

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting
November 18, 2021
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: David Watkins, Walt Perry, Mayor Michael Myers, David Kellogg, Dave Beyerl, Bob Rossiter

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Patrick McKenzie

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD

I. **CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE** - Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:31pm and led in the flag salute.

II. **OLD BUSINESS**

2.1 Old Gas Station – Splash Pad Park Update

Sarah Cook briefly summarized the data that had been collected since the last meeting, including comments from several cities with splash pads, statements from the City's liability and risk management insurance agents, as well as ODOT.

Moving down the line, Councilor Kellogg expressed his only real concern was in regards to the treatment of the water, sharing another city's story about a brain eating bacteria. Councilor Beyerl thought all the information provided was good, but he still was not in favor of the location. Councilor Perry felt the town needed a source of entertainment and he liked the idea, the communication with ODOT, and thought the City staff had proven time and again their good watch system. Councilor Watkins questioned how much it would get utilized and had concerns surrounding the safety and maintenance. Councilor Rossiter agreed with the safety concerns and suggested the splash pad idea be put off until a safer place came available. Councilor Kellogg felt there was too much focus put on the safety risks and not enough on solutions for it, which he believed could be easily addressed. His only question went back to the cleanliness and treatment of the water. Jeff Buskirk spoke on the systems that re-circulated the water, which most towns avoided for that reason, and thought it would be best to just run the water and let it drain. There was brief discussion on the type of concrete to prevent slipping.

Mayor Myers reminded the Council they currently had 3 separate park properties to consider, and it had taken a number of years to obtain them. The other two locations would not work for a splash pad. If the Council was concerned about the safety of the proposed location, he said they could be waiting a long while, as they don't know when an opportunity would come again. Further, he wanted Council to recognize that it was brought before them because developing a park was new for the City, but down the road, they wouldn't have their hands in the details. The Council's job was to create policy and staff would take it from there, and like everything else in the City, such as City Hall and the treatment plant, it would run itself.

Mark Manning – 3rd St, commented that the value was much greater than just the aesthetics, noting it would be a magnet to draw people to town and down Main Street and further into the City. The location was key, because it was the entry to the City. He noted the crosswalks that already existed, the signal, and well lit area, make it the safest place on the highway, noting the lack of sidewalks, signals, and crosswalks most of the entire stretch. Yet, all year long, kids walked along and across the highway to access the library, pool, schools, and stores. In terms of vandalism, he thought the would-be park as a fishbowl, out in plain sight for all to see, which he believed would deter vandals.

Before staff moved ahead with any more work on the idea, Mayor Myers asked the Council if the location alone was a show stopper, for which it was for Councilors Watkins, Rossiter, and Beyerl. With that, Mayor Myers indicated to staff that moving forward with a splash pad would be a waste of time and they were back to square one. Jeff Buskirk shared information on a possible development that would require donation of park land, totaling about 1.3 acres; however, nothing had been filed at that point, so there were a lot of unknowns.

III. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 American Rescue Plan Funds (ARP)

Councilor Beyerl thought the information and ideas were well presented and a good, relevant use of the funds. There was brief discussion on the types of community support that could go out, with a sense that needs for vaccine clinics were less and less. All agreed and Council directed the City Manager to move forward with the plans for distribution of the funds as laid out.

IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

4.1 Upcoming Holiday Events

Tree Lighting, Light Up the Town Contest, Christmas at the Center, and the City's Annual Holiday Dinner were all coming in December. The dinner would be held at the Community Center on Friday, Dec. 17th and Councilor Perry volunteered to prepare turkey and ham on behalf of the City Council.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Beyerl moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Watkins. Discussion: clarification was provided for Councilor Kellogg on invoices for the City's software, contract water certification signer, and the annual loan payment for the WWTP. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VI. VISITORS


Patti Ball commented on the first meeting of community partners, where they heard from Turner about how their program has been run for 15 years. She was excited to get it going and looking forward to making those connections. She also reported an event they were planning on June 11th, Glen Marlatt Day.

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

David Watkins said Adaptive Broadband would be upgrading their service on the tower. Walt Perry shared that the City would be hosting the Small Cities LOC lunch meeting in February. Dave Beyerl indicated surveys would be out soon regarding the Regional Transportation Plan and encouraged all to participate actively.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Beyerl moved, seconded by Councilor Kellogg. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 9th day of December, 2021.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder