

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Regular Council Meeting
November 16, 2023
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Keonali Hutley, David Watkins, David Kellogg, Bob Rossiter, Chandra Cruikshank, Mayor Michael Myers
COUNCILORS ABSENT: Charles Vickery
STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Kyle Ward, Foreman; Deputy Morse, MCSO

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE** – Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute.
- II. **OLD BUSINESS** – None
- III. **NEW BUSINESS**

3.1 LAC Resignation

Councilor Kellogg moved to accept the resignation of Mark Manning from the Landmarks Advisory Commission. Councilor Watkins seconded. Mayor Myers noted he was sorry to see him go, recalling when they first met and all that he and his wife Tamara were involved with in the community. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

3.2 Conser House Structural Analysis Report Summary

Mayor Myers indicated the report, while difficult to understand all the technical information, was very thorough and detailed. Frank and Patti Ball shared more materials to better explain and summarize the larger report provided to the Council. JHS&M had developed a plan to move forward, with approvals from SHPO, of course, noting that during some of the more extensive work the museum would likely need to be closed.

3.3 FY 22-23 Audit Report

Sarah Cook explained how the audit was conducted entirely virtually and provided a brief overview of some of the main highlights of the overall financial report. She pointed out fund balances and working capital carryovers to highlight remaining funds at year end, which the City utilized to begin the following year with, as well as activity in the main operating and enterprise funds of the City, including the General Fund, Street, Water, and Sewer funds, in addition to the City's overall debt service, noting the recent payoff of the USDA loan. Mayor Myers pointed out the City's continued compliance and stability and complimented staff on their fantastic work.

IV. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

- 4.1 ODOT Great Streets Application Update – FYI, the City was not selected for grant funding to reconstruct Hwy 164.
- 4.2 November Holidays – FYI, no discussion
- 4.3 Annual Holiday Dinner Plans – Discussion and a decision on potluck vs. catering. The dinner, which recognizes staff and volunteers of the City would be catered.

V. CONSENT AGENDA – Councilor Rossiter moved to approve; seconded by Councilor Watkins. Clarification on the annual WWTP loan payment to Zion Bank and the bill from Quality Code Publishing was provided to Councilor Kellogg. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VI. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Historical Society – held annual meeting; reviewed financials, noting the \$6k cost to keep museum open; looking into fundraising but not concerned about that cost
Planning – no meeting, trouble with reaching quorum
Fire Board – levy did not pass, unsure what their next steps will be
Parks & Rec – pool winterized; offering spring pool season; poor condition of old gym floor; middle school level sports wearing miss-matched uniforms due to inadequate funding
School Board – Jefferson On the Move campaign; received \$65k early literacy grant; nationwide decline in enrollment likely to pose financial strain the following year
Library – fine free data collection underway; 715 patrons visited in September, always increasing
Landmarks – no new info; not yet met
MWACT – no new info
TAC – no new info
City Parks – no new info; not yet met

VII. VISITORS

Patti Ball shared a memo written by Edna Campau and spoke on her behalf about the poor condition of Main Street, where many events were held and a lot of foot traffic from elderly citizens and visitors occurred. She urged the City to make Main Street a priority, as more and more people would be coming to the area with the expected improvements to the Conser House/Museum and parks in the vicinity. Councilor Watkins was ready to start making things happen and suggested closing a portion of the street, in front of the Conser House, for a promenade area for pedestrians only. Mayor Myers recognized the need for improvements, no doubt; however, he explained it was not low hanging fruit, adding that to do it all and to do it right would be in the millions.

Patti Ball inquired about assigning a City Councilor to attend Chamber meetings. Mayor Myers pointed out the availability of Councilors, noting some were assigned to several different committees already, which were well established, well communicated, etc. He was hesitant to assign a Councilor to the Chamber just yet, indicating he preferred to wait until they were up off the ground and going consistently for a bit.

Mersha Studer shared fun news of past resident, Chris Giffin, who recently had her art featured on the new Beatles album titled "Now and Then"!

VIII. COUNCIL & STAFF UPDATES

Councilor Kellogg inquired about an update on the recent flooding that had occurred on Salamander Rd. due to the nearby farm property being cleared too early and all the rain carrying the mud down the hill. Public Works Director, Jeff Buskirk, explained what took place and that Salamander Rd was a County road, and the farm where the mud was coming from was out in the County as well. Public Works spent significant time power washing and cleaning the thick mud from the roadway, sidewalks and driveways of homes, while clearing storm drains, and helping where they could; however, it was ultimately the County's problem. He went on to say he was aware the County, State Ag Dept, and DEQ had all been on site to assess the situation and the farmer would likely be looking at fines, noting the extensive damage to one home in particular.

Mayor Myers spoke of an upcoming meeting with representatives from Congresswoman Salinas and Senator Wyden's office, where tours of the City would take place, in addition to sharing concerns over the recent court ruling ordering the dam drawdowns, which had significant negative impacts on many cities and wildlife.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT** – Councilor Watkins moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Rossiter. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:51pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 14th day of December, 2023.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder