

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting & Executive Session
December 8, 2022
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Mayor Michael Myers, Dave Beyerl, David Watkins, Keonali Hutley, Walt Perry, David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter
COUNCILORS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Sgt. Olson & Deputy West, MCSO

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

II. **OLD BUSINESS**

2.1 MCSO & COJ IGA Amendment #1 Re: 3rd Deputy

Councilor Beyerl stated it was a long time coming and moved to approve amendment #1 to reflect the addition of a 3rd deputy to the City's contract. Councilor Perry seconded. Discussion: Sgt. Olson provided an update on the process, noting the position was posted internally the day before and interviews were scheduled for December 19th. The vehicle was being built and the goal was to have the position staffed by January 22. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

3.1 DMV Annual Business Certificate Renewal

Councilor Beyerl moved to approve the license renewal, noting there had not ever been any trouble with the business. Councilor Watkins seconded. Discussion: Owner, Rod Beckner, was present and confirmed it was for Saab cars only. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

3.2 Planning Commission Term Renewal

Councilor Rossiter moved to approve Erica Lummer for an additional term, seconded by Councilor Perry. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

3.3 Market Analysis for 7th Street Vacant Lot

Staff noted the wellhouse was removed, well was capped, and the property was ready to be sold. Mayor Myer confirmed the funds derived from the sale would go back to the water fund. Councilor Beyerl noted the suggested listing price range provided in the analysis and recommended starting on the higher end, to which all agreed. Mayor Myers recommended including language in the motion to allow the City Manager the authority and flexibility to work with the real estate person in the best interest and on behalf of the City when proceeding to list and sell the property. Councilor Rossiter so moved and Councilor Hutley seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

3.4 Certified Election Results – Nov. 8th General Election

Councilor Beyerl, noting the results had been certified by both the County and the State, moved to fulfill the City's role of accepting them. Councilor Watkins seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

4.1 Fiber Deployment Proposal from Alyrica

Councilor Watkins offered background on a meeting he and the City Manager had with representatives from Alyrica, noting the future was fiber and the need for faster, more accessible and reliable internet service was evident nearly every day. He spoke on the company's decades-long establishment and the various connections they had, including partnerships and agreements with the railroad and the state. Their proposal would bring fiber to every property in Jefferson, as well as the unincorporated community of Marion. Alyrica planned to make a presentation before the Marion County Board of Commissioners to seek state grant funding that would assist with the build out. Responding to the Mayor's question about next steps, Sarah Cook explained Alyrica was looking for the City's support of the project and, if awarded funds by the County, would come back to the City for a more definitive partnership and determine if any matching funds or some other form of contribution would be needed. There was a consensus of the Council to accept the proposal from Alyrica and all were excited to hear Marion County's response.

4.2 Review HB 3115 & Impact on City's Codes

Mayor Myers summarized the new regulations, hoping to have as little impact on residential areas as possible, and noted the option for cities to not do anything would result in fines. Rather, cities were obligated to allow those experiencing homelessness the use of right of ways, or other designated public property, to rest, camp, or park without the threat of being fined, charged, or arrested. There was a lot of information provided from the City's legal counsel, as well as a draft ordinance for Council to begin reviewing, none of which would be done in one meeting.

Councilor Beyerl and Watkins suggested moving ahead with the minor things in the code that could be changed fairly easily due to their redundancy, as pointed out by the City Attorney, and leave the rest for further review in January. Councilor Perry wanted to ensure the City's upcoming new parks would be protected, to which the City Manager directed their attention to the information provided by legal counsel, which addressed his concern and stated: *"City can designate certain property as okay for sleeping, and if you do take this proactive approach you are not required to provide service." And, "another approach is to not designate which areas are okay, so you are not affirmatively allowing the practice, but make sure that there are indeed areas where it is okay. In other words, you could essentially allow for camping by not forbidding it on certain properties. For example, a city with a small homeless population could forbid camping in its parks if it has some adequate undeveloped rights of way that are suitable for camping. The regulation would not say it is okay to sleep in the undeveloped right of way, but it would have no regulations that forbid it either. Law enforcement could then informally direct folks to the undeveloped right of way and away from the other public*

spaces.” The City Manager noted her preference for the latter option, given the City did not have a significant homeless population.

There was brief discussion with Deputy West regarding the larger homeless congregations in bigger cities, which he suggested could be due to larger bureaucracies often having longer procedures and more hoops to work through before action occurred. Mayor Myers indicated it would be a difficult undertaking for the state to address, noting it was quick and easy to blame drug use and mental illness on the reason for the rise in homelessness; however he knew of people that had full time jobs and still lived in their car because they couldn't afford anything else. Going on, he felt the City had a responsibility to address the needs in a way that took into account the concerns of the citizens and businesses in town. Councilor Beyerl agreed, noting his awareness of homeless kids even back when he was working as the school administrator. Councilor Rossiter noted the bus service availability in Salem that provided free rides to warming shelters for those that needed it. In the end, there was a consensus of the Council to bring the draft ordinance back for adoption, as all agreed it was the first step to clean up the redundancies and outdated references within the code.

4.3 City Representative for MWACT

Mayor Myers indicated Councilor Perry's position would be expiring at the end of the year and it must be a City Councilor that was reassigned. He requested staff bring it back to discuss in January, when the new Councilors were seated and he would be making all of the liaison appointments. Councilor Beyerl said his appointment with AAMPO would also be expiring; however, the person appointed could be an elected or appointed official of the City, and went on to explain how the group came to be after the 2010 census, and it's purpose.

- V. CONSENT AGENDA** – Councilor Beyerl moved to approve the consent agenda, with the updated A/P report to account for invoices received since packets were prepared. Councilor Watkins seconded. Discussion: the City Manager explained the annual payment on the wastewater loan, which breaks down the interest and principal. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VI. VISITORS

Members of the Friends of the Library (Edna, Wendy, Patti, Nancy, & Mersha) provided bags of goodies to Councilors Dave Beyerl and Walt Perry for their continued support of the Library.

Charles Vickery and Chandra Cruikshank, both newly elected City Councilors, introduced themselves and were looking forward to working with and serving the City.

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

Jeff Buskirk provided an update on the waterline project and Sarah Cook reminded everybody of the upcoming annual holiday volunteer recognition dinner.

Walt Perry thanked everybody for allowing him to represent Jefferson, noting his enjoyment with the time he served and he hated to go. He learned a lot and he had fun doing it. Dave Beyerl offered similar comments of thanks, indicating it had been an interesting 16 years and he hoped people remembered that he always stood for the good of the community and never for his own agendas. Other Councilors and the Mayor expressed their gratitude for their time and commitments in serving the citizens of Jefferson and wished them well, noting hopes of their continued involvement in other capacities around the City.

Break: 7:30pm; Reconvene: 7:35pm

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Myers announced the Council would be moving into Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Performance Evaluations of Public Officers & Employees. Both the City Manager and Public Works Director were present. The City Council entered back into regular session at 7:55pm.

Councilor Beyerl complimented the City staff, noting the incredible group of people employed at the City and led by both Jeff and Sarah, before moving to approve a 1-step merit increase for Jeff Buskirk, which was seconded by Councilor Perry. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.** Councilor Beyerl moved to approve a 1-step merit increase for Sarah Cook, which was seconded by Councilor Hutley. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**


IX. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Beyerl moved to adjourn, seconded by Bob Rossiter. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:56pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 26th day of January, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder