

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Regular Council Meeting & Public Hearing  
May 25, 2023  
6:30pm

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** David Kellogg, David Watkins, Bob Rossiter, Charles Vickery, Mayor Myers  
**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** Keonali Hutley, Chandra Cruikshank  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Dep. Nate Morse and Shawn Connelly, MCSO

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute.
- II. **PUBLIC HEARING** – Ordinance #727, Creating a New Ch 5.16 of the JMC Concerning Camping Within the City

Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:31pm and read the purpose, background and summary statement before calling for public testimony. There was no public testimony and no questions from Council. The Mayor closed the hearing at 6:34pm and proceeded to read the ordinance adoption procedures and Ordinance #727 by title only. Councilor Watkins moved to adopt the ordinance and pass it to the second reading by title only. Councilor Kellogg seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

Mayor Myers read Ordinance #727 by title only for the second and final reading. Councilor Watkins moved to adopt the ordinance and that the title of the ordinance become the ordinance. Councilor Rossiter seconded. Roll Call: Kellogg – yes; Vickery – yes; Rossiter – yes; Watkins – yes. **APPROVED.**

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- 3.1 Adoption of Ord #728, Amending Sections 12.12, 12.30, 12.72, and 12.88 of Title 12 of the JMC

Mayor Myers noted the hearing for the ordinance was held at the previous meeting and then proceeded to read the hearing adoption procedures and Ordinance #728 by title only. Councilor Watkins moved to adopt the ordinance and pass it to the second reading by title only. Councilor Kellogg seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

Mayor Myers read Ordinance #728 by title only for the second and final reading. Councilor Watkins moved to adopt the ordinance and that the title of the ordinance become the ordinance. Councilor Rossiter seconded. Roll Call: Watkins – yes, Rossiter – yes; Vickery – yes; Kellogg – yes. **APPROVED.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Mill St. Park Bids

Sarah Cook shared photos provided by the contractors as examples of the covered area that would be constructed and spoke on the difficulty in obtaining 3 bids, noting one of the bids received was not even a complete bid and she had never heard from the contractor again. Jeff Buskirk was familiar with the family of the contractor recommended for the project, noting they were local to Jefferson. There was brief discussion about the differences in the bid formats and reasons for selection was not solely based on price, but also the contractors schedule availability to get started promptly and their ability to maintain regular communication with staff. Jeff confirmed there was no water at the site, noting a very small service line serviced the existing homes. Councilor Watkins moved to approve I-5 Interiors for the Mill St. park project and that the requested deposit of half down be added to the accounts payable. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

#### 4.2 Lease Agreement at Cell Tower Site – Alyrica Networks, Inc

Councilor Watkins moved to approve the lease agreement; seconded by Councilor Rossiter. Sarah Cook explained the purpose of the lease and Councilor Watkins spoke on the improved service and speed it would bring to the community. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

#### 4.3 Resolution #1089, Authorizing a Transfer Within the Cemetery Fund to Recategorize Unanticipated Requirements in FY 22/23

Sarah Cook provided a brief summary of the transfer, which was needed due to a mid-year change in how the care of the Cemetery was handled. The transfer would move the budgeted funds from the materials and services category, no longer being used, to the payroll category, where funds were needed since bringing the service in house. Councilor Rossiter moved to approve and Councilor Kellogg seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

### V. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

5.1 Letter in Support of MC Emergency Management’s App for Grant Funding – FYI, no discussion

### VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Watkins moved to approve the consent agenda as modified to include the half down payment for the park project. Councilor Rossiter seconded. Brief discussion took place where Jeff Buskirk clarified the purchase of the larger water meter for the 84-unit apartments and explained what a transducer was used for. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

### VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Historical Society – gearing u for Heroes’ Day; attended other area festivals to spread word; working on landscaping and plantings at Conser House  
Planning – no new info  
Fire Board – no new info  
Parks & Rec – big track meet; trouble getting timely academic approvals; pool opening June 14<sup>th</sup>  
School Board – meeting time change to 5:30pm; 2 new members coming; alternative ed program

Library – no new info  
Landmarks – goal setting session  
MWACT/TAC – no new info  
City Parks – researching funding

### VIII. VISITORS

Walt Perry, Columbus - inquired about the traffic counters on the highway; however, to the City's knowledge there was no traffic study being performed.

Jayann Kellogg, Salamander Rd. – expressed concern about the safety challenge presented on Salamander Rd. when the crossing arms were down at the railroad tracks, noting there was only one way in and out of that neighborhood. She noted it was illegal to cross the tracks while the arms were down, even if they were defective, which she learned after getting a citation for doing so. She was not sure what the best solution was, whether it be to contact Marion County about opening the emergency access or calling Union Pacific, but something needed to be done. There was open discussion amongst the Council, Jeff Buskirk, and Marion County deputies about the Fire Dept having the key to the emergency access gate, and also considering requesting the Sheriff's Dept to assist by flagging people across when the arms were down; however, they were not able to take on that liability. Both Deputy Morse and Connelly were not aware the railroad crossing arms was such an issue in town; however, now that they were, they noted they would take a common sense approach and use their own discretion when the arms were down for an unreasonable amount of time.

Patti Ball, JHS&M – noted there was a Chamber meeting and 5 new members attended. They had a \$500 scholarship for a graduating senior. She also suggested the Council meet with all local non-profits to learn what they do in the community and check in on how they were doing post-covid.

### IX. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilor Watkins recalled the previous meeting where the school health center was discussed. He was interested in reaching out to the health care providers they had arranged to see if they would be interested in expanding their service to the rest of the town, even just once a month. Mayor Myers thought it was a good idea, but suggested they wait until the school's center was up and running and see how things were going.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Rossiter moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Watkins. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:38pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2023.

  
Michael D. Myers, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder