

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Council Worksession  
March 12, 2020  
6:30pm

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

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** None

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute. An addition to the agenda, item C, was added to include discussion about the Coronavirus.

- II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

- A. Police Funding: Levy vs. Public Safety Fee -Cont'd

Mayor Myers explained the primary budget person at Marion County Sheriff's Office had been out sick for an extended time so there were no real numbers to discuss yet. Councilor Beyerl commented that he was leaning toward the fee approach instead of a levy, but would wait for additional information. Mayor Myers pointed out the levy addressed property owners only; whereas, the alternative approach addressed each unit; essentially everybody. He also noted the levy would need to be renewed every 5 years, while the fee could be permanent. Mayor Myers noted more information would be provided as soon as it was made available by the County.

- B. Council Mission Statement & Goals

Councilor Perry noted he had given the matter a lot of thought and given the troubles from a few years ago, he suggested a Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct be created that candidates or incoming Councilors should sign and agree to before taking a position. He thought doing so would give new-comers an idea of the expectations, a better understanding, and provide an opportunity to educate them on keeping an open mind and serving for the good of the community, not their own agenda. Councilor Webster noted they took an oath verbally in a public meeting and felt a code of ethics would be redundant, adding that people who behaved unethically likely wouldn't stop because of an additional step.

In response to Councilor Rossiter's question about the candidate application form, Sarah Cook explained the forms were from Marion County Elections and not the City's; however, the verbal oath could be edited however the Council saw fit, because it was the City's form and ceremonial. She further explained that if the applicant was to sign a code of ethics or something similar, they would need to do so at the time of submitting their candidate forms to her, because once the election was done, they were voted in and the decision was already made. There was further open discussion amongst staff and the Council on the subject, with everybody agreeing of the importance of an applicant to know what they were signing on for, expectations, responsibilities, etc. Councilor Watkins suggested something like a brief job description that could be included in the candidate packets and everybody agreed that would be a good solution.

Mayor Myers explained how the state had clarified what was ethical and what was not, as it related to conduct and when those lines were crossed, the state took care of it. However, in terms of those that came in with a vision or direction on specific ideas, he felt those were appropriate to have, given the proper process was followed. Once on Council, there were clear and specific guidelines that must be adhered to. Those who choose to go beyond that would find out the consequences of that behavior, as was seen in the past.

Moving on to discussion of a mission or goals statement, Councilor Watkins was concerned that the City's was not current and thought they needed to think bigger in terms of goals and projects. Councilor Beyerl agreed they needed to look at the bigger picture, but disagreed on having it included in a mission statement because it narrowed it down too much. He suggested those types of things be included in a separate plan, to which Sarah Cook pointed out the best place for those was the Strategic Plan, which was updated last year. Mayor Myers agreed, noting that adding it to the Strat Plan as a separate section would be the best way.

Councilor Webster recalled discussions about visioning were put on hold a while back because there was a lot of strife in the community at that time; however, she felt things had settled and it was time to readdress, but wondered if visioning or the strategic plan review came first. All agreed without a vision, there would be nothing to include in a strategic plan. There was discussion about generating a vision amongst the Council first, then seeking community input, which all agreed was the process that should be taken, noting they were the leaders and should come up with their own individual ideas for the City's needs and vision. Councilor Campau pointed out there were so many things on the list that couldn't get done without a Chamber for instance, and some projects were just too much money, like S. Main St., additional deputies, etc. Mayor Myers summarized the discussion and agreed with Councilor Rossiter, in that Councilors should plan to bring back individual ideas that could be added to the City's vision, noting it was ok if it was something that was already in the strategic plan. He asked Councilors to forward their ideas to the City Manager and the topic would be brought back to the May worksession.

#### C. City Response to Coronavirus

Sarah Cook explained it was the City's responsibility to put out current information and keep it updated as best they could, noting the need to site factual information and sources. She had been updating the City's website, as well as utilizing Nixle and Facebook for information sharing. Councilor Watkins said everything the City was doing was spot on and they needed to continue stressing to people not to panic, the City was there for them as staff availability permitted, etc. Mayor Myers reminded them that individual Councilors should not be addressing members of the public, offering guidance, and so on, in an effort to refrain from spreading false information. They needed to let Sarah Cook be the point of contact for the City and let staff do the talking. Sarah briefed the Council on internal discussions, noting decisions had been made to eliminate late fees and termination of utility services for the time being, and allow staff to utilize sick time for expanded reasons, including caring for their child(ren) since school had been cancelled.

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

#### **IV. COMMITTEE/DEPT UPDATES**

Historical Society – green mountain grill to raffle off with proceeds to Conser House restoration; working on more grants; setup museum field trip for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

150<sup>th</sup> – meeting cancelled; lined up traveling historical narrative for farm tours; yellow baron doing fly over at start of parade with 2 WWII restored training planes; several high school groups agreed to take care of clean up, running parade, etc and contributions would be made to those groups

MPO – no new info

Chamber – little progress; contacting people who provide service in the City but don't live here; trying to attract new life or people without past experience of prior chamber

Planning – met regarding partition at 555 S. Main

Technology – met with Danielle Gonzalez from MC re: dig once and conduit to the home policies; conf call with consultant group working with the cities; will be set up for a really positive future; movement to get things pushed under the railroad

Fire Board – new ambulance ordered; awarded the tender bid to a Hillsboro company; coronavirus info shared  
Parks & Rec – April to June the old middle school gym unavailable due to the demolition of the school

Library – no new info

LAC – meeting delayed; all houses being awarded have been selected through October

MWACT -no new info

LOC – hosted the small cities meeting

TAC – no new info

## V. VISITORS

Wendy Sampels, Hazel St. – commented that something needed to be done at the intersection of Hazel and 2<sup>nd</sup> St., as it was so difficult to get out into traffic already, and would be worse when the new apartments were filled. She understood it was ODOT's road; however, she thought a request for a sign or traffic signal was in order. Deputy Olson confirmed he had sat in line waiting quite some time to pull out as well. Jeff Buskirk, PWD, would see about making contact with somebody from ODOT. Discussion ensued about the possibility of a traffic study.

## VI. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Bob Rossiter attended the school board meeting and complimented Brad Capener for his attempts to increase the opportunity for kids to learn by creating a behavior education plan for those more challenging to handle. He also noted over the summer the Mill City bridge would be out of commission for 3 months.

Mayor Myers spoke about the Mayor's Coalition the City hosted the night before, where about 17 Mayor's and their spouses attended. He shared information about ODOT approaching the City of Carlton with a redesign plan for the highway running through their town, which came as quite a surprise, given the trouble Jefferson had in getting a response from them. He also shared he had been asked to make a presentation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes about the role of a Mayor.

Jeff Buskirk, PWD shared information about his conversations with ODOT regarding two new crosswalks, noting the only money available was through the Safe Routes to School funding and if the City was awarded a grant, we would still have to match about 45%. His best guess was that it would cost the City about \$25k. He also informed the Council the lighting at 7<sup>th</sup> St was being upgraded.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Beyerl moved. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:47pm.

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

  
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Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder