

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 23, 2023  
6:30pm

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

I. **COUNCIL MEETING 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 Update on Final Decision Re: Dangerous Building Case# 2022-01 145 S. Main St.

The City Manager updated the Council on email communication she had with the contractor, in which he explained he was still waiting on his engineer to draw up the plans to submit to the County. She noted it was the same response provided to the Council during the January meeting. There was discussion amongst the Council about next steps, with some hesitancy to proceed without knowing the full picture of other potential problems. Mayor Myers cautioned the Council about the unknown, stating the City could only enforce what had been deemed dangerous months prior and at the very minimum, he encouraged the Council to consider the first sample motion provided in their materials, noting that continuing to do nothing would send a very negative message to the public. Sarah Cook clarified the two options before the Council, noting they had already declared the structure dangerous months ago, so it was time for them to follow up. Councilor Vickery and Kellogg expressed concerns about the second option, which included demolition, due to the already present homeless crisis in the state, as well as the negative public media the City would potentially receive.

Councilor Watkins moved that the Council Order to abate the nuisance dangerous building, located at 145 S. Main Street, has not been complied with; and further moved that the City abate the nuisance pursuant to JMC 11.08.808; and that the Council delegate the City Manager/Recorder the authority to specify the work to be done, advertise for bids to do the work, and let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. Councilor Hutley seconded. There was no further discussion. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

3.1 Volunteer Application for Budget Committee – Councilor Kellogg moved to approve Walt Perry for the Budget Committee. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

3.2 Volunteer Applications (4) for Parks Committee – Councilor Kellogg moved to approve all 4 applicants to the Parks Committee; seconded by Councilor Rossiter. All in favor:

Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.** Those appointed were: Wendy Sampels, Rod Beckner, Frank Ball, and Rick Sherman.

- 3.3 2023 Contract Renewal for City Engineering Services: Westech Engineering – Mayor Myers noted the long-standing and positive relationship the City held with Westech prior to Councilor Watkins motion to approve and Councilor Rossiter second. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

#### IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- 4.1 Review Example Ordinances Related to HB 3115: Homelessness/Camping

The Council had reviewed ordinances from 5 other small to medium size cities and there was a general consensus about the City of Newport's. They liked the language that restricted homeless camping in residential zones and so many feet from schools, childcare facilities, parks, or other places children gather, and their approach to identify specific properties or places camping was NOT allowed, such as City Hall, Library, Museum, etc. Staff would pull together language for the City Attorney to review and bring a draft back to Council for further review.

- V. **CONSENT AGENDA** – Councilor Rossiter moved to approve and Councilor Kellogg seconded. Discussion: the \$5k to the Food Pantry was from ARPA money. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

#### VI. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Historical Society – received \$15k SHPO Grant for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor study; working on landscaping  
Planning – housekeeping; next meeting April 6<sup>th</sup>  
Fire Board – filled vacant board position; applied for FEMA grant  
Parks & Rec – working on improving communication between HS and MS; offering coaching 101 flyer  
School Board – HS Principal resigned; working on consolidating funds  
Library – community involvement  
LAC – SHPO presentation on policies; working on goal setting  
MWACT – no meeting  
TAC/MPO – brief slide show presentation on various demographics including population profile, housing characteristics, population under poverty line, age, persons w/disabilities and road/sidewalk info, pedestrian safety  
City Parks – new members just appointed; will establish first meeting

#### VII. VISITORS

Patti Ball – Jefferson Heroes Day June 24<sup>th</sup>

Sergeant Olson indicated there had been a string of car break in's and arrests had been made after investigations took them to Albany and Lyons. The 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy position was up and running and all of

them were field training officers, which meant they would be bringing new deputies in to train with them in town; a benefit the City was not charged for.

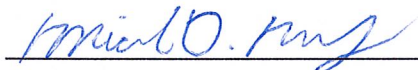
**VIII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Sarah Cook shared the new COG Planner, Scott Whyte, had begun and would maintain the same Tuesday schedule for now. Also, the \$15k SHPO grant the City received had been increased to \$17k due to a lack of applicants and extra funding the state needed to spend.

Mayor Myers shared information about a meeting he and the City Manager had with Jim and Matt Conser regarding the need for more businesses and commercial development. They spoke about the required minimum lot sizes, HNA and what was stalling development in their opinions. Mayor Myers expressed concern about the community not being refreshed with new people or development, and the lack of affordability for new younger families.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Rossiter moved to adjourn; David Kellogg seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:41pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder