

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession via Zoom
April 8, 2021
4:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Mayor Michael Myers, David Watkins, Dave Beyerl, David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter, Patrick McKenzie, Walt Perry
COUNCILORS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 4:31pm

II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

A. City Projects/Goals

City Manager, Sarah Cook briefly summarized the chart provided in the Council packets, which identified each City departments' upcoming projects that were planned for the next 1-2 years, estimated costs if known, the current status of the project, and which staff member was leading it.

Speaking about the recent properties the City acquired for parks, Mayor Myers noted that Frank Ball had contacts within the OSU Forestry Department and he had reached out to them to see if they had any interest in assisting with design and development of the wetland property. The designs for both the wetland property and the old gas station lot were very preliminary and staff was interested in the Council's feedback. Councilor Kellogg expressed concern with having public restrooms and felt the drawbacks outweighed any benefit. Public Works Director, Jeff Buskirk explained his vision that they would be concrete and stainless steel, auto-locking doors at a set time each day, and solar lighting, all of which would require minimal maintenance and upkeep. He further noted the Public Works crew had begun working on clearing the riverfront property of overgrown shrubs, bushes and dead trees and he planned to fence the back of the property where it dropped off to the river.

Mayor Myers moved through the packet to the Strategic Plan, asking for comments from Council on each section. Councilor Rossiter noted item B8 no longer applied and could be moved. Discussion took place on the continued need for a 3rd officer and Mayor Myers suggested bringing back information on implementing a safety fee. It would help the Council to determine the cost to add a deputy, the amount the City could fund, and what it would cost the rate payers. Councilor Beyerl recalled discussing it a few years back and the Council set it aside because they felt the amount was too high a fee to pass on to the citizens. Sarah Cook would do some research and bring back updated information to the May worksession. Councilor McKenzie felt a 3rd officer was more important than more parks, noting that with more parks, the need to have more enforcement would increase. Mayor Myers agreed, but explained the budget restrictions that didn't allow park funds to be spent on anything else. Further, thinking in terms of mental health and youth activities, he felt it was important to consider actual play parks for kids, with basketball courts or park equipment, which the City would need to acquire a larger area for.

Moving away from parks, Mayor Myers asked Jeff Buskirk what his next higher priorities were in terms of Public Works and infrastructure. Jeff explained he would like to see 5th street go through all the way to Cemetery Hill, noting the safety concerns due to lack of access when trains blocked the crossings. He wanted to get the wells all transferred down to the plant before they lost any rights. He spoke on the difference in water rights and the lengthy process of transferring them.

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

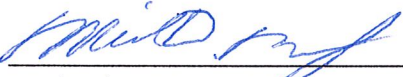
IV. **VISITORS** – none

V. **COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Mayor Myers asked for community updates from Councilors serving as liaisons to other groups. Councilor Beyerl spoke on the bike & pedestrian survey the AAMPO had out, noting they hadn't received many responses from the Jefferson area. Sarah Cook would send it out to all of them and re-post online. Councilor Watkins indicated the Chamber had been quiet, but Megan had been moving and was eager to get it going again. Mayor Myers shared that the 150th executive committee had met to discuss whether or not they should try to plan something. It was decided it would be in conjunction with National Night Out and used as a way to get a big draw to showcase Jefferson. Non-profits would be encouraged to have booths, there would be food and music as always, and lots of giveaways. More details would be pinned down in the coming weeks. Councilor Watkins reported he'd attended the Conser House meeting where they spoke of the idea to create a community calendar for all organizations, meetings and events to post to. He was very pleased with what they were doing. Councilor Beyerl encouraged everybody to consider donating their stimulus money to local non-profit programs in need. (lost connection with Walt Perry 5:05m)

VI. **ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Beyerl moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Kellogg. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 22nd day of April, 2021.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder