

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession
July 8, 2021
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Walt Perry, Bob Rossiter, Mayor Michael Myers, Dave Beyerl,
David Watkins
COUNCILORS ABSENT: Patrick McKenzie, David Kellogg
STAFF PRESENT: Deanna Donato, Deputy City Recorder; Jeff Buskirk, PWD

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

II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

A. Parks Discussion – Old Gas Station Property

Mayor Myers started the discussion noting the dream scenario presented; however, it came with some uncertainty and he hoped after Council discussed the various ideas, they would have a plan to move forward. With all agreeing the desire for landscaping and green space was a given, he suggested moving on to talk about the more permanent fixtures, adding that he thought the bike repair station was a great idea. Councilor Beyerl had concerns about supplying air and an air compressor in terms of vandalism, to which Jeff Buskirk explained there were manual air pumps that could be used. Councilor Rossiter said Cherriots had a bike repair station downtown with a manual pump and everything was mounted down securely and vandalism had not been an issue. Councilor Perry thought it would be a positive asset, considering the number of bicycle clubs that came through town. He thought it would be attractive and show that Jefferson was progressive. *There was a consensus of the Council to include a bike repair station at the site.*

Moving on, Mayor Myers inquired how the property would be watered, to which the Public Works Director, Jeff Buskirk, replied that there was service, but it was old and would need to be replaced. Councilor Beyerl suggested installation of a sprinkler system so Public Works didn't have to worry about turning it off and on. Discussion took place about the idea of a splash pad, with the overall concern being the location near the highway. Jeff Buskirk also spoke about having to treat the water, whether it could be recirculated, and that it would have to go to the sewer system, which was at the site. Councilor Perry liked the splash pad idea, and wasn't worried about the little kids as much as the older ones that seemed to do more damage, which would keep younger ones from utilizing the space. However, he thought a fountain with a few benches would be better suited for the location and provide the nice "welcome" all were hoping to achieve at that location. Councilor Watkins agreed, adding he'd like to see an artistic fountain with lighting, and further suggested something to divide the neighboring property, such as a wall or fence with a mural of some sort on it. *It was the consensus of Council to include a water fountain at the location, but not a splash pad; however, Mayor Myers expressed the need to keep looking for a way to bring something like that to Jefferson.*

Discussion moved to benches and Mayor Myers was interested in adding a small covered area with a picnic table for people to sit and rest as well. Councilor Beyerl shared that he was almost done with the benches, which should be mounted on a cement pad like what was done at the Library. He recommended placing a small tree near them to create shade so the metal wouldn't get too hot. *All agreed and the consensus of Council was to proceed with a small covered picnic area.* On to talk of restrooms, Mayor Myers said the major concern he was hearing was vandalism, but if that was always the focus of park discussions, they would never get anything built. Councilor Beyerl was in favor of restrooms but thought it was important that the interior could be pressure washed out, requiring minimal maintenance. Looking at the sample photos provided, Mayor Myers liked the design of the Portland Loo restroom as it related to space requirements. Councilor Beyerl and Watkins agreed, noting maintenance would be easy, some form of automatic locking mechanisms could be used, and they could be reconfigured if it didn't work out at that location. A suggestion to deter homeless from staying inside was to have an automatic washing system set up inside. Councilor Perry agreed and thought there should be two, depending on costs. He also agreed they couldn't simply dwell on the vandalism aspect, or they would get nowhere, and thought visibility and lighting needed to be a high priority, perhaps sensor or solar, to light up the area at little to no costs. *All agreed and Mayor Myers directed that it be added to the design. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with plans for the public restrooms.*

In wrapping up the discussion, Jeff Buskirk shared with the Council that Knife River was about to start work on 5th St and they were willing to put the dirt from that project onto the park property, and bring in a small cat to do the dirt work at an hourly rate.

III. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – Councilor Beyerl moved to approve the payables. Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. VISITORS

Edna Campau, 609 Union – invited the Council to the Conser House meet & greet, where large donors would be present. It would be a great opportunity to thank them for their contributions to seeing the restoration project through. Lemonade and cookies would be served on the lawn.

V. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Deputy Recorder, Deanna Donato, sought Council's input on City Hall office hours, noting since the Covid-19 pandemic, staff had arrived at the usual 8:30am, but did not open the office until 9am, allowing for time to sanitize public areas. With everything opened up again, she was curious what Council thought. The Council agreed to maintain the current timeline, with staff arriving at 8:30am and office hours from 9am – 5pm. In addition, she confirmed that all City committees could resume meeting in person.

Jeff Buskirk provided an update on the water treatment plant, stating the electrical panels had arrived and were getting wired in. In addition, he shared a map of 5th St showing the stop sign placements, noting they would alternate direction every other block. The work on 5th St was expected to start on July 19th.

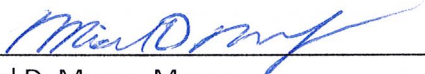
David Watkins wanted to keep the Zoom option available for future use and suggested a backup wifi system and public wifi. To that point, Walt Perry noted the progressive times they were in with the virtual ability to join the meeting, noting the two Councilors absent could have utilized that option or phoned in. He went on to share that he would prefer a big screen tv be used, rather than using the wall for the projector. Watkins was interested in looking into broadcasting the meetings and Mayor Myers was hopeful all the committees would get back into the swing of things so those types of things could be further researched.

Dave Beyerl commended the Public Works staff for reading meters in the extreme heat and cautioned them about working long periods of time in the direct heat. Jeff Buskirk said the new smart read meters had been ordered, which would do away with walking the town to manually read.

Mayor Myers shared information on several upcoming events: Marion County Fair honoring first responders that worked the canyon fires; City wide garage sales would run July 9-11; City clean-up day was the 17th; National Night Out was August 3rd; and July 29-31 he would be attending the annual Oregon Mayor's Association conference.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Beyerl moved; seconded by Councilor Rossiter. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 22nd day of July, 2021.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder