

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
City Council Worksession  
February 13, 2020  
6:30pm

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

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; MCSO Deputy Garrett Olson, Deputy Aaron West, Lieutenant Chris Baldrige

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

- II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

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

Mayor Myers opened the hearing at 6:32pm, read the hearing and background statement, including the purpose of the hearing, and called for conflicts, bias or abstentions. There were none. Staff confirmed no written testimony had been received.

Oral testimony:

Nancy Chappell, 290 Hazel St – said she was at the first hearing and while the price was better, she still objected to the project. She was opposed to the traffic that would be brought on by the apartments and noted a huge loss in her quality of life. In driving around town she discovered there were 6 blocks with sidewalks on one side and asked the Council to consider not putting sidewalks on both sides where she lived.

Hannah Keith, 136 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St. – indicated they bought their house because it was in a rural community and she felt the same way as Ms. Chappell. She inquired about the addition of street lights because the area was very dark. Jeff Buskirk explained there were no requirements for added lighting but he agreed it was dark and would look into costs for additional lighting, as well as where the nearest transformer was.

Ean Perkins, 205 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St. – said if the apartments weren't coming, there wouldn't be a requirement for the sidewalks, so it was just an opportunity for the City. He said when he looked out his door, he was saddened by the apartments going in and expressed frustration that there was nothing the community could do about it because the owner of the land could build what they wanted as long as it met some basic criteria. He didn't feel the public had the opportunity to object, noting he had taken the time to speak with the Planner and attended the Planning Commission meeting when the subject was discussed. Moving on to the subject at hand, Mr. Perkins inquired about overflow parking from the apartments that would end up along Hazel St. Jeff Buskirk, the City's Public Works Director, indicated about half of the block was already marked "no parking" and to his knowledge that wouldn't change; however, streets were public. Jeff was also of the understanding that the apartment parking would all be on site.

Yesenia Cortez – inquired about the possibility of additional police coverage with 30 new apartment units coming into town and the number of people it would bring. Mayor Myers noted that was the next topic.

Questions from Council:

Councilor Perry confirmed that the sidewalk requirements would be the same if it were individual houses going in instead of apartments.

Councilor Rossiter commented that whether there was a sidewalk or not on the other side, people could still park there, on the shoulder. It seemed to him that having a curb and sidewalk would at least identify where driveways were located and where they could and couldn't park.

Councilor Webster announced she commented that afternoon on a Facebook post on the Jefferson Oregon Community Group page about the subject, which could be ex-parte contact. She confirmed that it did not impact her view or provide her with any added information that hadn't been brought up. She inquired about issues that could arise if the Council chose not to put sidewalks in, to which Jeff Buskirk explained everywhere streets were built, they tried to put full sidewalks in. Without curbs, the street would drain into the gravel. He noted, they could just put curbs in, but the City's standards called for sidewalks.

Councilor Campau added it was not something new, as Council had just implemented a LID last year. It was how improvements got done where you had older infrastructure.

With no further testimony or questions, Mayor Myers closed the hearing at 6:57pm and called for Council deliberation & decision.

Edna Campau moved to proceed with the LID for 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, seconded by Councilor Perry. Discussion: Councilor Webster expressed her indecision, noting she was torn because the public and homeowners that would be directly impacted were present saying they don't want it; however, as a Council they needed to think of the long-term effect on the City. Councilor Watkins agreed and questioned the options homeowners would have to pay, to which Sarah Cook provided. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 2 (Audrey, David W.) **APPROVED.**

#### B. Police Service Funding Discussion

Mayor Myers indicated there was a lot of information before them and it was not necessary to make a decision at that point. In response to Councilor Webster's question about process, Sarah Cook explained if the Council chose the levy route, it would go on the ballot for voter approval, and if they opted for the public safety fee, there would be a series of public hearings and a resolution adopted by the Council to implement the fee, similar to the process taken for the \$2 storm water fee.

Referring to the information about taxes, Mayor Myers noted how low Jefferson's rate was, which could not be changed. Councilor Beyerl added that the City currently budgeted to receive \$338k in property taxes; however, the cost of two deputies was about \$369k, so roughly \$31k was coming out of other General Fund revenues to cover police services. He also pointed out that they were behind in the number of deputies a City should have per capita, indicating they should already be at three, and looking at a fourth. Open discussion took place amongst the Council on the process of the levy, whether there was time to get it on the November ballot, and what to do if it wasn't approved. Councilor Webster commented that even though it would be a hard pill to swallow, she thought they needed to consider the fee, explaining how the levy would be a battle every 5 years and the fee provided more permanent stability. Councilor Watkins agreed, but wondered if they should put a levy out first so the public had a voice, then perhaps implement a fee if it didn't pass.

Ean Perkins, commenting from the audience, expressed his support for the police and thought use of social media was a great way to get information out to the public about it. Brief discussion between Mr. Perkins and the Council ensued, with him noting there was just a couple dollars difference between the possible fee and what the average tax would be. In the long run, he felt it was worth it to keep the police rushing to a person's home that needed it. Mayor Myers suggested the topic come back to the March worksession, where they could further analyze numbers and plan how they would educate the public through town hall style gatherings, social media, or other means. Councilor Rossiter shared he chatted with Sheriff Kast during the monthly

commissioner's breakfast often and had expressed to him the need for additional police services. He noted it could take about a year to get an additional officer due to the timing in hiring, training, etc.

Lt. Chris Baldrige commented that the City was spot on with their discussion, adding how MCSO really pushed community policing and was pleased to see that people knew the deputies by name and were comfortable talking to them. He said when a deputy worked alone, there were times when they got into situations where they needed back up and it was usually a long ways away for somebody to respond. Having a 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy would help. As to the costs, he explained the County made zero dollars off the contracts; it was a 1 to 1 cost passed on to contract cities. He looked forward to further discussing the topic with them the following month.

#### C. 2020 Rate Review

Councilor Rossiter was surprised by how low the gazebo rental deposit was, to which Sarah Cook noted only 2 people had rented it in all the years it had been available. She further summarized the other minor changes being proposed, noting the Library fee proposals were simply to bring them in line with what CCRLS was already doing. The Council agreed by consensus that they should come back for adoption.

**III. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Walt Perry moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Beyerl. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

#### **IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Historical Society – Dillon working on a microfiche reader at the Library; Jefferson was entered into the Home Town Contest on HGTV; make a difference day getting organized; pioneer history book available soon  
150<sup>th</sup> – Open House went well; a few new volunteers, but more needed  
MPO – no new info  
Chamber – collecting email addresses; receiving feedback from community  
Planning – no new info  
Technology – general discussion about future topics  
Fire – ordered a new ambulance; 4 manufacturers bid on the tender and will award it Tuesday  
Parks & Rec – spring/summer sports sign ups coming; looking budget committee members  
Library – book sale ongoing; silent auction for bookcases; ALA grant award  
Landmarks – no new info  
MWACT – mostly maintenance and carryover from last year  
LOC – we hosted small cities meet; water line preemption program  
TAC – Unified Planning Work Program ready for final signature; every 6 months they will have joint meetings

**V. VISITORS** – none

**VI. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Councilor Webster wished Sarah Cook a happy birthday.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Beyerl moved, Bob Rossiter seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 8:07pm

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

  
Michael D. Myers

ATTEST:  
  
Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder