

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting
Public Hearing & Executive Session
July 22, 2021
6:30pm

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Brianna Hutley, City Clerk; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Alex Kemmer, Utility Operator

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

- II. **PUBLIC HEARING** – 5th Street LID for Sidewalks

Mayor Myers opened the hearing at 6:31pm and provided the purpose of the hearing, the background, and summary. Upon calling for new testimony, Sarah Cook announced she had received testimony from Gail and Paul Davis, via email at 4:24pm, and read it into the record since it was not received in time to include it in the public Council packets.

Ken Long, 213 S 3rd St – was not opposed entirely, as he saw the benefit, and felt the reduced rate of \$30/foot was more acceptable and easier to manage, though he'd rather not pay any of it. Mayor Myers explained staff's reassessment of the fee, which had been reduced to cover only the concrete for the sidewalks. He also spoke on the prevailing wage restriction the City must adhere to. Jeff Buskirk said he would include the 15' driveway apron on Mr. Long's property, as there is no other access to that vacant parcel.

With no further testimony and no questions from the Council, the hearing was closed at 6:42pm and Mayor Myers called for Council deliberation. Councilor Beyerl indicated the importance of it being done, noting it had been planned for many years. Councilor Kellogg confirmed with staff that all required notices had gone out, to which Sarah Cook explained the certified mail that had been returned, that notices had been published in the newspaper, local postings, and City's website. Councilor McKenzie had mixed feelings, noting he was concerned with the written comments in opposition, but understood it needed to be done. Councilor Rossiter sympathized with the homeowners over the costs, but he too understood the necessity of the project. Councilor Perry reminded everybody the purpose of sidewalks was for pedestrian safety, noting the opening of 5th Street could alleviate some traffic from Greenwood and Columbia, thus increasing traffic on 5th Street, so he felt the sidewalk project was necessary for the safety of pedestrians in that area. Councilor Watkins agreed with all that had been said.

Mayor Myers commented that the City had initiated a few LID's, though not frequently, because it took years to save for major street improvements. He understood the financial concerns from property owners, but took exception to those saying they had not been notified. The City had done more than what was required and he was unapologetic about the process; however, he did sympathize with them over the costs. That said, he pointed out, the 5th Street project was the number one project on the Transportation System Plan for 20 years, noting the City had done a phenomenal job to reduce the homeowner costs, and it was time.

Councilor Beyerl moved to establish the Local Improvement District for sidewalks along 5th Street, utilizing staff's amended assessment cost of \$30 per linear foot of sidewalk frontage, and ordered the improvements be carried out. Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 1 (McKenzie). **APPROVED.**

III. **OLD BUSINESS** – none

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Resolution #1077, Setting the COLA for FY 2021-22 to Establish the Adjustment of Employee Salaries Based on the CPI and Recognizing the Decision to Forego COLA Increases to Water & Sewer Rates for the Same Period

Mayor Myers noted the water and sewer rates would not be affected for the second year in a row. Councilor Beyerl moved to approve Resolution #1077; seconded by Councilor Rossiter. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed –

0. **APPROVED.**

V. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION** – None

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA** – Councilor Rossiter moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Beyerl seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VII. **VISITORS** – None

VIII. **COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Councilor Beyerl commented that the City, when doing LID projects, had been very considerate of homeowner's financial burdens by reducing costs to just that of the sidewalks, when statute identified the homeowners responsibility to include curbs as well. Councilor Rossiter thanked those that attended the meeting, noting it was nice having people present and involved. Councilor Perry shared that Marion County Health would come to homes for administration of vaccines for seniors and people with disabilities that have no other means to travel to vaccination sites. Mayor Myers invited all to the Conser House Pre-Opening on August 2nd and National Night Out on August 3rd.

Sarah Cook provided an update on the receipt of ARP Funds, which had been delayed due to the State's untimely filing. She also provided a brief update on the City Clean Up Day, which was very well attended. Finally, she asked for interested members of Council to let her know in the next few days if they wanted to attend the upcoming in-person LOC Conference, and she would get them registered. Councilors Perry and Watkins expressed interest. Jeff Buskirk shared that with the water treatment plant project winding down and testing on the system underway, the radio read meters had been purchased. Council was pleased to hear the progress.

IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION***ORS 192.660 (2)(I) – Performance Evaluations of Public Officers and Employees**

Mayor Myers, after citing the above ORS to the public, excused the Council, Jeff Buskirk, and Sarah Cook to the conference room for the executive session at 7:14pm. Council reconvened and entered back into regular session at 7:28pm.


Councilor Perry moved to approve a merit increase for Jeff Buskirk, Public Works Director. Councilor Beyerl seconded the motion and complimented Jeff on a job well done, noting Jeff always looked out for the City and was a pleasure to work with. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

Councilor Beyerl moved to approve a merit increase for Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder. Councilor Rossiter seconded. Mayor Myers complimented Sarah's ability to manage a heavy work load, noting she had

reduced his tremendously, and she was favorably spoken of in several organizations in and outside the City.
All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

X. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Beyerl moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Perry. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:30pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of September, 2021.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder