

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession
May 12, 2022
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Walt Perry, Dave Beyerl, David Watkins, Bob Rossiter, David Kellogg (zoom), Keonali Hutley

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Mayor Michael Myers

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R

I. **CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE** – In the absence of the Mayor, Council President Dave Beyerl called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute.

II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

A. Discussion: Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Projections

Councilor Hutley declared a direct conflict of interest in relation to the salary increases for the COLA, as one of her family members was an employee of the City. Responding to a request from the Chair, Sarah Cook provided background on the COLA calculations and history of increases over the years, noting she had never seen it as high as it was, which was 8.9%. She expressed concern about the high rate, coupled with staff's annual merit increases of 4.5%, but even more so, she was hesitant to increase water and sewer rates to such a degree. That said, she reminded the Council that they had withheld rate increases the prior two years due to Covid, and she believed it should resume to some small degree, at least. She sought Council's input, noting she was preparing the proposed budget for the upcoming year and needed an idea of what Council had in mind.

There was open discussion amongst the Councilors with a consensus to select different rates for employee salaries and the utility increase. Councilor Perry expressed concern with raising rates at all, due to the difficulty many people were already having with overall inflation being so high on everything else. Councilor Kellogg felt the City had been more than generous to skip rate increases the last couple years. In the end, the Council felt it was very reasonable to match the prior year COLA rates for employee salaries, which was 6%, and increase water and sewer rates 3% for the coming year. Sarah would prepare the necessary resolution for them to adopt and appreciated their feedback so she could complete the proposed budget document.

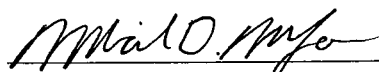
B. Budget Committee Application

Councilor Rossiter moved to approve Teresa Rush as a member of the Budget Committee. Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

III. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Councilor Perry moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Hutley. With no comments, payables were approved unanimously.

There were no visitors that wished to speak and no Council or staff comments. Councilor Perry moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Rossiter. All were in favor and the meeting closed in record time at 6:49pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of June, 2022.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder