

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession
May 11, 2023
6:30pm

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

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

II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

A. **PUBLIC HEARING** – LA 2023-01 – Ordinance #728, Amending Title 12 of the JDC, Specific to Sections 12.12, 12.30, 12.72, and 12.88

Mayor Myers opened the hearing at 6:30pm and read the required statements for the hearing type, including the process in which the hearing would be conducted, before passing it over to the contract planner, Scott Whyte. Scott introduced himself and went on to provide a brief summary of the staff report, noting he was catching the tail end of the project that was previously initiated by the Council in a joint Worksession with the Planning Commission when another planner was contracted to the City. This was the 2nd of two required hearings; the first one having been approved by the PC the month prior. Scott spoke on the proposed changes, indicating they were modest and mostly procedural, as they related to removing a conditional use allowance from the 1st floor mixed-use zone and bringing the lot line adjustment process in-house.

Questions from Council: Councilor Kellogg inquired about the language related to duplexes, to which Mayor Myers indicated it was discussed during an earlier meeting by the previous planner, Kiel Jenkins, as a move toward more density/housing without having more space, and Councilor Watkins agreed, adding it was also discussed during the PC hearing and he thought it was a good start.

Public Testimony: Nancy Hamby, Main St. – confirmed the lot size requirements had not changed.

With no further testimony, Mayor Myers closed the hearing at 6:44pm and directed the Council to the sample motions for their consideration. Staff noted the Ordinance would be held over to the following Council meeting for adoption, since the formatting (not the content) changed dramatically in the final draft, and it was not available for public inspection for the required 7 days prior to the hearing. Councilor Kellogg moved to adopt the findings and proposed amendments in the staff report. Councilor Watkins seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

B. JSD Superintendent, Brad Capener Re: School Based Health & Resource Center

Brad Capener approached the Council and first shared other news and updates before getting into the scheduled subject. This included information on an anti-suicide initiative coming to the middle and high schools, a new podcast called J-Pod Jefferson, and an alternative school option for students that

needed a different form of learning. Moving on, Brad provided information handouts and spoke about the many barriers kids faced and his goal to remove them so that all kids had an opportunity to learn in a healthy environment. He shared stories of kids with no water, no shoes, untreated tooth aches for weeks, and noted 49% of Jefferson students were classified at or below poverty level. Poverty created barriers and barriers prevented learning opportunities and he wanted to change that. Brad explained the Health & Resource Center would have dental service, a medical provider through a partnership with Providence, mental health service, and services for homeless such as laundry, toiletries, clothes racks and backpacks. The center would be located in the old band room, where it was private and confidential. They would be doing outreach to local churches and others to help support the program in any way, noting the need for volunteers. He explained they were in the midst of working out arrangements, agreements and partnerships and that the building was being constructed with donations. Currently, Chemawa Indian School had the only other school based health center in all of Marion County, though there were others in the state. Brad appreciated the City's support and interest in maintaining communication and he encouraged them to follow up on the districts webpage for updated Q & A's.

Questions/Comments from Council:

Councilor Hutley applauded his passion and inquired about the response he'd received from the public, to which Brad indicated he received 181 responses to a survey, they participated in Day of a Child event where over 300 people attended, and overall, there was overwhelming support because of the need for services in Jefferson. Responding to additional questions on sustainability and staffing the program, Brad explained it was an ongoing process and would be built through various partnerships, noting nearly every conversation he'd had with partners had involved the subject of sustainability. Further, he noted the center would be run during the day or after-school with no overnight activity, and that Providence would provide their own staffing, make all their own appointments, keep their own files, etc. and that no new positions would be created at the district for purposes of the center.

Councilor Kellogg inquired about the financial impact to the school district, to which Brad replied there would be none, other than the use of power and water, which they were already paying for anyway. Councilor Kellogg encouraged him to spread that word to the community as soon as he could, as that was what most of the public's concern stemmed from. Councilor Vickery suggested also sharing information about what services would NOT be provided at the center, because that would ease a lot of parent's minds too. Councilor Rossiter noted it was great the district was ahead of the game, noting the City prided themselves in that approach too, but perhaps it was some of the reason for the hesitancy from the public, simply because it was such a new thing.

Councilor Cruikshank asked how poverty was defined by the district and what a parent's involvement would look like. Brad noted the poverty guidelines were derived from the free & reduced lunch program through food services. He also explained that due to the desire of the community to have parents informed, a child would need parental permission to use the health center, even though a teen could choose to seek medical attention elsewhere without it, because of state laws.

Councilor Watkins thanked Brad for his efforts and expressed some disappointment that the City wasn't asked to be involved sooner. He was concerned that the town could not support a small medical clinic, and those services would soon be available to kids, which was great. He only hoped

the City could have participated in the earlier discussions with providers to see about extending their services to others in the community.

Mayor Myers asked about the capacity of services that would be available. Brad indicated it was tough to tell at that point, but they were looking at a rotation of services, such as maybe a nurse or telehealth 3-4 day/week, and a doctor on site once/week; dental services might be once or twice/month and the same for mental health, depending on the need, which he imagined would be continuously assessed.

Questions from the public:

Wendy Sampels, Hazel St. – confirmed services would be for all students of the district, not just those that were homeless. Brad confirmed, noting there could be potential for growth down the road to include things such as legal services for senior citizens, vision care, and more.

The Mayor thanked Superintendent Capener for his time and information, noting the need to support each other and talk each other up when looking into funding opportunities, or otherwise.

III. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – Councilor Rossiter moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Watkins. Jeff Buskirk clarified his chemicals purchase for Councilor Kellogg. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. VISITORS

Kate Gurley, Heroes' Day volunteer – encouraged Council to participate in the parade and festival on June 24th. Mayor Myers directed staff to submit applications for the parade and a City booth, which Councilors would staff in shifts.

V. COUNCIL & STAFF UPDATES/COMMENTS

Jeff Buskirk reported the old water plant had been dismantled and he was receiving bids to fence the public works property. Sarah Cook was engrossed in budget preparation and reminded them of the Budget Committee meeting on May 23rd at 6pm.

Keonali Hutley reported she would be absent at the next Council meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Kellogg moved to adjourn; Councilor Rossiter seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:45pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 22nd day of June, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder