

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Regular Council Meeting  
October 26, 2023  
6:30pm

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** David Watkins, David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter, Mayor Myers, Chandra Cruikshank, Keonali Hutley

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** Charles Vickery

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Kyle Ward, PW Foreman; Nadia Heinrich, Library Director

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

Kelli Weese introduced herself and was present to share information on the County’s upcoming update to their 5-year economic development strategy, which was intended to promote efforts that would help grow the economy through creation of new jobs, job retention for existing employers, and other ways that would help build up a community. Ms. Weese continued her presentation with information about lottery dollars they received, which helped fund a variety of projects, partnerships, and incentives throughout the County, including support for Chambers, youth programs, broadband, and assisting with the rebuild up the canyon. She explained her task of visiting the cities within the county to complete public outreach and encourage participation in the draft strategy plan by way of a survey, both for government responses and the general public. Mayor Myers asked the Council to forward their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions on to the City Manager who would complete the government survey on behalf of the City, and also encouraged each of them to respond on their own by completing the general public survey as well.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

3.1 Banking Options Cont’d

Sarah Cook provided background on the previous transaction requested by the Council at an earlier meeting, which was to proceed with opening the new Public Funds Money Market account and move \$2 million over from the LGIP. With interest amongst the Council to move additional funds over, the topic was brought back for their consideration. She explained that while there was no required minimum balance to be kept in the state pool, she was not comfortable moving everything out of it, noting that those funds were used to easily move to the checking account when needed to cover large purchases that exceeded the amount in the checking account. If all the money was in the new money market account, she would have to utilize that account to move funds in and out of, which would create more accounting work and tracking, also noting the intended use of the new fund was not for those types of day to day business operations. With little more than \$6 million in the LGIP, she suggested transferring half to the new MM acct. Councilor Kellogg moved to transfer \$3 million from the LGIP to the new Public Funds Money Market account. Councilor Watkins seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.** It was noted the Council would like to review the balances each year, as the state pool account would continue to grow, so the possibility of transferring more over would be an option.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 Library Fine Free Memo – come back to when Library Director was present

## V. DISCUSSION/INFO

- 5.1 The ACTION Campaign – FYI, Mayor Myers provided brief background, noting the support from nearly every Mayor.
- 5.2 Working Capital Carryover Confirms – FYI, audit completed and official carryover numbers provided.
- 5.3 2024 Small Cities Allotment Awards – FYI, City selected for \$250k grant funds. Jeff Buskirk offered a brief description of the project that was approved for the funds, which was for north 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Hazel to Elm, to be widened to full width street, in preparation for future development of the adjacent property, which would ultimately lead to the extension of 5<sup>th</sup> street to Cemetery Hill.
- 5.4 City Manager LOC Conference Recap – FYI, Mayor and Sarah Cook spoke to the benefits of the conference, noting it was time well spent.
- 5.5 Representative Cate Newsletter – FYI, featuring Jefferson. Mayor Myers spoke about the visit, tours, and information shared, noting his hope to have a City Councilor attend along with him next time.
- 5.6 Elected Officials Training – Mandatory Reporters – With a consensus from the Council, Mayor Myers opted to request each Councilor to watch the 27 minute video on their own time, rather than show it at the meeting, given the lengthy agenda. Sarah Cook would send the link to everybody.

Back to New Business, Item 4.1 – Library Fine Free Memo

Mayor Myers encouraged questions and comments from the Council, to which Councilor Kellogg indicated that after some research, he found going fine free could increase the number of people using the library, but usually at the expense of longer wait times and possibilities of not receiving materials back, so he wondered about the focus on increasing Library usage at the expense of current patrons. Nadia Heinrich, Library Director, noted that most studies showed roughly 5% longer wait times and with most all other libraries under CCRLS already being fine free for a number of years, most materials that cycled through the system wouldn't incur fines anyway, so the impact on the Jefferson Library was minimal. She believed the benefits of going fine free far outweighed the cons. She clarified for Councilor Kellogg that the fines/penalties would still be in place for materials considered to be lost or damaged, noting that after 6 weeks the patron would have to pay the replacement cost or return the item.

Councilor Hutley inquired about an amnesty program, which Ms. Heinrich indicated they had done in the past, but in the end it was basically the same as being fine free, but only for a limited period of time. If an amnesty period was held too often or regularly, they found that patrons would just hold on to the materials waiting for that. Councilor Cruikshank asked what she was most looking forward to if fines were stopped, to which Nadia responded about the importance of keeping the valuable resource available to children and families, and hated the idea that people stopped coming to the Library because they had late fees. She further pointed out that 15 of the 18 member Library district were already fine free and prior to moving that direction, CCRLS had performed lengthy studies and evaluations. It was also noted that the annual budget of fines to be received was \$500.

Councilor Hutley moved to approve the staff recommendation to eliminate late fees at the Jefferson Public Library, effective immediately. Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 3, Opposed – 2 (Kellogg, Watkins). **APPROVED.**

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Watkins moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Rossiter. Discussion: Sarah Cook provided explanation on the payment to the State for unclaimed property and Jeff Buskirk clarified the large expense to replace the wastewater pump that had failed 6 months ago. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

**VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Historical Society – no new info  
Planning – no new info  
Fire Dept. – generator on order from FEMA grant; levy is out and public outreach is being done  
Parks & Rec – no new info  
School Board – talk on stipend for board members, but put to a stop  
Library – discussed fine free program  
LAC – using the state’s model code to update City code; Mark Manning moving; Tuesday markets cancelled  
MWACT – no new info  
TAC – reduction in available funds; continuous talk about traffic troubles in Jefferson to keep it up front  
City Parks – collecting examples of park signs, rules; getting ready for public outreach to seek input

**VIII. VISITORS - None**

**IX. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Sarah Cook provided potential dates for upcoming Council meetings during November and December, noting there was typically only one meeting due to the holidays. The November meeting would be on the 16<sup>th</sup> and in December, the Council meeting would be on the 14<sup>th</sup>. She reminded everybody of the upcoming Annual Tree Lighting on December 4<sup>th</sup> as well.

Jeff Buskirk indicated the engineering for the recirculation system at the water plant was getting underway. Councilor Kellogg inquired about the recent flooding that occurred on Salamander Rd, asking if it was a City issue. Jeff Buskirk explained it was a Marion County road, the pipes belonged to the County, and the farm that all the water was coming off of was outside the City. He noted the farm property was cleared early, leaving behind bare dirt field, which turned to mud during heavy rains and then washed down the hill, also pointing out that, unfortunately, it would continue all winter because nothing could be planted on the land at this time.

**X. ADJOURN** – Councilor Kellogg moved to adjourn. Councilor Hutley seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

  
Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder