

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting & Public Hearing Via Zoom
June 25, 2020 - 3:30pm

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD (3:50pm)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Myers called the zoom meeting to order at 3:32pm and verified attendance.
- II. **PUBLIC HEARING** – FY 2020-21 Budget Adoption Hearing

Mayor Myers opened the hearing at 3:32pm and read the purpose of the hearing, the background and summary and called for any abstentions. There were none. Mayor Myers confirmed with the City Manager that no written testimony had been received for the hearing before calling for any public testimony. There was none. With no questions from the Council, the hearing was closed at 3:36pm.

III. **OLD BUSINESS** – none

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 Resolution #1064, Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenue - Councilor Beyerl moved to approve the resolution and Councilor Campau seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

4.2 Resolution #1065, Adopting the 2020-2021 Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing and Categorizing Taxes – Councilor Perry moved to approve the resolution. Councilor Beyerl seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

4.3 Resolution #1066, Authorizing a Transfer Within the General Fund to Correct Unanticipated Requirements for FY 2019-20 - Councilor Campau moved to approve the resolution; seconded by Councilor Watkins. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

V. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

5.1 Racial Equity Information from NLC

Mayor Myers noted the great deal happening in the state and nationally, adding the National League of Cities had put forth discussion topics and recommendations. Many organizations and cities had made statements on the matter and he was curious if the City Council had interest in putting together a statement on racial justice or anti-racism for Jefferson. If so, he suggested a couple Councilors prepare a draft for the others to review.

Councilor Beyerl thought the City should see what MCSO thought and if there would be interest in joining them on a statement. Councilor Webster thought the message should unequivocally convey the City as welcoming to all, and that it should be their very own statement, even if just a few sentences. She volunteered to help create it. Councilor Rossiter noted how unfortunate the whole thing was, and though unintentional, much of it was because of how they grew up and he thought they needed to look at what had been done to see if they hadn't inadvertently behaved in such a way to offend anyone. He would be interested in hearing from the community on what they wanted to hear or what might be offensive to them. Councilor Perry noted it was an uncomfortable subject for many and the heavy media spotlight didn't make it any easier. He felt Jefferson was a tolerant and very polite community; always accepting. He supported an

inclusion statement from the City. Councilor Campau agreed and saw the need to recruit to try to get people of color more involved. Councilor Watkins noted it wasn't simply about color; it was race, noting he'd experienced it many times. He was totally in favor of a statement that said the City didn't differentiate.

Mayor Myers summarized everybody's comments and suggested moving forward with Councilor Webster and Watkins to lead in preparing a statement. He further suggested asking the Library Director if more materials could be brought in that addressed some of the long-term disparities that have occurred in the country as an educational resource. The Council requested the statement be run by Marion County Sheriff's Office as well and that the City supports them.

5.2 LOC's 2021 Legislative Agenda Topic Selection

Council reviewed the topics for the 2021 legislative agenda provided by the LOC and Mayor Myers read through the list, tallying those of interest amongst the Council. The City needed to select their top 4 topics and submit them back to the League. The topics selected by Council were as follows:

Digital Equity & Inclusion
Long-Term Transportation Infrastructure Funding
Municipal Broadband & Municipal Pole Protection
Right-of-Way/Franchise Fee Authority Preservation

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Perry moved to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Councilor Watkins. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. APPROVED.

VII. VISITORS – none

VIII. COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

Audrey Webster thanked staff for their hard work and continuing to provide great services during these times.

Walt Perry announced he and Councilor Watkins were happy to report the Chamber of Commerce would be moving forward again, as they had recently elected a new President.

Sarah Cook inquired with the Council about their feelings to continue holding off on late fees and shut-off's for non-payment. Councilor Webster felt strongly about continuing, noting the City needed to offer grace during these times when so many people were without work and still waiting on unemployment. There was mention of creating a sunset date to re-instate the fees and shut-off's; however, with the virus continuing to rise and so many things still unknown, the Council decided to hold off and review the matter every couple months.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT** - Councilor Watkins moved; Walt seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 4:20pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of July, 2020.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder