

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession & Public Hearing
June 8, 2023
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Chandra Cruikshank, David Watkins, Bob Rossiter, Charles Vickery, Mayor Myers, David Kellogg (zoom)
COUNCILORS ABSENT: Keonali Hutley
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD

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

II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

A. **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HEARING** – Authorizing Transfers Within and Between Funds 10, 35, and 37, and Making Appropriations for FY Ending June 30, 2023

Mayor Myers opened the hearing promptly at 6:30pm and read the purpose statement, background and summary information, which explained the proposed budgetary changes were to account for the significant increase in construction excise tax revenues that were to be turned over to the Jefferson School District, as well as the early payoff of the USDA water reservoir loan. Mayor Myers called for written testimony and any testimony from those in attendance. Hearing none, he closed the hearing at 6:35pm.

Councilor Watkins moved to approve Resolution# 1090, which was seconded by Councilor Rossiter. Discussion: Councilor Vickery confirmed his understanding that more excise tax had been received and therefore, more was due to the school district, so the City had to account for the “extra” revenue in order to “spend” it. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

B. **IGA Between MCSO and COJ for FY 2023-24 Police Services**

Sarah Cook noted the only change to the contract from previous years was to include 3 deputies and update the hours spent serving the City. Councilor Rossiter moved to approve the IGA and Councilor Watkins seconded. Discussion: Councilor Watkins was curious if the numbers had changed since the City recently adopted the new budget, to which Sarah Cook said they had not, adding that the Sheriff’s Office provided the proposed numbers in advance of the budget season so she knew what to plan for when preparing the budget. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

C. **Non-Profit Financial Assistance Requests**

Responding to Councilor Watkins question about the history of City contributions, Sarah Cook recalled years back when groups such as Mint Festival, Teen Connection, and the Chamber would come before Council with requests of financial support for specific events or needs, and they were itemized in the budget that way. Later, a more general line was created in the budget to accommodate such support,

called Community Support. She went on to explain that over the last couple years, the covid funds were utilized in that expense line to support local businesses, renters, non-profits and the like, and indicated there was still approximately \$40k in those funds available.

Addressing the Lions Club first, Wendy Sampels provided background on what their organization offered to the community, which included elementary school eye exams each year, sponsorships for blind and hard of hearing children to attend camps, eyewear, and hearing aids. She informed the Council that their primary source of income came from coffee at the Rest Area along I-5; however, it was shut down during covid and never re-opened again due to ongoing safety issues in that area. They were working diligently to come up with other continuous fundraising ideas and would be grateful for any contribution the City could make, noting they were not asking for any specific amount and that anything provided would be put to good use.

There was discussion amongst the Council about spreading the support equally and some wondered about long-term support after covid funds were spent. Mayor Myers indicated that was for another discussion and consideration, noting the intent to invite all local non-profits to an upcoming Worksession to learn about their organizations and services to the community, but for now, they should work from the knowledge that 1-time funds remained available. Councilor Vickery commented that the Lions Club was doing great things for the community. Councilor Watkins agreed and moved to contribute \$1,000. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0.
APPROVED.

Moving on to the Community Center, Edna Campau shared updated handouts, indicating their finances fell short by about \$900 per year just to keep the doors open. Their overall deficit for 12 months was \$5,247.78, noting there were no paid employees. She further explained the significant impact covid had on the center, as gatherings were not allowed for nearly 2 years, which took away their chances of bringing in any rental income; their biggest source of funding. During that time the building sat unused there were still bills to pay, such as power, water, insurance, etc.

Mayor Myers commented how much he appreciated the monthly newsletter and how great of a benefit it was to the community, especially with the loss of the local newspaper. Councilor Vickery confirmed the center was self sufficient prior to covid, to which Edna replied yes, they managed to meet their expenses. Councilor Watkins felt a great deal of the community benefited from the center and they would be devastated without it; therefore, he felt it warranted a greater contribution and so moved to contribute \$5,000. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0.
APPROVED.

D. Mayor Proclamations (2)

Mayor Myers read aloud a proclamation recognizing the Library's upcoming 100th birthday, noting the remarkable gem it was for Jefferson, and proceeded to read the second proclamation, which declared and recognized June 19th of each year as Juneteenth.

III. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Councilor Watkins moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Rossiter. Councilor Kellogg asked what the sieve blanket was, to which Jeff Buskirk explained it's insulation purposes. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. VISITORS

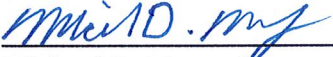
Patti Ball provided an update on the Heroes' Day festivities, noting there were 39 parade entries, 29 vendor entries, and 18 vehicles signed up for the cruise-in to date.

V. COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

Sarah Cook confirmed the City would have a booth at the festival and would generate a sign up sheet for Councilors to staff it. She had previously confirmed with Councilor Hutley the limo was reserved for them to ride in the parade. The next Council meeting would be for the annual budget adoption and related materials.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Watkins moved to adjourn and Councilor Vickery seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:16pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 27th day of July, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder