

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession
February 9, 2023
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Bob Rossiter, Chandra Cruikshank, David Watkins, Charles Vickery, David Kellogg, Keonali Hutley
COUNCILORS ABSENT: Mayor Myers
STAFF PRESENT: Deanna Donato, Dep CR; Sarah Cook, CM/R (zoom); Sgt. Garrett Olson and Deputy Connelly, MCSO

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

II. WORKSESSION TOPICS:

A. Proclamation for Black History Month: Councilor Watkins read the proclamation aloud, noting Mayor Myers would sign upon his return.

B. Volunteer Application for Planning: Councilor Watkins noted the PC had approved the application from Edie O’Neil and offered a brief summary of her previous experience on the PC. Councilor Rossiter moved to approve the application and Councilor Hutley seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5 – Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

C. Review of Code Revisions to Address HB 3115 Relating to Homelessness:

Councilor Watkins noted this was a second review of the materials and asked Sarah Cook, City Manager, to explain the materials. She first provided a brief background of what HB 3115 was and what it meant for cities. Noting her lengthy communications with legal counsel, she spoke on the various options the City could consider because there was no one-size-fits-all. She also pointed out that nearly every City was addressing the same types of revisions to their codes, in preparation of the July deadline, so she fully expected a template would be available soon, or at least examples of how other cities were addressing the matter, which would be of assistance in building our own policies. One example she provided was from the City of Bend, who had recently adopted an ordinance that had folks moving at least a block every 24 hours if they were sleeping on sidewalks. That option didn’t seem like a good fit for Jefferson, in that we did not have the staff to manage it, nor the amount of homeless population that City was experiencing.

Sarah Cook reminded them that HB 3115 required the City to reasonably allow camping, sitting, lying, etc. without the threat of monetary fines or fees, and it did not require the City to provide any other services, such as restrooms, shelter, etc. She summarized the two main options she thought the Council should consider:

- a.) to call out and identify specific public space(s) where the City *would* allow the homeless to camp, which would insinuate that activity was generally not allowed at or on any other public property, or,

b.) call out and identify specific public space(s) where the City would NOT allow the homeless to camp, which would insinuate that activity would generally be allowed at other public spaces.

Sarah believed option b was the better fit for Jefferson, for a few reasons, including: Jefferson was fortunate to not have a significant homeless problem; specifically identifying places that allowed homeless camping and the like felt like advertising, which could then grow into a larger problem once word traveled; it would be easier for law enforcement to have a specific list of properties where homeless activity was *not* allowed, such as parks, City Hall/Library, museum, etc. Sarah pointed out with either option, further regulations could be imposed, such as restricting homeless camping in certain zones, away from schools, intersections, setting time limits, etc. She was aware that Mayor Myers had contacted one or more of the local churches in town to discuss options as well, which led her to the information in their packets regarding the OMA Taskforce on Homelessness that could provide future funding to cities to address homelessness in their communities. Those funds were not a guarantee, she pointed out; however, if it came to be, then those conversations with churches, food pantries, and other agencies would be of great benefit because the City could utilize the funds to assist those agencies in helping people in need and experiencing homelessness.

There was brief open discussion on the Council's preference in terms of what direction they wanted to take, and Sarah noted this would likely be on the agenda several more times before they were ready to fully adopt something. Deputy Connelly pointed out that he agreed with the City Manager in that he did not believe it would be wise to advertise properties that allowed homeless camping because, in his experience, word tended to travel fast in those communities and before you knew it properties could be riddled with litter, broken down RV's, which tow companies won't tow, etc. The Council agreed and generally preferred option b as well, while also discussing minor tweaks to better suit Jefferson, such as allowing 2-3 days rather than just 24 hours, and helping people with services to improve their circumstance rather than continue in them by providing shelters, etc. Sarah Cook noted she would proceed with their comments in mind and see about bringing examples from other cities, as well as a first draft, back to them for the March Worksession.

III. Approval of Accounts Payable -1st half of February: Councilor Rossiter moved to approve the payables and Councilor Kellogg seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. Visitors:

Linda Baker, FOL, presented the next section for the library green books, pertaining to the salary of the Library Director.

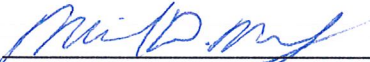
Wendy Samples, 1261 Hazel St Jefferson, felt that using the term "African American" in the Proclamation for Black History Month was not appropriate, as many blacks were from areas other than Africa.

Sergeant Olson introduced Deputy Shawn Connelly to the Council as the new 3rd Deputy, and provided a brief summary on some of the police activity over recent weeks.

V. Council/Staff Comments: None

VI. Adjournment: Councilor Kellogg moved to adjourn and Councilor Rossiter seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:12pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of February, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder