the ROW at 5th and Union. Councilor Webster seconded. All 6 were in favor.

APPROVED.

3.2 IGA with MC for Community Prosperity Initiative Funds

Councilor Webster complimented the memo from Sarah Cook, noting the projects she'd identified were in line with the Council's vision, and also confirmed there was no risk of losing the funds if not used. She thought the funds could be a good fit for the Technology Committee's Dig Once and Conduit to the Home projects. Councilor Webster moved to accept the IGA with Marion County for the Economic Development funds and authorized the City Manager to sign all related documents to move forward. Councilor Beyerl seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed - 0.

IV. DISCUSSION/INFO

4.1 7th St. SpongeBob Park

Mayor Myers spoke of the ongoing challenges the City had dealt with, and the continuous efforts that had been made to make the park available to the community; however, vandalism and destruction of property continued year after year. Public Works Director, Jeff Buskirk indicated everything except the swings had been broken, the lights had been broken, the well house had been broken into, the picnic tables were destroyed, and the list went on. Deputy Olson added that the park was situated next to a residence that had been a problem in the community for some time. In addition, the park was extremely dark at night and people could easily hide out of sight behind the well house.

In relation to the well on the property, Jeff Buskirk said the water rights to well 5 were tied to well 4, giving them a joint right. He suspected he could abandon one, which could free up the property to sell as a buildable lot; however, he needed to research it more and consult with Westech. There was open discussion amongst the Council about the possibility of closing/selling the park property, with some expressing concern for the severe lack of parks in town already. Others thought a more visible location would be better for them to look into before any more money was spent at the 7th St. Park.

To Jeff Buskirk and Deputy Olson, Mayor Myers asked if removing the building and improving the lighting would help. The deputy agreed added lighting would help; however, the area in general would likely still be a problem with people hanging out there, doing things they shouldn't be doing. Mayor Myers thought it would be a relatively low investment for Jeff to look into abandoning the well, removing the building, and installing a street light. They could then reevaluate the use and whether or not improper behavior was still an issue. Concern was expressed with the positioning of a street light, noting the back end of the park property would still be in the dark; however, the general consensus of the Council was to agree with the Mayor's suggestion. Jeff would proceed with investigating the options and an update would be provided to Council in about 3 months.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – Walt Perry moved to approve the consent agenda excluding the Nov 14th meeting minutes. Councilor Webster seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0.

Councilor Beyerl moved to approve the minutes of Nov 14th. Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0, Abstain – 1 (Webster). **APPROVED.**

VI. VISITORS

Deputy Foster just graduated from MCSO academy and would be riding with Deputy Olson for the next week. Deputy Kyle Jones graduated in September and would be riding with Deputy West for two weeks. Garrett Olson provided stats from last year, noting in 2019 the City allowed for overtime and in comparing the stats, burglary reduced by 64%, theft calls were down 31%. He felt it was a direct correlation to the increased patrol the City allowed for.

VII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Beyerl shared an update from the joint MPO meeting between Albany and Corvallis, indicating the big topic was Hwy 20 between the 2 cities. They also discussed merging the two MPO's but a final decision was made to keep them separate.

Councilor Perry reminded everybody that the City would be hosting the LOC Small Cities Meeting in February and the primary subject was the census.

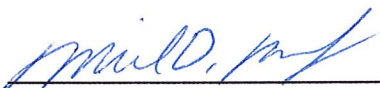
Mayor Myers reminded everybody of the WTP ground breaking ceremony the following Wednesday at 11am. He also shared a conversation he had with a Statesman Journal reporter regarding affordable housing. He wanted to hear more people talk about how Jefferson could handle new development from an infrastructure perspective, noting that a community that isn't at least growing to some degree, is dying. He was curious why surrounding cities such as Turner and Millersburg had so much development occurring and proposed they invite the Salem Home Builders Assoc. and the Willamette Valley Home Builders Assoc. to a Council meeting where they could have a conversation about it, and hear their perspective on what seems to be the impediment of building in Jefferson. Council agreed and they would be invited to the May and July worksessions.

VIII. STAFF COMMENTS

Jeff Buskirk shared information he'd obtained from ODOT regarding cross walks at Union/Hwy 99 and Church/Hwy 99. There was a permitting process, which required an engineered design. If permission was granted, the City would also have to upgrade the handicap accesses to current standards. In that conversation, the engineer wondered about the flashing pedestrian lights, which ran about \$20k. Jeff said another person at ODOT was looking to see if funds were available to assist.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Dave Beyerl moved; Councilor Rossiter seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:30pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 27th day of February, 2020.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder