

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting
Executive Session & Public Hearings
January 26, 2023
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: David Watkins, Chandra Cruikshank, David Kellogg, Mayor Myers, Keonali Hutley, Bob Rossiter, Charles Vickery
COUNCILORS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD

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

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION*ORS 192.660(2)(e)***Real Property Transactions**

Mayor Myers announced the ORS calling for the executive session, noting real estate agent, Sarah Freitag would be joining the Council in the session, along with the City Manager and Public Works Director. The executive session began at 6:31pm and the Council reconvened in regular session at 6:52pm.

III. PUBLIC HEARING #1 – Declaring Public Property Located at 284 S 7th St. as Surplus, and Considering its Sale

Mayor Myers opened the public hearing at 6:52pm and read the hearing statement, background and summary. There were no abstentions from the Council. There was no public testimony, written or oral, and no questions from the Council. The public hearing closed at 6:56pm.

Councilor Watkins moved to approve Resolution #1087, declaring property located at 284 S 7th St as surplus, approving it's sale to Tracy Bertalotto in the amount of \$114,000, and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate any further terms and sign all documents on behalf of the City. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. PUBLIC HEARING #2 – Ordinance #725, Repealing JMC 8.08.080, and Amending Chapter 9.25, Concerning Habitation Within City Rights-of-Way

Mayor Myers opened the public hearing at 6:58pm and read the hearing statement, background and summary. There were no abstentions from the Council. There was no public testimony. Councilor Kellogg confirmed this was the first step in working through the process of addressing HB3115. With no further questions, the hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

Moving on to the ordinance adoption procedures, Mayor Myers read Ordinance #725 by title only for the first reading. Councilor Watkins moved that the ordinance be adopted and passed to the second reading by title only. Councilor Kellogg seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

Mayor Myers proceeded to the second reading of Ordinance #725 by title only. Councilor Hutley moved that the ordinance be adopted and the title of the ordinance become the ordinance.

Councilor Kellogg seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hutley – aye; Kellogg – aye; Vickery – aye; Rossiter – aye; Cruikshank – aye; Watkins – aye. **APPROVED.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Update & Final Decision on Dangerous Building Case# 2022-01: 145 S. Main St.

Sarah Cook confirmed everybody had received the updated information provided at the table for them, which included information from legal counsel on the Mayor's previous question of addressing the abatement matters as two separate issues, and an email from the Fire Chief that the items on the State Fire Marshal's report had been completed, based on a walk-thru he had performed. Staff had spoke with Marion County Building officials earlier in the day and she provided a verbal update to the Council that the structural permit application had been processed; however, it was missing necessary information and therefore was not considered complete. The contractor, who was in the audience but did not provide his name, indicated the plans needed an engineer's stamp and he had reached out to his engineer earlier that day. He further responded that, once the permit was approved, the work would take approximately 3 weeks to complete. Councilor Kellogg expressed the importance of the access to the back stairs be blocked off to any use, to which the owner confirmed was done.

Mayor Myers confirmed there was a consensus of the Council to follow legal advice by pursuing the abatement on the structural component and continue the fines at \$100/day until the items in the order are entirely complete, noting at the close of the case, the Council would re-visit the matter and consider any adjustments to the fees at that time, if they deem necessary. Ms. Aunspaugh indicated she had purchased \$14k in materials and they were waiting for them to be delivered and it was her intention to do what needed to be done in order to make the building right. Mayor Myers noted those were all good first steps and strongly encouraged her to maintain communication with staff because long periods of silence and failed attempts to be reached did not build trust.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 PC Member Resignation

Councilor Watkins moved to accept the resignation of Ron Gilles. Councilor Kellogg seconded. Discussion: Mayor noted steps would be taken to recognize Ron for his 30+ years on the PC and wished him well with is recovery. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

6.2 Resolution #1086, Creating a City Parks Committee, Defining its Purpose, and Establishing Membership Terms and Responsibilities

Councilor Rossiter moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hutley. Discussion: Councilor Watkins questioned the need to have 2 City Councilors on the Committee, particularly if one of them was the liaison to the Parks & Recreation Committee. Sarah Cook explained the need for an odd number of members on the committee, intended to prevent tie votes, and that the Councilor assigned as a liaison to Parks & Rec did not have an impact on being a member of the City's park committee. Mayor Myers agreed and called for the vote. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0.

APPROVED.

VII. DISCUSSION/INFO

7.1 Governor Brown's Order of Remission – FYI, Mayor Myers noted he was upset at his first read, but later understood the reasoning, and figured larger courts were more heavily impacted.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – Councilor Rossiter moved to approve and Councilor Watkins seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IX. VISITORS

Linda Baker, FOL – came forward to distribute the latest installment for the green binders, noting the topic of the City's financial resources.

Patti Ball, 554 S Main – first asked if the City might consider using some of the funds from the sale of the 7th street lot to put toward parks, and then went on to offer a brief summary of the Conser House renovations for the new Councilors, and invited them over for a tour.

Edna Campau, 6th St. – reminded everybody of the Soup-er Supper fundraiser event that Saturday evening at 5pm.

Levi Eckhardt, Jefferson Fire Chief – introduced himself to the Mayor and Council, noting he started at Jefferson Fire around Christmas time and had been working in fire service since 1989.


X. COUNCIL & STAFF UPDATE/COMMENTS

Councilors Rossiter, Cruikshank, and Hutley attended the LOC Elected Essentials full day training that day, all agreeing it was a very long, but great learning day. Councilor Watkins shared an update on the bridge improvement that was one of two projects set to continue. Councilor Vickery said it had been a very busy couple weeks with a lot of reading, but he was enjoying it and learning a lot. Mayor Myers complimented the two new Councilors for embracing their roles and jumping in.

City Manager, Sarah Cook shared a few updates: the 3rd officer, Deputy Connelly, had officially started; Ethics Commission training was on the Council calendar for the February 23rd meeting, noting an earlier start time of 6pm and all public bodies would be invited to attend; Union Pacific Railroad was set to perform night work over the weekend to replace ties along the track through town; and, a meeting was being set up with the City and Marion County to discuss the proposal from Alyrica.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Kellogg moved; seconded by Councilor Rossiter. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:55pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of February, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder