

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Council Worksession  
January 11, 2024  
6:30pm

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

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, CM/R; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Alex Kemmer, PW Op; Kyle Ward, PW Foreman; Shawn Connelly, MCSO

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

**II. WORKSESSION TOPICS**

**A. 2023 Year In Review**

Mayor Myers asked each Councilor to share their thoughts about the past year; accomplishments, what worked or didn't, changes they'd like to see, etc. Councilor Watkins started, commenting that he believed it was a good year, with much accomplished, such as creation of a City Parks Committee, park development, Alyrica came to town, Conser House renovations, doors had been opened for new contacts, and he was very thankful for all the work that was done. Councilor Kellogg added that the City ran very smooth, with a great staff, so it didn't call for a lot from him. He explained that it was during the flooding on Salamander where he felt like a City Councilor, as neighbors came to him with questions and concerns. He would like to see movement in the technology upgrades to the Council chambers. Councilor Vickery echoed similar sentiments, noting there was a lot he'd learned over the past year and he thought they did well on everything they worked on, including updating laws regarding homelessness and creating parks. He would like to see more of the community get involved. Councilor Hutley appreciated the opportunity to be a volunteer for her community and noted the staff made their job so easy. She enjoyed the training opportunities and hoped to participate in more going forward. She really enjoyed being involved in Hero's Day and thought it was a great community success, as was National Night Out. She hoped to see more attention on improvements to OR 164, downtown revitalization, and development of affordable housing. Councilor Rossiter was also looking forward to the availability of parks, was very pleased with the addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy and spoke about the steep learning curve there was when he became a City Councilor. Councilor Cruikshank said her time on the Council had been very humbling and she realized you don't know what you don't know. She enjoyed Hero's Day and appreciated the Council's patience with her as she continued to learn.

Mayor Myers commended them for their work, their volunteerism and willingness to serve. He appreciated the mature and respectful way they behaved as City representatives, how they came in prepared, and their mindfulness of the work they did. He shared some of their many accomplishments from the last year, including a new Park Comm, FT Library Director, began code review, updated code on camping and homelessness, construction on Mill St. park, 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy, balanced budget with no deficits or increased taxes/fees, new money market account, started dialogue with school district on potential lease for additional park, \$250k SCA grant, and noted they should be very proud of their work. Councilor Watkins thanked Mayor Myers for his leadership; always prepared, ran the meetings well, and had a wealth of history and knowledge.

**B. Election of 2024 Council President**

Councilor Rossiter nominated David Watkins. Councilor Hutley seconded. There were no other nominations. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

C. 2024 Council Liaison Appointments

Mayor Myers apologized for his inability to attend the JHS&M meetings regularly; however, he felt they were a solid group and didn't know what he could add, or if there needed to be a City Councilor appointed. All agreed the group would send meeting minutes to the City Manager to keep the Council informed. Mayor Myers was interested in participating in the Chamber meetings, as was Councilor Hutley. After some discussion, it was agreed Councilor Hutley would be liaison to the Chamber and Mayor Myers could attend anytime. There was open discussion about the need to continue liaison assignments to some groups. Councilor Rossiter didn't feel they needed to keep Parks & Rec, as they focused on sports mainly. All agreed to remove it and to obtain minutes of their meetings to stay informed. Nobody was available to attend the Landmark's Committee meetings during the day, so it was removed and staff would continue covering it and sharing the minutes. All other committee assignments remained the same.

D. 2024 Council Calendar

Mayor Myers explained the purpose of the annual calendar was to assign topics of interest to worksession agendas, such as things they wanted to see further researched, visitors brought in, or any existing or new topic. He encouraged them to come up with ideas and they would add them to available worksession dates throughout the year, noting the Strategic Plan review could be added to February with the annual rate review, which may also carry over to March.

- III. **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Councilor Rossiter moved to approve; seconded by David Watkins. Clarification was provided on the invoice for the concrete pad at the Public Works facility, which was for storage of rock and sand. All in favor: Ayes – 6, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. **VISITORS**


Patti Ball commented her hope that there would be public input on the City's strategic plan goals and went on to share about the Chamber meeting the night before. 19 people attended and they discussed updating the website, business of the month, upcoming trade fair in April, and a possible Christmas parade.

V. **COMMENTS**

Mayor Myers spoke on the passing of Joan Hamby, noting the Hamby family had made their mark on the community. Her celebration of life would be the following Monday.

- VI. **ADJOURNMENT** – Bob Rossiter moved, seconded by Councilor Vickery. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 7:40pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Myers, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder