

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes from
February 12, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Regular Session

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2007, at 7:18 p.m. at the Jackson City Council Chambers. President Speakman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and followed by prayer, both led by Mr. Reed.

A roll call was taken as follows:

- Mrs. Colby – absent
- Mr. Hughes – present
- Mr. Eric Brown – absent
- Mr. Reed – present
- Mr. Cary Brown – present
- Mr. Stewart – absent
- Mr. Heath – present

Mr. Heath made a motion to excuse Mrs. Colby, Mr. Eric Brown, and Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Reed.

Mr. Heath made a motion to approve the minutes from January 22, 2007, January 31, 2007 and February 1, 2007, seconded by Mr. Cary Brown.

VISITORS

Mr. Ross was scheduled to speak to Council, due to illness he canceled and rescheduled for the February 26, 2007 meeting.

Katie Klinefelder, Seasongood & Meyer was scheduled to speak to Council, due to inclement weather she rescheduled for the February 26, 2007 meeting.

Brent Vanhooze, Sieman's Company, see attached. Mr. Heath asked if this included all meters, Mr. Vanhooze response yes. Mr. Heath asked if new meters would go in old pits, Mr. Vanhooze response yes. Mr. Heath asked if pits would have to be opened monthly, Mr. Vanhooze response no. Mr. Reed asked if these ran on batteries. Mr. Vanhooze replied yes, with an approximate 20 year life. Mr. Speakman asked the percentage of failure for accurate readings? Mr. Vanhooze stated there is a 15 year guarantee on meters. Any problems with transmission will register errors. Mr. Heath asked the time span involved in switching the meters. Mr. Vanhooze stated approximately three to four months. The estimated total project would cost \$2,000,000;

this will increase revenue approximately 10%. Mr. Speakman stated that all information would be referred to the Utility Commission for their review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITY

Mr. Heath made a motion to have the law director to prepare an ordinance to repeal the utility increases approved in December, seconded by Mr. Reed. Mayor Goodman would like to repeal since the new budget numbers are in place.

Mr. Heath if any information had been forwarded to Jones & Henry in regards to the effect of losing Michelina's. Mayor Goodman stated he was still waiting on information; nothing needs to be done per Mr. Howarth. Mr. Heath noted he would still like to review this information. Mayor Goodman did not see the benefit of this information is it is not needed. Mr. Heath stated again he would like to see this information. Mr. Benson stated this information would cost approximately \$1200.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Mr. Reed stated that the new city budget will be a first reading. Several items need to be reviewed. He would like to schedule a special meeting to vote on this ordinance. A meeting will be held on February 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to take action on Ordinance No. 17-07.

Mr. Heath asked if this budget reflect revenues and losses. Mr. Reed stated it shows transfers from the general fund to separate line items, such as water fund, storm water fund, salary & wages, etc. Mr. Heath stated that we will be spending more than we bring in. Mr. Reed stated it is possible in future years that an income tax maybe necessary. Mr. Workman stated we spent \$2.5 million on the sewer plant upgrade. Mr. Heath stated we still lost funds, projects will cost us \$1.8 million this year and \$470,000 next year. Mr. Benson stated that this money was saved and planned years earlier.

POLICE, FIRE & TRAFFIC

Mr. Reed stated that after reviewing the police contract, he thinks this will go on to arbitration. Does not agree with some of the things in the contract. But would like to make a motion for new ordinance to be prepared and pass the contract, seconded by Mr. Cary Brown. Mr. Heath stated that he does not agree with contract. Mr. Humphreys stated that the police chief and assistant police chief have not had a raise in four years and this needs to be reviewed by Council. Mayor Goodman stated that he does not side with the police; he is in favor of a fair contract. We have learned lessons and feels it would be a wise decision to move on.

SERVICE

Mr. Cary Brown stated there will be a committee meeting on February 15, 2007 at 3:00 in the Mayor's office to address complaints the Mayor had received in regards to litter control at Lake Hammertown. Mr. Heath stated most complaints are received during hunting season, he feels there are too many hunters.

RAILROAD

Mr. Heath stated he had attended a meeting in Oak Hill concerning opening a mine in Bellville. Could possibly be transporting 50 rail cars per day through Jackson. Mayor Goodman stated there would be a meeting on February 15, 2007 at 1:00 in the Mayor's office to discuss the enforcement or modifications to the US Rail agreement. Mr. Cary Brown stated that several months earlier this matter had been discussed. Mr. Reed stated that US Rail had given the city a modified contract almost one year ago. Too many changes that did not benefit the city. Mayor Goodman stated this could be part of the negotiations. Mr. Benson asked Mr. Speakman to attend this meeting. Mr. Cary Brown stated he did not want to give them the old rail and take a chance of losing everything.

LEGAL

Mr. Heath stated that prior to the regular meeting there had been a committee meeting to discuss Council rules, records laws, zoning regulations, committee meetings, training sessions for the police department for domestic violence, nuisance ordinances and the Dennis Hodge unemployment case.

BUILDING – No report.

CITY AUDITOR

Mr. Humphreys stated that the auditor's office was moved back into the Memorial Building. Wednesday there would be an investment board meeting at 11:00. He further stated that the then and now resolutions were due to the fact the purchase orders were not completed in a timely fashion. He did state that he had signed an emergency requisition for Roy Hatten to purchase salt, approximate value \$2900. Warner cable owes two years back pay. Daycare Center grant will be here this week.

LAW DIRECTOR

MAYOR

Mayor Goodman noted the following: Mr. Taylor had information on Time-Warner situation, crews are ready for the next storm, permanent budget needs approved ASAP, in April the city will host Tree City USA event, issues with authorization for city credit cards, and would like to move the Service and Railroad committee meetings to Council Chambers.

Mr. Heath asked if we had heard from Carolyn Grant on the Maxximus. Mayor Goodman stated that we will know soon. Mr. Humphreys stated the state auditor's office is interested in how calculations are figured. Mayor Goodman will contact by the weeks end if we hear nothing. Mr. Humphreys told the state we would like this resolved.

SERVICE DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER

Mr. Benson gave the building permit report, see attached. Mr. Benson stated that the water treatment plant proposal for the electric bid is out, \$750,000 project. Bonding company states a savings of \$40,000 per year. The Veteran's Drive substation report, see attached. Amp Ohio – base load meetings, we have until August to decide. He is for it; consulting firm will come in to review with Council. Prior to the ice and snow storm the city purchased 2-1 ton dump trucks for \$7,000 each, this were equipped with blades and spreaders.

Mr. Humphreys stated that Katie is suggesting combining current debt and future debt. Mr. Heath would like to look at base load plant in line with hydro plant; this is for the next generation.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Workman stated that Mr. Greg Ervin, Friends of the Trail and the City Administration had presented information to the public. He would like to use tree harvest funds for phase II of the bike path. Mr. Heath stated he had attended the meeting; he is stumped and perplexed that we would start and finish this phase II this year. Financial numbers keep changing with every request. Did present questions. We do not have final figures; nine days later we are ready to start construction. Worried about the cost overruns. He would like to see a full compressive plan for all recreational facilities. Concerned with 32 overpass, easements, and crossing county land. He asked why we were rushing this project. Further stating that haste makes waste. He feels we should be patient and do this correctly. Mr. Workman stated that we have an adult softball field grant, which will be located at Eddie Jones Park on Harding Avenue. Mr. Heath stated that we need a reasonable approach. Mayor Goodman stated we have an opportunity to build this path, not willing to stop progress. Mr. Heath asked why the administration asked for our input. Mr. Workman stated we have sent letters of interest for grants. Mayor Goodman will make a proposal/recommendation to Council. The committee desires this project. Mr. Workman stated that the public is invited to the next meeting to discuss concerns. Mr. Heath stated we do not receive appropriate answers. Mayor Goodman there was no implication that Council should not approve this project. Please show support or arguments with this project. Mr. Cary Brown asked if there was a problem at the meeting. Mr. Reed stated he was not sold on this project. The funds, athletic facility, grant monies, capital funds, and second phase coming before the first. If we can get grants, we should wait. He would like to see all the figures. He is concerned with the engineering and cost, the tree harvest funds are a bonus. Mayor Goodman noted that his concerns were legitimate.

SAFETY DIRECTOR – No Report.

POLICE CHIEF - Absent

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 02-07

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERSONAL LEAVE/TIME OFF FOR THE
POLICE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF.

In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mrs. Colby – absent
Mr. Hughes – yes
Mr. Eric Brown – absent
Mr. Reed – yes
Mr. Cary Brown – yes
Mr. Stewart – absent
Mr. Heath – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 02-07 DULY ADOPTED.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-07

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO, AND THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CENTER OF JACKSON, FOR THREE-PHASE ELECTRIC SERVICE, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Reed made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Cary Brown. In a
voice vote, all Council agreed.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-07

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE STORM WATER UTILITY FUND, AND
SETTING AND APPROVING APPROPRIATIONS IN THE STORM WATER
UTILITY FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Reed made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Cary Brown. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-07

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATIONS FOR JANUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Heath made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Cary Brown. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-07

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE STORM WATER UTILITY FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Reed made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Heath. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Heath a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Reed. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Heath made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Reed. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Heath made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Reed. In a voice vote,
all Council agreed.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Heath made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Reed. In a voice vote,
all Council agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Governor Strickland, see attached.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Heath asks about the 2005 annual audit. Mr. Humphreys stated that we have
passed ordinances that need paid, waiting on information.

NEW BUSINESS

The special meeting to be held on February 20, 2007 will be to discuss all pending
legislation.

ADJOURN

Mr. Heath made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Reed. Council adjourned
at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVAL

Tera L. Brown
Clerk

Ronald Speakman
President

Date_____

Date_____