

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Regular Council Meeting  
Public Hearing  
December 12, 2019  
6:30pm

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Bob Rossiter, Walt Perry, Mayor Michael Myers, David Watkins, Audrey Webster

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** Dave Beyerl, Edna Campau

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Deputy Garrett Olson, 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

Mayor Myers and Ron Gilles presented the next historic preservation award to Mark & Tamara Manning, who reside at 245 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Their home was built in 1893 in Italianate Victorian style. Mark and Tami came forward to accept their award and pose for photos. Mayor Myers thanked them for all their work in the community.

- II. **PUBLIC HEARING – 3<sup>rd</sup> St. LID for Sidewalks**

Mayor opened the hearing at 6:40pm and read the hearing statement, background and summary. There were no declarations of conflict of interest, bias or any other abstention by any Council members. He confirmed no written testimony had been received before calling for oral testimony.

Nancy Chappell lived at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Hazel, and expressed her unhappiness about the plan for sidewalks. She understood it was an opportunity, since the other side of the road was being improved by the apartments going in; however, she felt the money would be better spent by improving sidewalks around the schools. She was against the apartments going in, adding it would decrease her privacy and property value, and likely increase crime.

Patti Ball, 554 S Main – was neither for or against the sidewalks, but wondered about any resources that might be available for low income people. Sarah Cook explained the 10 year pay back option, requiring just one payment per year.

With no further testimony, Mayor Myers called for questions from Council. There were none. With that, the hearing closed at 6:50pm and the Council moved into deliberation.

Councilor Webster wondered if others shared the opinion of the testimony received, noting that Robert's Rules indicates a silent party is considered in agreement. She suggested leaving the record open to allow comments from other parties that were not present. Council considered this option and Mayor Myers explained the process. There was discussion on the timing with the apartment construction starting soon. Councilor Watkins wondered what would change if they re-opened the public hearing, noting there were in fact 3 of the 4 parties present in the audience, and opportunities to speak were given. At that time, a homeowner expressed a desire to comment so Mayor Myers called upon Council for a motion to re-open the hearing. Councilor Watkins moved to re-open the hearing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. sidewalk LID to allow for further public comment. Councilor Webster seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. The hearing was re-opened at 6:56pm and Mayor Myers noted the hearing statement, background and summary had already been read into the record previously.

Ruben Cantu, 136 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St. – agreed with the previous testimony; they did not want to move forward with the sidewalk LID. Hannah Keith, residing at the same address, indicated they purchased their first home 10 months ago with the intention of fixing up the house itself. She agreed the sidewalks could be beneficial down the road, but they couldn't afford it now. With emotion, she explained how hard they worked to buy their house and that they were living paycheck to paycheck, so they did not have the money to pay for sidewalks they didn't need.

With no further comments the Mayor closed the hearing at 6:59pm and moved back into Council deliberations. Councilor Webster talked through various options, suggesting the City do the street and curb portion and not the sidewalks. Jeff Buskirk said it could likely be done, but went on to speak about grading issues it would create, not to mention the added liability it would place on the homeowners because it would basically create a ditch between the curb and their yards. He reminded the Council that it is the homeowner's responsibility to pay for sidewalks *and* curbs; however, they were only seeking reimbursement for the sidewalks. Councilor Webster did not feel they were making a strong case for a need to do the sidewalk improvements with 1 no comment, 2 opposed, and 1 not present.

Councilor Rossiter was conflicted, as he understood the concerns and financial hardship of the homeowners, but was also aware of the difficulty created by only doing part of the project, as well as the danger in not completing it. Councilor Watkins indicated they had to consider the benefit to the whole community, noting it was an improvement to the town, but it was a difficult issue and he hoped Ms. Chappell's trees could be saved. Councilor Perry noted one of the attractions to Jefferson was that it was a rural community and he was unsure how to compromise from one side to the other, noting even in large cities, they had areas where sidewalks were on just one side. He stated, if the only reason to move forward with putting sidewalks on the other side was because there was room, for a grand total of 4 houses, he did not see the financial or the esthetic value at that time. Councilor Webster felt it was already enough stress for the homeowners having the new apartments coming.

Mayor Myers sought input from the Public Works Director as to the best option, whether it be just the  $\frac{3}{4}$  street, or a full street with curb, or something else, should the Council deny the sidewalk LID. Jeff Buskirk thought the best option would be the full street with a curb; however, he'd have to consult with the engineer about how best to backfill the gap, which would be an added expense to the City, but shouldn't be left undone. Councilor Rossiter wondered about tabling it until all Councilors were present. The rest of Council thought that was a good idea, which would allow them to obtain more information from the City Engineer to bring back. Sarah Cook would verify the hearing requirements, noting all the mailers and publications would likely need to be re-done so time needed to be allowed for that. Councilor Webster moved to conduct the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. sidewalk LID hearing again at the February 13, 2020 worksession. Councilor Perry seconded. All 4 were in favor.

**III. OLD BUSINESS – none**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Resolution #1057, Authorizing a Loan from Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund by Entering into a Financing Contract with the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) – Councilor Watkins moved to approve. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed 0. **APPROVED.**
- 4.2 Resolution #1058, Creating a COJ Technology Committee and Repealing Resolution# 1025 – Councilor Webster moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Rossiter. Discussion: Audrey shared the purpose of the change was to add the option for people living outside the City but within the UGB

to join the committee as an advisory member. It also added protection to prevent technology vendors from serving on the committee, which would be a conflict. All 4 were in favor. **APPROVED.**

- V. **CONSENT AGENDA** – The minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup> were removed because Councilor Webster was not present. Bob Rossiter moved to accept the rest of the consent agenda and Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VI. **DISCUSSION/INFO**

- 6.1 PSU Population Estimate – FYI
- 6.2 Code Enforcement Update from COG – Sarah Cook summarized the email from Renata Wakely at COG, noting it was still in the works; however, several things had come up for Renata and this topic took a back seat for a bit. She hoped there would be another update soon, but for now, staff was handling it adequately.

VII. **COMMITTEE/DEPT UPDATES**

Library – no new info  
LAC – heard previously  
AD-HOC – group agreed to meet on advisory basis only; regular updates would continue to come to Council, but no great need to hold formal monthly meetings  
Planning – no new info  
Chamber – lot of research on re-creating the group; they lost focus on businesses and got into other fundraising things for various events, which was good, but needed to be more business oriented. Hoped to start a campaign after the new year.  
TAC & MPO – joint meeting; understanding financial updates re: money left over in transportation funds; unified planning work program draft coming up  
MWACT – no new info  
FOL – continuous fundraising; case work installation coming in January, paid for by FOL  
Parks & Rec – need basketball coaches  
Fire Board – raising pay for paramedics and EMT's with the passage of the Local Option Levy; in need of personnel and need 1 budget committee member  
School Board – no new info  
Technology – membership criteria change; researched providers for phone/internet; selected Adaptive BB; getting recording and more microphones going on YouTube; will be looking at security of the internal office computers in the coming year  
150<sup>th</sup> – moving along; bus service to the farms will be donated by the bus barn

VIII. **VISITORS**

Frank & Patti Ball – provided an update on the Conser House restoration, noting communication between JHS&M, Jeff and Sarah at the City was moving along; managing CLG grant and working with contractors; new gutter system on front of Conser House, proper drainage and support; insulation under the house installed; material for porch decking came out of Eugene and was at Frere's until the weather improved.

IX. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Audrey would need to leave the meetings by 8pm through January, but could be more flexible after that.

Bob shared information from the monthly commissioner's breakfast meeting, including a lesson about the jail system, the Norpac bankruptcy and Sedcor's work with them.

Walt remind everybody of the holiday dinner that Sunday and that Jefferson would be the host of the small cities networking meeting in February.

Mayor Myers spoke about the Mayor's coalition meeting, which was held at the new hotel in Independence. In speaking with the man that ran the hotel, he was informed one of the reasons they selected Independence was because of their fiber telecommunication availability.

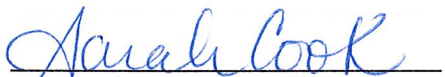
- X. **ADJOURN** – Walt Perry moved, seconded by Bob Rossiter. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 8pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2020.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder