

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Special Council Meeting & Public Hearing
Jefferson Community Center
April 25, 2024
10:30am

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME JHS CLASS OF 2024/FLAG SALUTE** – Mayor Myers opened the meeting at 10:30am. He welcomed the students, called for introductions of everybody at the table alongside him, and then led in the flag salute.

- II. **JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BETWEEN THE COUNCIL & PUBLIC CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD**
Re: Resolution #1096 relating to Public Contracting Rules for the City

Mayor Myers opened the public hearing and joint meeting at 10:33am, noting the reason was driven by changes from the Attorney General’s office. He proceeded to read the background and summary statement, followed by a call for any abstentions from the Council. There were none. Mayor Myers called for public testimony, both written or oral. There were none. With no questions from the City Council, he took a moment to explain, for the students, how the rules related to fair bidding and procurements of materials and services, then closed the hearing and joint meeting at 10:38am.

III. **OLD BUSINESS**

- 3.1 Resolution #1096, a Joint Resolution of the City Council and Local Contract Review Board, Opting Out of the AG’s Model Public Contracting Rules and Amending Public Contracting Rules for the COJ

Councilor Watkins moved to adopt, seconded by Bob Rossiter. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0.
APPROVED.

- 3.2 Strategic Plan Feedback from JHS Class of 2024

Mayor Myers spoke to the students about the role of local government, which he explained could effect their lives more than any other level of government, and pointed out they could also make more impactful changes at the local level than any other. He explained the purpose of the Strategic Plan; a way to keep tabs on the ever changing needs, demands, and desires of a community; a form of short and long term planning for things such as police, housing, parks, and new facilities to name a few. The Council was interested in hearing what the students had come up with after their recent review of the Strategic Plan.

Daniel – more sidewalks were needed in town, particularly from the schools, because it was not safe for students walking to/from.

One student wanted to see a dog park in the community with separation for large and small dogs. Mayor Myers took a moment to explain the City's park funding history, development of an SDC, and acquisition of the City's current properties identified for parks. He noted the health of a community was based on livability and sustainability – things like parks, libraries, public safety. Councilor Rossiter added information about the establishment of the City Parks Committee and varying degrees of regulations the City must abide by, such as the wetland property.

Another student commented on the number of coffee places in town and was pleased to hear the availability of pizza would be coming soon. When asked how the City attracted businesses, Mayor Myers explained the restrictions placed on City's, noting; however, there were networking opportunities that came into play, i.e. sharing information at various conferences and regional events, word of mouth, etc. The real avenue for attracting and bringing in new business would be through the local Chamber, which had been recently reawakened. He went on to address a question about where money comes from to keep the City operating, to which he touched upon property taxes, franchise fees, state shared revenues, and user fees for water/sewer service. Upon request, he went on to share the City's unique way of funding the City Hall and the years of volunteerism and collecting donations it took to see the Library come to life.

A student commented that crosswalks were needed along the highway, to which Councilor Watkins talked about his role with the MPO and how the highway was regulated by the State. He went on to address limitations on funding, increasing costs of equipment and services, pointing out the reason the local fire district was going out for a levy. Other suggestions from students included more town events, family restaurants, and cultural festivals.

Councilor Rossiter explained how so much of what the City did was unknown or people weren't aware of or didn't see, noting their intent to protect the community, plan for future generations, giving examples of things like internet providers, relationships with outside agencies, funding opportunities, and so much more. Councilor Cruikshank explained how she was so impressed with the integrity and professionalism of the people next to her at the table and other areas of the City, such as the Library where staff pour their hearts into their work, and that was why she joined the City Council. She encouraged the students to get involved in their community because she knew local problems could, and should, be solved by the community.

In closing, Mayor Myers suggested they join a committee, register to vote, attend future City Council meetings to stay in the know. You can do anything, but do *something* outside your own self, because that was an incredibly rewarding thing.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 Volunteer Application for Planning Commission – Councilor Watkins moved to approve and Keonali Hutley seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

V. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- 5.1 Mayor's Proclamation - Mayor Myers read the proclamation declaring a Day of Prayer.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA – David Watkins moved to approve the A/P; Councilor Rossiter seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 4, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chamber – no new info

Planning – DC updates approved and coming to Council

Fire Dept – approved for \$35k wildfire grant to pay for summer help

School Board – Superintendent would not be returning when his contract ends

Library – prepping for Summer Reading Program

Landmarks – no new info

MWACT – no new info, but ODOT coming to Council soon

TAC – new grant writer on board

Parks – no new info, waiting on JSD lease comments

VIII. VISITORS – none

IX. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilor Hutley shared information about youth grants that were available to JHS students from the Chamber.

Mayor Myers thanked the students and staff for attending and encouraged them all to go through life finding things and ways to contribute and offer others.

X. ADJOURNMENT – Bob Rossiter moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Watkins. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 11:42am.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of May, 2024.



Michael D. Myers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Cook, City Manager/Recorder