

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Regular Council Meeting  
August 25, 2022  
6:30pm

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Dave Beyerl, David Watkins, Walt Perry, David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter, Keonali Hutley (zoom), Mayor Myers  
**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** None  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD

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

II. **OLD BUSINESS**

2.1 2021-22 Projects & Goals – Status

Sarah Cook noted nearly every project had been completed, or was in the works to be completed in the coming year. There was discussion about creating a new list for future projects, and whether or not the current Council should begin that review, or hold it off until after the election. The consensus was to at least conduct a brief review and set some initial groundwork for any new incoming Council members. Mayor Myers asked staff to bring back the short & long term goals at the next meeting.

III. **NEW BUSINESS** – none

IV. **DISCUSSION/INFO**

4.1 Oak Ct. Property Transfer – FYI – Jeff Buskirk provided brief background regarding a 5ft strip on each side of the property that never got recorded way back when; therefore, the records reflected County ownership rather than the individual homeowners, which meant they never had access to their own properties, technically. It was a simple paperwork fix to clean up past errors.

4.2 Council Calendar for Remainder of 2021 – FYI – Mayor Myers noted plans for a joint Worksession with the PC to discuss the mixed-use highway zone.

V. **CONSENT AGENDA** – Councilor Beyerl moved to approve; seconded by Walt Perry. Discussion: Sarah Cook provided information on the payment for the raptor presentation and covid-19 community bags to Councilor Kellogg and also confirmed a section in the minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting where it was unclear how Councilors voted. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VI. **VISITORS**

Nikki Zampardo, 953 Salamander Rd. – expressed concern and discontent about the recently implemented public safety fee, noting she had contacted many agencies about it, and one had directed her to contact the Marion County Commissioner’s Office. She went on to share her knowledge of complaints from many citizens that were unable to pay the added fee or attend the meetings, or chose not to because they felt the Council was dismissive, and she was upset the Council refused to allow citizens to vote on the matter, noting they had no authority to do so.

Councilor Kellogg shared with her his very strong initial feeling that it should go to a vote of the people; however, after seeing the data and receiving an overwhelming positive response from citizens, he changed his mind and voted the way that he felt represented all the people. Mayor Myers added the authority granted by the state for cities to assess fees without a vote and went on to point out the tremendous outreach that had been done over many months to ensure the information was available everywhere and to everyone. He felt the City had gone above and beyond, had exceeded their due diligence, and beyond that was the citizens responsibility to read their mail or the information provided via countless different methods.

Ray Walker, of the same address – added the difficulty he had in coming to meetings due to his 11 hour workday out of town and the last thing he wanted to do was attend a meeting in person or online. He felt like his vote was taken from him and listed a variety of things that had increased, such as property taxes, car insurance, and now the fee without the chance to have input. Mayor Myers reminded Mr. Walker of all the opportunities for input that had been provided over an extended period of time, including sending an email, voicemail, attend public forums, drop a written statement in the drop box, and more; however, it sounded to him that it was a 1-way street and the only way it would work for Mr. Walker was to vote. Mayor Myers apologized that it wasn’t a good fit for him, noting every level of due diligence had been met and the decision was a very difficult one, and it wasn’t made lightly.

Wendy Sampels, 1261 Hazel St. – questioned the number of complaints the City had received since implementing the fee, to which Sarah Cook explained there were a lot of phone calls coming in those first few days that people were receiving their bills. Most were to simply explain what the fee was, and only a few were unhappy with it; some had even offered to pay double if it meant a 4<sup>th</sup> deputy would be hired.

Patti Ball, 554 S. Main – encouraged the push for a 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy because of increased crime and she understood the amount they would have paid in property taxes, had a levy passed, would have been more than the \$15 fee, having only affected homeowners rather than everybody equally. Further, she indicated she had attended all the meetings and agreed that there was an overwhelming positive response. She felt opportunities to provide input were given time and time again, and many people spoke up in some fashion or another, which essentially was a “vote”, just not a traditional paper vote.

Ms. Zampardo reiterated that the first office she contacted had received all the complaints about the City’s new fee; however, when asked, she refused to provide information on what office she was referring to. Mayor Myers stood behind his word and the decision of the City Council, which was made based on the responses of those that participated.

## VII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilor Beyerl noted the Library Board had met and they were informed they would be losing their hot spot coverage; however, they were researching costs and ways to keep it. Additionally, at the MPO meeting, he had learned ODOT would be dropping the fund exchange program and provided a brief explanation.

Councilor Kellogg confirmed election applications had been received for all positions on the City Council.

Councilor Rossiter shared information from the School Board meeting, where they had approved a policy to ban all guns, concealed or otherwise, within 1500 feet of the schools.

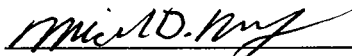
Jeff Buskirk provided an update on extending the waterline down Riverwood, as well as the removal of the pump house and most of the park equipment at the 7<sup>th</sup> St. park. He would be obtaining bids to plug and abandon the well, in preparation of selling the lot.

Sarah Cook shared that staff had undergone training and certification in CPR and first aid, and the second round of ARP funds had been received.

Mayor Myers attended the Oregon Mayor's Association conference and spoke about significant changes coming in the legislature, as well as the major renovations going on at the capital, which will make for a challenging legislative session with meetings held in various places.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Kellogg moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Rossiter. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:52pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2022.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder