

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Regular Council Meeting  
February 24, 2022  
6:30pm

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Walt Perry, Dave Beyerl, Keonali Hutley, David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter, David Watkins, Mayor Michael Myers  
**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** None  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deputy's Aaron West and Sophia Contenta, MCSO; Dave Jones, JRFPD

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

**II. PRESENTATION**

2.1 Dave Jones, Jefferson Fire District Re: Stakeholder Survey

Dave Jones, Jefferson Fire Board President, shared information on their search for a new Fire Chief, utilizing Special Districts of Oregon to assist in a nationwide search, which they'd not done before. Part of the process included seeking community and stakeholder input through a survey, which was available electronically on the fire station website, jeffersonfire.org, and on paper.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

3.1 3<sup>rd</sup> Deputy Funding – Public Forum #2

Mayor Myers opened the forum with a brief explanation on the City's options for funding a 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy: 1.) service fee applied to everybody; 2.) 5-year tax levy to property owners or, 3.) do nothing and keep 2 deputies for the foreseeable future. He noted a decision had not been made. Sarah Cook noted the correction made to the formula that provided varying property tax scenarios and potential costs to homeowners, noting the corrected figure was still higher than the proposed monthly fee being considered.

Joanna Carlton, 720 N Sunrise Dr. – said it was against the constitution to impose a fee to every citizen and felt strongly that it should go to a vote of the people so their rights weren't taken from them. She felt the revenue coming in from new development should be adequate and questioned why the City received so little tax dollars from the County, when citizens paid so much. Mayor Myers and Councilor Beyerl made attempts to explain the development process, how funds were restricted for certain uses, and that cities did not dictate how the County and State handled property taxes. Councilor Perry spoke on the fairness in spreading the fee across all properties connected to City services, compared to the generally low voter turn-out making a decision that impacted only property owners. Ms. Carlton did not appreciate his choice of words and Mayor Myers intervened to bring the group back to the topic at hand.

Edna Campau, 609 Union St. – did not like the “do nothing” option and felt the \$15 fee would be more equitable and cost citizens less than a levy would.

Margaret Robbins, 212 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> – agreed with the previous comment, adding that renters utilized police services too and everybody should pay the fee equally, not just homeowners.

Brian Hutley, 234 Harold Ct. – was in favor of the \$15 fee, also noting it was the fairest option.

Patti Ball, 554 S. Main – understood many were on fixed incomes, and felt the fee was the more equitable option because the tax levy would cost citizens more.

Barbara Potter, 659 High Ct. – did not feel there was a need for a 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy at all, noting it had been hard enough for her to get a deputy to show up most times. She felt it was enough to be able to call dispatch and have them send somebody down.

Dave Jones, 565 S. 5<sup>th</sup> – was in favor of the \$15/month fee and would be in favor of 5 deputies so the City could get 24-hour coverage.

Further expressing her frustration with the Council, Joanna Carlton questioned the City's ability to administer the monthly fee to ensure it would not be lost. The City Manager explained the ability of the utility software to segregate funds to various departments in the budget, and like the \$2 stormwater fee, the safety fee would be strictly reserved for police service, which would be depicted in the City's budget and financial statements, all of which were public records and audited annually.

Mayor Myers called upon Councilors for comments, to which Councilor Watkins explained the biggest difference for him was the levy was set for 5 years, and that was it. While the fee, attached to utility bills, could be reassessed periodically through local control, and as the town grew and revenue increased, there was a possibility it could be lowered over time. Councilor Beyerl shared some history, noting the City went through a time when there were no police, and in that time, the criminal element moved in because they knew. The longer the call time was, just meant the longer the criminal had to evade police. With the population growth over the years, and what they knew was coming, he said the City was already way behind on police coverage. Councilor Rossiter added that he'd watched over the last 4 years what happened when good officers worked in and for the community. Of course there was an option to not add a 3<sup>rd</sup> officer, and he pointed out that's already what they'd been doing for many years. Now, seeing petty crime trends increasing, he worried the City could head back to the times Councilor Beyerl spoke of and it was their job, as elected representatives of the City, to make tough decisions at times. He was favoring the safety fee because it would cost citizens less due to the ability to spread the cost equally across the board. He also pointed out that, though not on an official ballot, everybody present and speaking at the forums was voting, in a sense. In conclusion, Mayor Myers thanked everybody who attended and voiced his appreciation for the respect shown to each other's comments, also noting there was one more forum scheduled for Saturday morning, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Library Committee Applicants (2)**

Councilor Kellogg moved to approve both applicants, Karen Becker and Mark Heinrich, to the Library Committee. Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

#### 4.2 Santiam Waterline Recommendation for Award

Mayor Myers noted the ARPA funds that were paying for the project and pointed out the bids came in higher than the engineers estimate. Councilor Kellogg questioned what and how necessary the project was. Public Works Director, Jeff Buskirk explained it would loop a dead-end street, replace a 1" waterline with the standard 8" line, vastly improving water and fire flows, and was the next priority project on the City's capitol improvement plan. He added the current environment was the cause for the high prices and, were it not for the ARPA funds, the City could not afford to do it.

Joanna Carlton questioned if the City followed the legal regulations requiring 3 bids, and requested to see them. Councilor Beyerl provided his copy for her to view and moved to approve the recommendation of the City Engineer to award the bid to K & E. Councilor Watkins seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

V. **DISCUSSION** – none

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Beyerl moved to approve the consent agenda and Councilor Kellogg seconded. Discussion: Councilor Kellogg obtained clarification on the contractor, Dan O'Brien, who had worked on the Conser House and Mayor Myers asked about the payment to Samaritan Medical Group, which was for a public works employee CDL physical. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VII. **VISITORS** - Patti Ball invited all to the Souper Supper at the Community Center.


VIII. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Myers said one of his dear friends had visited from San Diego recently and donated a great deal of his time to preliminary mark outs for a sprinkler system at the Conser House, noting a community of Jefferson's size lived or died without volunteers. He added, it was often easier to sit back and throw rocks, than to do the sometimes difficult task of stepping up to serve or contribute to a community, but nonetheless, he encouraged those in the audience to become a part of it anyway or their arms would wear out from throwing rocks.

Sarah Cook shared the City's new website would be going live the following week and the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting would be a joint worksession with the Planning Commission to review the latest TSP work.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Kellogg moved; Councilor Rossiter seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:30pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

  
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Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder