

CITY OF JEFFERSON
City Council Worksession
July 13, 2023
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Keonali Hutley, Bob Rossiter, Chandra Cruikshank, Mayor Myers, David Watkins, Charles Vickery
COUNCILORS ABSENT: David Kellogg
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Kyle Ward, Foreman(zoom); Deputy Shawn Connelly & Sgt. Garrett Olson, MCSO

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

II. **WORKSESSION TOPICS**

A. Local Non-Profit Round Table: Who are they? What do they do?

Mayor Myers was very pleased with the turnout and asked that everybody wait to be recognized before speaking, noting every group would get a chance to speak. Sarah Cook would announce their turn from the sign in sheet.

Greater Jefferson Community Center – Edna Campau and Helen Tate spoke on financial struggles the Center faced when Covid shut down gatherings, which was a main source of revenue for them. From cooling & warming centers and parties of all varieties, to Christmas at the Center and monthly pot lucks, the facility was widely used by the community. Mentions of upcoming maintenance needs were noted, including the flooring, exterior paint, and interior lights to name a few.

Jefferson Fire District – Chief Levi identified the size of the district, which far exceeded city limits, and spoke on staffing levels at each station, noting there were approximately 25 volunteers. He shared information about their aging equipment, attempts at grants, and expressed concerns about lengthy delays in equipment supply chains, noting a generator that they were awarded from a FEMA grant was 38 weeks out. Their existing levy would expire in November and they planned to approach voters again, with the hope of hiring 3 people and replacing a 2004 ambulance, which early numbers indicated an increase from the current .38 cents to .81 cents. A series of videos and public information sessions would be coming soon. There was brief discussion about Fire Med costs and how funds were distributed from Medicare and OHP.

Lions Club – Wendy Sampels and Mersha Studer spoke on the many services provided by the Lions Club, including vision screening for all elementary kids, glasses, exams and hearing aides for adults, sponsorships for children with diabetes to attend kids camp, in addition to contributing to other local agencies, such as the Food Pantry and Friends of the Library. They spoke about their revenue loss with the discontinuation of the coffee service at the rest area, noting they were looking into other fundraising opportunities. They were always looking for donations of glasses, hearing aids, and cell phones, as they were all reprogrammed, sanitized, and distributed to those in need.

Chamber – Walt Perry was pleased to announce the return of the Chamber and spoke on their history of volunteerism, noting their need for new participants as well. At their first meeting, many private businesses, contractors, and farmers were present and they hoped attendance would only increase because it was good for the community’s health and wealth. Monthly Chamber meetings would be held at 6pm on the 3rd Wednesday at the Conser House.

Friends of the Library – Linda Baker spoke on their mission to supplement the City’s limited resources to ensure quality library services for Jefferson residents, noting the mission was accomplished and would continue. She encouraged all to attend the Library’s upcoming 100th birthday celebration, which would be held in conjunction with National Night Out on August 1st.

All Nations Native American Veterans Memorial – Bill Stam founded the memorial, which sits on his property near the City’s cemetery. He was a 40 year vet, who served 8 years in Vietnam and participated in 150 missions. The memorial was the only one like it, serving all tribal nations, in the country and the only one that recognizes the 34 nations of code talkers. He has presented 29 hero blankets to vets all over the United States, people have visited his site from 12 different countries and 26 states, noting that, when visitors spend time in Jefferson they also spent money at local stores and restaurants. One thing he hoped for was the road leading up the hill could be paved one day, noting the difficulty visitors traveling in motorhomes have.

Historical Society & Museum – Frank & Patti Ball encouraged the Council to tour the Conser House to see all the renovations that had taken place. They also asked that they consider becoming a member for \$20/year. Patti spoke on visibility for the Museum and ways to promote the downtown and the whole town, suggesting an ad in the Travel Oregon magazine and other ways to make it more attractive for people to visit. There was discussion about the need for more volunteerism and ways to promote involvement, noting April was national volunteer month.

Food Pantry – Tamara Manning provided brief history of how the food pantry came to be, noting it’s start as Extra Helping in 2009 when concerns were raised about food insecurity for elementary age children. The program ran about 6 years and utilized roughly 75 volunteers. They became an official 501c3 food pantry in 2012 with the support of Linn-Benton Food Share and quickly outgrew the small room they had been operating in. In 2016 they began operating out of the new addition, which was designed and built specifically for food pantry service. Open Wednesday’s for shopping, they have served people from Jefferson, Scio, Dever-Conner, and Turner. They have 40 trained volunteers and in 2022, they averaged 71 shoppers/month. She encouraged the Council to visit the pantry.

Mayor Myers expressed his gratitude to all of the groups for their amazing services, noting it was very humbling. There was discussion amongst the Council to utilize the City’s quarterly newsletter to highlight the vast services available to the community from so many different agencies.


- III. **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Councilor Rossiter moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Watkins. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. VISITORS

Jon Zeilman, Mill St. – thanked Public Works for repainting the red curb near the boat ramp and expressed concerns about dogs off leash and chasing his cats, which he thought installing a sign could help with enforcement of the leash law. Further, he noted his existing fence, which sat on the City’s right of way and was permitted years ago by written agreement, was in poor condition. He was looking to replace it entirely, keeping everything the same and even using the same post holes, but came before Council for permission to do so. The Mayor, confirming with staff, noted there was no concern about or need for a new agreement if he was keeping everything the same; therefore, he had the City’s permission. Last, he noted his continued interest in some sort of residential parking permit program for the homes located around the boat ramp, particularly during the peak season when he and his neighbors had difficulty parking at their own homes. Mayor Myers noted the Council would entertain the matter if he and his neighbors wanted to make some sort of presentation.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Watkins moved and Councilor Rossiter seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 8:20pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 24th day of August, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder