

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting & Public Hearing
August 24, 2023
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: David Kellogg, David Watkins, Chandra Cruikshank, Bob Rossiter, Mayor Michael Myers, Charles Vickery, Keonali Hutley

COUNCILORS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook CM/R; Jeff Buskirk PWD

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

- II. **PUBLIC HEARING** – Ordinance# 730, Setting Policies Relating to and Providing for the Control, Management, and Operation of the Jefferson Pioneer Cemetery, Authorizing Fees, and Repealing Ordinances #641 and #681

Mayor Myers opened the public hearing at 6:31pm and read the hearing statement, background and summary report before calling for public testimony. There was no written testimony submitted and no oral testimony given. Questions of the Council: Councilor Watkins wondered about the need to create a committee that could help lighten the load for staff. Sarah Cook explained the cemetery was owned and operated by the City and the proposed ordinance was simply updating, consolidating, and further expanding existing rules, which would make it easier for staff to enforce. She did not see a need for another committee. With no further questions or comments, the hearing was closed at 6:38pm.

Mayor Myers proceeded to read the ordinance adoption language, followed by the reading of Ordinance# 730 by title only. Councilor Rossiter moved that the ordinance be adopted and passed to the second reading by title only. Councilor Kellogg seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

Mayor Myers read Ordinance# 730 by title only a second time. Councilor Rossiter moved that the ordinance be adopted and the title of the ordinance become the ordinance. Councilor Kellogg seconded. Roll Call: Watkins – aye; Rossiter – aye; Cruikshank – aye; Vickery – aye; Kellogg – aye; Hutley – aye. **APPROVED.**

III. **OLD BUSINESS** – none

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 Parking on Greenwood St.

It was noted the subject was a continuing safety concern, even after the public works department had installed a “no parking here to corner” sign on one side of Greenwood several weeks prior. There was great concern for the upcoming start of school and the ability for buses to get through, not to mention the amount of kids that would be in the area getting on/off the bus. The proposal would eliminate parking on both sides of Greenwood for one block, which brought on discussion about the inability for the homeowners in that area, and their visitors, to park in front of their own houses. Councilor Vickery noted the homes in that area had oversized parking lots with more than enough room for their visitors to park, to which Jeff Buskirk concurred and added that he would not normally go to this extreme because he believed ROW was for everybody to access; however, the situation was a matter of safety and he believed something had to be done to prevent somebody from getting hurt. Mayor Myers agreed and noted the proposed solution had an effect, like any solution would

and while the proposed fix might not be the silver bullet, he asked Council if they saw it as a viable option for safety purposes.

Councilor Rossiter moved to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Director for installation of “no parking” signs on both sides of Greenwood Dr. from South Main to 2nd. Councilor Vickery seconded. Discussion: Councilor Kellogg announced his intention to vote against the motion and suggested a few alternative solutions for consideration, including notice to the affected homeowners, eliminate parking for half of the block, and/or create a parking permit program for residents in the area. Mayor Myers cautioned the parking permit program, noting other neighborhoods would want the same, such as the area around the boat ramp, and the time it would take to create such a program not to mention the active enforcement of it once it was established; he didn’t think it was feasible for the City staff to manage. He agreed with notification to the homeowners and Jeff Buskirk indicated he planned to speak with each of them personally anyway. Councilor Cruikshank suggested marking the pavement to identify a school bus stop for the kids; however, that opened up more concerns, including providing a false sense of safety, as well as overstepping the boundaries of that which is run by another agency. All in favor: Ayes – 3, Opposed – 3, Mayor Tie-Breaker Vote: Aye. **APPROVED.**

4.2 Banking

A memo from the City Manager provided information on a program brought to her attention by the local bank manager, where the City could move funds from the State Pool (LGIP) to a new Money Market Savings Account and earn .25% more in interest than that of the funds in the State Pool, at any time. Discussion ensued about the limit on insured funds, the terms, fees, and obligations at the local bank, to which the only requirement was that a minimum balance of \$1 million be held at all times. Sarah Cook explained the new account would not be used for any expenditures and that there would be no transactions at all, other than to transfer money in to start the account and then the earned interest each month. She left the amount of the initial transfer up to the City Council to decide. Councilor Watkins moved to authorize the City Manager to establish a new Public Funds Money Market account at Umpqua Bank in the name of the City of Jefferson; and that the same control, management, and authority in place for existing bank accounts be carried to the new account; and that \$2 million be transferred from the City’s LGIP to the new account. Councilor Rossiter seconded. Discussion: Councilor Kellogg was curious why they wouldn’t transfer more, noting there was no risk, fully insured, no fees, so why not? Sarah Cook was not sure of the minimum balance required to maintain the LGIP account, noting she wouldn’t have thought the Council would be interested in moving a more significant amount over; however, she would confirm that criteria and report back to them. Mayor suggested moving ahead with the motion on the table and letting the City Manager get the account started and then the Council could revisit the subject the following month. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

V. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- 5.1 City Clean-Up Day Results – FYI, staff indicated the event was non-stop loads and no final numbers were available just yet as the City had not received the bill from the trash company.
- 5.2 Reminder of Sept 7th Joint PC/CC Worksession for Development Code Review – FYI

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Rossiter moved to approve the consent agenda and Councilor Hutley seconded. Discussion: Councilor Kellogg sought clarification on the women’s club plaque to which Patti Ball explained and Mayor Myers added it was made possible by the remarkable craftsmanship of a past resident, Harry Hollister, who volunteered his time and skill for the cause. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Historical Society – no new info

Planning – discussed upcoming joint meeting and legislative changes affecting the code

Fire – Chief seeking grant funds where available; discussed levy renewal

Parks & Rec – no new info

School Board – toured new health facility; town hall coming soon

Library – 910 visitors last month; 550k minutes of reading for SRP; received STEM grant for robotics

Landmarks – preparing presentation for upcoming joint meeting

MWACT – no new info

TAC – ODOT consultant preparing plan maps for federal aid; concern Jefferson not included

City Parks – reviewed JES draft lease; forwarded on to Superintendent and now with their legal counsel

VIII. VISITORS

Patti Ball – held community meeting with Deputy West and Fire Chief regarding safety and how individual groups and agencies needed their own protocols. She also passed around book marks which contained a list of upcoming community events.

Mersha Studer – thanked all involved in clean-up day and announced a new seed program at the Library.

IX. COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

Sarah Cook secured the high school acapella choir for the annual tree lighting event. The annual audit was being conducted virtually and was in full swing.

Jeff Buskirk applied for the \$250k small cities allotment grant, with the hope of extending 5th street.

Councilor Watkins noted Alyrica had completed their work on the cell tower and brought a new level of internet to town, which he was very pleased with. Councilor Kellogg requested the banking topic be brought back next month to further discuss options to move additional funds from LGIP to the new money market account. Mayor Myers spoke on an earlier memo he provided staff to forward on to the Councilors, which summarized the annual OMA conference he attended in Hood River. He explained that when he leaves those conferences, he's always reminded of how proud he was about the stability of Jefferson, how well operated everything was, and all that the City had accomplished, noting the number of cities facing very difficult challenges. He further complimented the professionalism of the City Council, noting the overall good culture and respect they had for one another.

X. **ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Rossiter moved to adjourn. Councilor Watkins seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:56pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 28th day of September, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder