

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession Via Teleconference
May 14, 2020
3:30pm

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT: None

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

- I. Sarah Cook provided brief instructions for the teleconference and took attendance prior to Mayor Myers calling the session to order at 3:30pm.

II. WORKSESSION TOPICS

- A. Volunteer Application – Budget Committee

Councilor Beyerl moved to approve the application for Rod Beckner to serve on the Budget Committee. Councilor Watkins seconded. All in favor by roll call vote: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. (missing Councilor Perry) **APPROVED.**

- B. Cost of Living Allowance Discussion

Councilor Beyerl commented that he was fine skipping one year of COLA increases on the water and sewer rates, given the circumstances with Covid-19, but did not think it should become a regular occurrence. Councilor Webster suggested the City consider some sort of forgiveness process for families that had experienced extenuating circumstances due to Covid-19. Councilor Campau noted it would need a sunset date and she would not be in favor of forgiving entire balances, to which all agreed there should be some application process and decided it could be discussed separately another time. Councilor Beyerl moved to adopt staff's recommendation to forego the water and sewer rate increases for the COLA in fiscal year 2020-21. All in favor by roll call vote: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. (missing Councilor Perry) **APPROVED.**

On to the second part of the topic as it related to adjusting staff salaries for the cost of living allowance, Councilor Webster agreed with staff's recommendation and so moved to maintain the COLA for the upcoming year. Councilor Beyerl seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. (missing Councilor Perry) **APPROVED.**

- C. Update on 7th St. Park & Well

Jeff Buskirk shared information from discussions he had with Westech Engineering regarding the process of capping the well that was located on the property shared by the 7th St. Park. He explained the water rights to Well #4 were shared with Well #5 and the worry was losing the rights to both if one was abandoned. In reaching out to GSI Water Solutions in Portland, it was determined that doing away with one well would not affect the water rights of the other, so the well and housing could be removed from the 7th St. Park property, thus making it open and visible. Council was pleased with the information and Dave Beyerl suggested they proceed with removing them and then they could come back and discuss the future use of the lot. All agreed.

- III. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Councilor Beyerl moved to approve, seconded by David Watkins. All in favor by roll call vote: Ayes – 5, Opposed 0. (missing Councilor Perry) **APPROVED.**

IV. VISITORS

Rod Beckner, 484 Cemetery Hill Rd. – thanked the Council for approving him to serve on the budget committee and noted he had been doing his homework in reviewing the numbers and reports to get up to speed. To Mr. Beckner’s question regarding concerns about revenue loss, Mayor Myers explained a very conservative approach was used in the City’s budget planning and staff was extremely frugal.

V. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilor Campau welcomed Rod to the budget committee. She also shared that Linda Baker had submitted a request for proclamation to recognize Jefferson’s 150th birthday, to which Mayor Myers noted he received and staff would be working on.

Sarah Cook responded to Councilor Watkins inquiry regarding the new deputy assigned to the City and what safety measures they were using. He also shared information from the meeting he attended with Magellan Advisor’s who were working with the Silverton and Jefferson on technology related policies. Discussion took place on the City’s ability to know where all the lines were in town for the various service providers and how that information could be made available to the public. While all agreed having such information for emergency purposes would be good, it was not the City’s role to promote or recommend one service over the other, but rather provide a list of all vendors that serviced the area and leave it up to the developer, purchaser or customer to determine who they worked with.

Walt Perry re-joined the call at 4pm after having some technical difficulties with his line. He had no comments.

Councilor Beyerl and Webster thanked staff for their efforts in keeping the City running smoothly.

Mayor Myers noted Marion County had not been approved for re-opening in Phase 1 and there were additional conference calls the following day to further discuss the matter. Information would be made available as it was obtained. Second, he sought the Council’s approval to initiate a Planning Commission review of the ADU section of the Development Code, noting the reason being he believed it was the intent of the City to allow manufactured homes to be considered for ADU’s; however, the size criteria in the code was written in such a way that it was impossible to utilize a manufactured home because they did not make multi-sectional units in the required size. All Council agreed to move it on for review, with Councilor Beyerl noting the importance of maintaining the maximum size used previously.

The City’s Public Works Director, Jeff Buskirk provided an update on the lighting at the 7th St. Park, noting the lights had been changed to LED’s and a new light pole had been installed near the park. Another light pole was installed on University St. between 3rd and the railroad. As far as the water treatment plant project, Jeff explained the exterior walls of the clear well were poured and all the piping was in.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Beyerl moved; Councilor Watkins seconded. All 6 were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 4:12pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 28th day of May, 2020.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder