

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession
August 12, 2021
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter, Walt Perry, David Watkins, Patrick McKenzie, Mayor Michael Myers

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Dave Beyerl

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R

I. **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. Sedcor Presentation by Nick Harville – Mayor Myers provided some background about Jefferson for Nick’s benefit, noting it was primarily a commuter City with little industry. The broad brush strokes he’d like to hear about included how the City could expand its businesses, as well as addressing the downtown area.

Nick introduced himself, noting he’d been with Sedcor for 15 years, but had been working in economic development for 30. Sedcor covered Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties and had over 400 members. A fun fact he shared, 85% of jobs created in an area were from businesses that already existed. He explained the shift in what companies were looking for, which now included information about the workforce in the area. Nick spoke on the countless relationships that helped them along, including USDA, COG, RDI, and many others. One of their main functions was to help traded sector businesses grow, maintain, or relocate, which created jobs. They worked with companies to identify skill sets and met with school districts to discuss fundamental skills for youth entering the workforce. They support all their members, and treat them equally, whether they are paying dues or not. Nick shared statistics over the last several years, that displayed the amount of money invested and the number of jobs that were created or retained. He provided examples of Sedcor’s involvement in the farming industry and how he’s worked with wheat growers in three counties to create diversity and options, as well as helping communities address downtown revitalization, which took years of planning. In addition, he sits on the Santiam Canyon long term recovery group and has worked side by side with people that were underinsured or not insured at all, to get their homes and businesses rebuilt. Sedcor

In summary, Nick emphasized that having vital businesses in the community was how a City grew and stabilized. In response to Mayor Myers question about what the community needed to attract businesses, Nick noted housing and childcare were two big things that went hand in hand with growth and stability. He also spoke on the importance of finding the right company, to find a good match for the community, and indicated that if he knew what the City was looking for, and what it could accommodate, he could certainly talk about Jefferson’s offerings with prospects that came across his desk. Councilor Watkins was impressed and felt they were in the earlier stages in trying to find what the best plan should be going forward. He knew more housing was coming; therefore, they needed a way to keep them from going elsewhere for their needs, by providing businesses locally for them to utilize. Nick spoke briefly about enterprise zones, as well as rural industrial improvement tax exemptions, noting that Marion County was the only county in the state that had such a thing, but it came at a price tag of one million dollars.

With no further questions or comments, the Council thanked Nick for attending and all the great information.

B. Council Committee Assignments: Review & Update

It was requested at a previous meeting that the committee assignments be reviewed. Sarah Cook noted that most subcommittees of the Council had not been meeting since the pandemic and there were quite a few groups that had vacancies, though recruitment efforts were underway. The Council reviewed the roles they were assigned to, noting only the Landmarks Advisory Commission was without a Council liaison. Given the meeting time was 2pm, Mayor Myers indicated it was troublesome for most Councilors. All agreed it could stay vacant for now, given a City staff member was appointed to it. There were no other liaison changes.

- III. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** -Councilor Perry moved to approve; seconded by Councilor Rossiter. Councilor Kellogg sought clarification on what the bill was for PW after hours, and the fines and assessments, to which Sarah Cook provided explanation. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0.
APPROVED.

IV. VISITORS

Britney Sinfellow - expressed concern regarding the Governor's mask mandate, noting her extensive background in health and medical sciences and experience with epidemics and pandemics. She was disappointed the Covid-19 pandemic had become politicized and was concerned people's freedoms were being irradiated out of fear. She went on to say she loved the small town feel of Jefferson and she loved seeing everybody out together at National Night Out. She was aware of a few communities that had taken a stand against the shut downs and mask mandates and asked that Jefferson would do the same by not pursuing such enforcements against local businesses. She hoped they would be allowed to make their own decisions and that the City would support them in doing so. She appreciated being heard and went on to explain how important it was that her young son, and others, were able to see faces and expressions.

Councilor McKenzie agreed with her and noted the Council had never forced businesses to do anything. Mayor Myers clarified Ms. Sinfellow understood that the City would not be enforcing anything in the community, but that she wanted the City to do something stronger, a letter perhaps. There were some communities that had sent letters to the Governor, and in the interim, Mayor Myers asked how the Council wanted to come into the next meeting, given the mask mandate would be in effect by then, and sharing he would be absent from the meeting.

Discussion shifted to mask mandate expectations while in Council Chambers, with Mayor Myers electing not to wear one, if given the choice. Councilor McKenzie agreed. The City Manager reminded the Council of their roles in representing the City and those that violated the mandate created liability for the City, as it was the business that would receive a fine, not the individual refusing to wear a mask. Councilor Kellogg shared that while he may support a letter telling the Governor that it should be left up to individual businesses to decide, he did not support the Council picking and choosing which laws to follow just because they don't like them, and thought it would send the message to the citizens that it was ok to break rules they didn't like. Further, he would be highly concerned if the City was fined based on their own elected officials actions. Councilor McKenzie questioned if the mask mandate was an actual law, an executive order, or what it was, and also questioned where the Governor's authority to make such mandates came from. Sarah Cook would investigate and share the information with them. She would also create a zoom link for the next meeting for anybody wishing to attend from home.

Linda Baker – shared info on upcoming bunco fundraiser for JHS & M on August 21. She also passed out information on an idea to install parcourse exercise equipment at local parks to encourage outdoor activity.

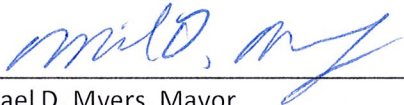
V. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Walt Perry was so pleased with the attendance and energy at National Night Out, stating it was worth the 2-year wait. He also encouraged everybody to complete the TSP survey, and further reported that Jefferson had finally officially been identified for a future bus stop.

Mayor Myers attended the small cities meeting and shared that the first ARP funds had started rolling out. He also shared a downside of the legislation cycle, which was the prevailing wage provisions had been reduced from 7 regions to 5, and Jefferson was in one of the more well to do regions, so they would be using the highest rate for projects. Mayor Myers asked that discussion related to Sedcor's presentation be continued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Perry moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Watkins. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of September, 2021.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder