

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Session  
November 10, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order..... President Speakman  
Pledge of Allegiance..... Mr. Smith  
Opening Prayer..... Mr. Wiggins

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

October 27, 2008

VISITORS

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Utility
- Budget & Finance
- Police, Fire & Traffic
- Service
- Railroad
- Building/Recreation
- City Auditor
- Law Director
- Mayor
- Service/Safety Director
- Redistricting Committee

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

## JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

*Minutes from*  
October 27, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
Regular Session

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jackson City Council chambers. President Pro Tem Tom Evans called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was given, led by Mr. Eric Brown. The Prayer was given, led by Mr. Wiggins.

A roll call was taken as follows:

- Mr. Evans – present
- Mr. Adams – present
- Mr. Eric Brown – present
- Mr. Smith – present
- Mr. Cary Brown – present
- Mr. Elliott - present
- Mr. Wiggins – present

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to excuse Council President Ron Speakman, seconded by Mr. Wiggins. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

Mr. Wiggins made a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2008 regular session seconded by Mr. Adams. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

### VISITORS

Joan Michael, local business owner, stated our rates are out of control, after speaking with Mayor Heath, a company was to come in and review excessive usage. Mayor Heath stated that Bob DeWitt from AMP OH was on a leave of absence and that the administration had not forgot. Mrs. Michael stated she was not sure how to read the bill and the cost per kw. Mr. Cary Brown asked how much are we charged per kw and how much do we charge the customer per kw. Mrs. Michael stated she does not understand the fuel adjustment and a former employee of the city told her that it was on the bill as a penalty. Mr. Evans stated that was not correct. Mr. Sheward stated the base rate and fuel adjustment varies monthly on supplier charge. There is a formula, the municipal electric company receives revenue to purchase and deliver electric, the fuel adjustment is more than the base rate, this does need adjusted. Mrs. Michael stated she was told this was a penalty. Mr. Eric Brown explained that we receive are electric from different suppliers, some of our rates are purchased on the open market. Mrs. Michael stated that there bill is too expensive. Mr. Evans stated that commercial users do pay a higher rate. Mr. Eric Brown asked if she had her electric service looked at, could be out of balance. Mr. Cary Brown asked if we had a fixed rate on electric purchased. Mayor Heath stated a portion was on a fixed rate. Mr. Cary Brown asked how much, 5%, 7%. Mr. Eric Brown stated that Mr. Woltz had given the committee a sheet with power sources, fixed is less than a 100%. Mr. Evans stated the kw cost varies from month to month. He suggested that we double the meter to rule out faulty meter. Mr. Wiggins reminded her that there was no fuel adjustment on the Nov. /Dec. 2007 bills and incorrect billing from October to May of this year. Mr. Evans suggested she talk with Karen at the utility office and the city will someone to check the meter. Mr. Brown ask wasn't council given a chart with fixed rates. Mr. Eric Brown stated there are multiple contracts. Mr. Smith stated he did not understand the utility bill, the committee requested an easier to read bill. He also stated there may be a problem with this batch of meters. Mrs. Michael asked if this was for the \$2.2 million bailout, electric department is a business, why should we pay for this and why are we not going after delinquent accounts. Mr. Evans stated the number of delinquent accounts is very low. Mayor Heath stated we are looking at new studies, this will help answer questions. Mr. Smith asked why this couldn't be answered in house. Council never acts on studies, what are we hoping to achieve. Mayor Heath stated an efficiency of our system; this is more complicated than I know. Mr. Smith asked if we had people who could work on this. Mayor Heath stated this was a comprehensive study. Mr. Evans suggested moving on to the next visitor and taking this discussion up again in the Utility Committee Report.

Sandy Adair, city resident with an interest in seeing a dog park constructed within the city. She

feels this would be a positive addition. It has been scientifically proven that interaction with pets is beneficial to our health. This would give pets and opportunity to socialize, be less fearful and aggressive. She went on to discuss her pets, stating we need a safe place for pets to run. She stated she has received great support from the community. Mr. Smith stated this has been a topic with the Building & Grounds committee, we are looking for an area within the city, but we are making no promises. Mrs. Adair suggested that the former Parkview school playground area would be ideal. She suggested developing a committee to address and left her number to be contacted, 286-3233.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### UTILITY

Mr. Eric Brown reported that the committee met a week and a half ago, very productive meeting. Would like to see Ordinance No. 79-03 passed, garbage rate would increase \$2.00 per residential/commercial customer, this includes senior citizens. Ordinance No. 102-08, this is to reinstate the 3% annual increase, would like to see this passed. Ordinance No. 105-08, electric rate increase, there was much discussion, Mr. Woltz provided useful information. The ¼ cent increase is needed to bring the operating budget in line for bond requirements; we are looking to the future, not the past. Within two years we will have the required fund balances needed. We have not relinquished the fact that AMP OH erred, we have made a request for E&O insurance coverage. Mayor Heath stated the administration will follow up on this. Mr. Eric Brown stated it started with an incorrect cover sheet. He went on to discuss the garbage fund, discussing the oldest truck, stating it was here for council members to view its poor condition. Mr. Cary Brown asked who drove the truck to the lot. Mr. Eric Brown did not know. Mr. Cary Brown asked who was over the maintenance, bald tires, trash in the bed and very dirty. Mr. Smith stated the committee requested, he told us it was not road worthy. Mr. Cary Brown asked are they mechanics. Mr. Eric Brown stated it was too costly to repair. Mr. Smith noted that the floor boards were rusted out of the number two truck also. Mr. Eric Brown stated it was time to move on this matter or wait and purchase two new trucks later. Further stating that the increase was not just to purchase a truck, as this would be done over a five year period. Mr. Sheward stated he was not at the meeting and quite surprised, he had been working on a grant to purchase a new type of truck and dumpsters, further stating he will not waste any more time on this grant. Mr. Eric Brown stated that the new type of truck would cost \$240,000 plus the cost of new dumpsters, the grant is for \$40,000. Dumpster sales have dropped off. The committee did state that for safety reasons all trash must be inside the dumpster and in or around the enclosure, they will not pick up that day and the customer will be charged for the extra trip. Mr. Smith stated that retrofitting old trucks to pick up new type dumpster was very expensive. Mr. Eric Brown stated also there are areas in the downtown that this new type of truck would be unable to access. Mr. Cary Brown asked why can we not use this truck, but we will sell it the villages or private companies to use. Mr. Eric Brown stated they do not have the load capacity of the city. Mr. Elliott asked why we are staying in the dumpster business. Mr. Eric Brown stated that Mr. Speakman stated we would be giving up our residential garbage business. Mr. Elliott did not see the connection. Mr. Eric Brown stated the other companies want more business; they are currently paying a \$10,000 franchise fee. Mr. Smith pointed out they could walk out on the city or go out of business, by keeping our service we are generating revenue. He stated the administration was asked to review the dumpster rates, and recycling personnel will go out and sell our dumpsters. Mayor Heath stated they are reviewing. Mr. Evans stated the franchise contract does state they are excluded from the residential garbage, strictly commercial.

### BUDGET & FINANCE - No Report

Mr. Adams stated a meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2008 at 6:00.

### POLICE, FIRE & TRAFFIC – No Report

Mr. Sheward stated that the monthly report had been distributed for review. Mr. Evans stated he sees there has been no arrest for u-turns or j-turns. Mr. Sheward stated two citations were issued in October. Mr. Smith stated that in the first six months of 2008 there were only 11 speeding citations issued, in July/August there were 27 citations. Would like to thank the department, but noted there is still a problem with speeding.

### SERVICE – No Report

### RAILROAD – No Report

Mr. Evans requested an executive session to discuss legal matters.

#### BUILDING/RECREATION

Mr. Smith stated a meeting will be held on Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

#### CITY AUDITOR

Mr. Humphreys stated they were two ordinances for grant filing, \$30,000 for an elevator. Ordinance No. 100-08 needs discussed, we have no choice but to vote for. Mr. Cary Brown asked why he did not see creek cleaning funds on the monthly report. Mr. Sheward stated that no funds had been spent. Mrs. Sexton stated there is no detail by line item, but the funds are in the budget. Mr. Cary Brown stated no fund? Mrs. Sexton stated no fund, but line item. Mr. Brown asked what work had been done. Mr. Sheward stated they have work (in house) in the Horse Creek area; this is being done as time permits. Mr. Cary Brown stated you have told me this twice, but where was the work done on Horse Creek. Mr. Sheward stated he should come by the office and he will show him, we have the intention to do more. Mr. Cary Brown stated it is almost November, bad weather is coming. Mr. Sheward stated he can't answer we will hire someone and spend the funds, but we won't get much accomplished. Mr. Cary Brown stated \$20,000 done quite a bit in years past. Mrs. Sexton stated that \$50,000 was spent over several years. Mr. Cary Brown stated when the new council started at the first of this year, we discussed, and I have concerns with flooding. Mayor Heath stated we are trying to be cost efficient. Mr. Cary Brown stated garbage truck, we have funds for a truck and the creek. Mayor Heath stated that was not true.

#### LAW DIRECTOR

Mr. Detty stated that Ordinance No. 108-08 was for replacement. Bill was passed in September 2007, franchise done away with from Time Warner. This was needed by October 16, but they were notified of our next meeting date, but would like this to pass ASAP. Mr. Evans asked if both covered revenue, internet and cable. Mr. Detty stated internet excluded. Mr. Evans asked if this effected the pole agreement, Mr. Detty responded no. Mr. Evans stated we can get by with this, but we can take care of when renew pole agreements. Mayor Heath should look at contracts. Mr. Detty stated these were done last year with Horizon. Mr. Evans stated we need to make as broad as we can. Mr. Eric Brown asked if they gave us the language. Mr. Detty stated they sent a template. Mr. Eric Brown asked why it stated video not cable; this could affect the city, Cable Channel 15, and the city schools. Mr. Detty stated that could be, don't pass tonight. Mr. Evans stated he should check with the municipal league. Mr. Cary Brown stated we missed out with the fiber optics for \$100,000. Mr. Detty requested executive session to discuss pending litigation, Murphy vs. City and US Rail vs. CIT. Mr. Detty noted that he and Mr. Woltz were working on the public records of the prior administration.

#### MAYOR

Mayor Heath gave his report (see attached), and showed a certificate awarded by the American Cancer Society. Mr. Eric Brown asked about the Chip program, this is the second time they were denied in three years for grants. Mayor Heath stated it was very competitive this year. Mr. Eric Brown stated that council requested that Fritz not work on our paperwork because of losing the first grant. Mayor Heath stated he will find out who prepared. Mr. Eric Brown stated look into, the community needs these funds. Mr. Cary Brown stated he agrees with Mr. Eric Brown and asked if we are over that program. Mr. Eric Brown stated we have a contract and they administer the funds. Mr. Evans stated it is an independent contractor, we used to do in house, but we had to lay three employees off one year and the fund was empty, we will not do that again. The Stroth's are independent contractors, no funds, no jobs. Mr. Elliott asked about the cemetery. Mayor Heath stated that Mr. Sheward is working on the steps and Mr. Detty on the survey. Mr. Cary Brown asked Chip, grant writing, can anyone on the city write. Mr. Eric Brown stated we awarded the contract for grant writing. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Causey, is city not liable, this was not quality work, but received different reports. Mayor Heath stated there are questions, but there are two sides to the story. Mr. Smith stated this is not a dead issue. Mayor Heath stated Mr. Causey signed off, but we will continue to review. Mr. Wiggins stated the recycling change notification should not be four pages. Mayor Heath stated it will be one page with each utility being addressed. Mr. Evans stated make it brief. Mr. Cary Brown asked if there were two contractors on the Causey job. Mr. Eric Brown stated that if letters were sent to 3500 customers the cost would be \$2300, suggested putting in the newspapers. Mr. Evans suggested a door hanger and let the meter readers distribute.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR

Mr. Sheward stated that Resolution No. 25-08 was for the Solid Waste Committee and needs passed tonight. Mr. Evans stated the EPA requires this be done. Mr. Sheward stated the sewer lining project is still under budget, we can install more and use the remainder of the grant funds. We will bid the St. Rt. 93 water line project in December, we are hoping for grant funding. There is a possibility it will not be completed without grant funds.

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans stated that two maps were distributed, current and proposed districts. Thanked the committee and Mr. Woltz for the mapping. Further stating he had spoke to Mr. Milliken, Board of Elections will address. Please give this three readings and this matter should be reviewed again in 2011. Mr. Wiggins complimented the committee and Mr. Woltz for a job well done. Mayor Heath stated Mr. Woltz is a valuable employee.

ORINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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ORDINANCE NO. 79-08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING JACKSON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 945-03, COLLECTION RATES FOR RESIDENCES, ORDINANCE AMENDING JACKSON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 945-.031, SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT RATE FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION, AND AMENDING JACKSON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 945.04, COLLECTION RATES FOR BUSINESSES.

Third Reading

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to amend the ordinance to read senior citizen rate \$9.50 and commercial increase to \$2.00, seconded by Mr. Wiggins. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Adams. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

- Mr. Evans – yes
- Mr. Adams – yes
- Mr. Eric Brown – yes
- Mr. Smith – yes
- Mr. Cary Brown – no
- Mr. Elliott – yes
- Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance, Council voted as follows:

- Mr. Evans – yes
- Mr. Adams – yes
- Mr. Eric Brown – yes
- Mr. Smith – yes
- Mr. Cary Brown – no
- Mr. Elliott – yes
- Mr. Wiggins – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 79-08 DULY ADOPTED AS AMENDED

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ORDINANCE NO. 99-08

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Wiggins made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Eric Brown. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 99-08 DULY ADOPTED

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ORDINANCE NO. 100-08

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING REDUCTIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SEWER UTILITY OFFICE FUND, SEWER COLLECTION FUND, AND ELECTRIC FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Adams made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Eric Brown. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 100-08 DULY ADOPTED

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ORDINANCE NO. 101-08

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE ELECTRIC UTILITY RESERVE FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Adams. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 101-08 DULY ADOPTED

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ORDINANCE NO. 102-08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING JACKSON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 929.07, WATER RATES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Adams made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Eric Brown. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – no  
Mr. Cary Brown – no  
Mr. Elliott – no  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

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ORDINANCE NO. 103-08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING JACKSON CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 105, WARDS AND BOUNARIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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ORDINANCE NO. 104-08

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Wiggins made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Eric Brown. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 104-08 DULY ADOPTED

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ORDINANCE NO. 105-08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING JACKSON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 921.06 DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, ELECTRIC HOME RATES, AND SECTION 921.07, INDUSTRIAL RATES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Adams. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – no  
Mr. Cary Brown – no  
Mr. Elliott – no  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

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ORDINANCE NO. 106-08

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.



First Reading

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

Mr. Smith made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Elliott. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 106-08 DULY ADOPTED

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ORDINANCE NO. 107-08

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Wiggins made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Elliott. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the ordinance, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

ORDINANCE NO. 107-08 DULY ADOPTED

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ORDINANCE NO. 108-08

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER FEE TO BE PAID BY ANY VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER OFFERING VIDEO SERVICE IN THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER FEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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RESOLUTION NO. 24-08

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JACKSON TO FILE AN APPLICATION, AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS OR DOCUMENTS, WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA FOR THE COMMUNITY FACILITY INITIATIVE (CFI) PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Adams. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

Mr. Smith made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Elliott. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

- Mr. Evans -- yes
- Mr. Adams -- no
- Mr. Eric Brown -- yes
- Mr. Smith -- yes
- Mr. Cary Brown -- yes
- Mr. Elliott -- yes
- Mr. Wiggins -- yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the resolution, Council voted as follows:

- Mr. Evans -- yes
- Mr. Adams -- no
- Mr. Eric Brown -- yes
- Mr. Smith -- yes
- Mr. Cary Brown -- yes
- Mr. Elliott -- yes
- Mr. Wiggins -- yes

RESOLUTION NO. 24-08 DULY ADOPTED

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RESOLUTION NO. 25-08

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF GALLIA, JACKSON, MEIGS AND VINTON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a voice vote, all Council agreed.

Mr. Eric Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Adams. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

In a roll call vote to adopt the resolution, Council voted as follows:

Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

RESOLUTION NO. 25-08 DULY ADOPTED  
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**CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from Mr. Cole for liquor permit transfer, see attached. This was previously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Humphreys asked if the sidewalks were going to be done to 776 and the cost. Mayor Heath stated this was done with CBG funds. Mr. Sheward stated we are done, no more funds available.

**NEW BUSINESS - None**

Mr. Smith moved to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation, Murphy vs. City of Jackson and US Rail vs. CIT, seconded by Mr. Eric Brown. It was requested that the Administration, Clerk and Auditor stay. In a roll call vote, Council voted as follows:


Mr. Evans – yes  
Mr. Adams – yes  
Mr. Eric Brown – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Mr. Cary Brown – yes  
Mr. Elliott – yes  
Mr. Wiggins – yes

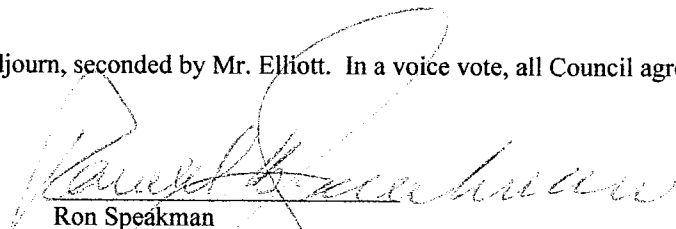
Council moved into executive session at 9:40 p.m.

Mr. Smith moved to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Eric Brown. Council returned to regular session at 10:03 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Elliott. In a voice vote, all Council agreed. Council adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

  
Tera Brown  
Clerk  
Date 11/10/08

  
Ron Speakman  
Council President  
Date 11-10-08

## *From Randy Heath, Mayor, City Of Jackson*

Dear Council Member,

I have included a number of items in this packet tonight.  
Among them are the following:

- A copy of the mayor's report. I will be reading it pretty much in its entirety as I believe there are several topics the citizens are interested in as well, but this way, you can refer back to it.
- A copy of what I gave to School Superintendent Phil Howard on my philosophy of how a Biddee League basketball program for youth should be operated and a program's benefits, including the proposed schedule I had created that would have incorporated our program with the YMCA and Upward basketball programs,
- A copy of a report from Mike Stroth on his stance concerning the situation involving the residence of Kent Causey,
- A copy of the email I had forwarded to all of our police officers concerning added patrols, especially in the areas of Mound and Morton streets and Jackson Heights,
- A copy of the news release last week regarding the changes in the city's recycling program, and
- A copy of my Annual Report to the Jackson Area Chamber Of Commerce at its Annual Appreciation Banquet last week and the outline I made on how the improvements in our quality of life could very well result in a more stable economy in our area.

Thank you very much for your patience and attention to these issues.

Sincerely yours,

Randy Heath, Mayor  
City Of Jackson

# MAYOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 27, 2008

1. Recreation Director
2. Consent Order
3. Utility Rates
4. CHIPS Meeting
5. Causey Housing Issue
6. Lake Hammertown Day
7. Recycling Update/Change
8. Police/Extra Patrol
9. Cemetery Steps/Other Issues
10. Meeting With Ohio Rail Dev. Comm.
11. Leaf Pick-up
12. Halloween
13. Parkview School

## 1. RECREATION DIRECTOR

To start off tonight, I have some very, very disappointing news to tell you, and that is as of December 31, we will no longer have a full-time recreation director, or any recreation director for that matter, as I felt with the current circumstances I had no choice but to terminate the position, and to be honest, has somewhat placed the future of the entire city recreation program in question.

Municipal recreation has been a love of mine since I started coaching in 1972, and one of the things I was most looking forward to as mayor was building our community a first class recreation program that would serve a multitude of needs. I can't really express my disappointment that this has deteriorated to this level.

As you know, the first setback occurred in April when we learned from a Board of Education meeting that the agreement that provided our recreation department with \$10,000 for monitoring the high school field house was being discontinued.

To provide this service for the school, previous mayor Goodman asked the council to provide approximately an additional \$15 to \$20,000 a year so we could have someone full-time to fulfill these duties. I supported this because I felt this could be a tremendous asset to our community and by improving our quality of life, we greatly improve our chances of selling our community to a prospective industry to hopefully fill the Meridian building or other location.

Although it was absolutely the school's right to terminate the agreement and I respect them for their decision, I feel somewhat betrayed that it now it somewhat appears this was a deal between the former mayor and the former school treasurer and as soon as both of them are out of the picture, the school was no longer interested in continuing it.

I do know when we met with the school officials in January, there was some concern over some issues in our oversight of the facility, but I had no idea these issues existed until we met, and I stressed I would do whatever possible to accommodate their concerns.

But on our part, that was our recreation director's first year in overseeing the facility and she said the past administration did not advise of the parameters the school mentioned as concerns, and it is unfortunate the past administration did not make sure last fall everyone was on the same page concerning the operation of this facility because it appears that lack of communication could be very costly to us.

As for the agreement, I wish Mr. Goodman would have at the time he proposed the full-time position told the council how tentative this agreement apparently was, and I would have been much more concerned about sinking what has been about a \$100,000 investment into a program now seemingly for naught as we are back to square one.

I do know this agreement was consummated about the same time Mr. Goodman was negotiating seriously with former school treasurer Ernie Strawser and the school system to purchase the land behind the new Walgreen's store and, I believe, all of the bus garages for several hundred thousands dollars and council put the brakes on it, and whether the field house agreement continuing long-term was based on the city buying all of that property I believe to eventually build a brand new city building or whatever, I don't know.

But when I agreed to it as a council member, I felt it was to be a long-term commitment to both help our schools and help our city, and I am very saddened it did not turn out that way.

Even with the loss of the \$10,000, I worked very hard to try and establish an agreement between multiple parties that would allow us to keep our full-time recreation director in place, and operate a Biddee League program that would serve all the kids in the Jackson School District and allow the parents to choose the level of basketball participation they wanted for their child, whether just the program for city school district children operated by us, a more competitive program at the YMCA, the Upward Basketball Program, or all three.

You will see I have provided for you a schedule I had worked up that would have accomplished this for our children because with all of the programs running independently in recent years, it was really being counterproductive in some areas.

In matter of fact, I thought at one time we had a tentative agreement with the school system after a meeting involving several parties, and I met with the new boys basketball coach to outline the program. I stressed I very much wanted to work with the varsity basketball programs and allow the coaches to have clinics with the coaches and players to get them started properly, then allow them to just go out and play and learn from what they had been taught.

But I was then informed by school officials they wanted the city to have no physical role in the operation of a Biddee League program that would be held at school-owned facilities. I was informed the varsity coaches, in addition to their coaching duties, would oversee the entire youth program and was led to believe they wanted to have a program more structured to improve the high school athletic program.

While I fully respect the wishes of the coaches for wanting to have their own program, and I feel strongly that improving athletic skills is a most important component of a Biddee League program, we must always remember it is not the only component if, as a recreation program, it is to be fully successful.

For any recreation program to be successful for young people or any person of any age, it has to have the component of competition, social bonding, the thrill of being a part of an actual team because for many at a youth level, it might be the only athletic team they ever get to be a part of, and that is the component I hope is never lost in this.

I know our varsity basketball program has not been as successful in recent years as all of us would like, but I certainly don't blame that on the Biddee League programs as there have been a number of factors that have contributed to this.

There have been some who have suggested the city start back up the program in the Memorial Building, but one court is not big enough to run both a satisfactory boys and girls program, and that would make a fourth Biddee League program, which I think is just insane.

We need to be finding ways to unify the programs, not have more of them, and I had hoped that I had us on the road to that, but such is not the case.

I do not know if the schools want to take over all of the youth recreation programs from the city or not, that was not made clear. But I am truly looking forward to working with school leaders to see if we can find some common ground that benefits all of our young people, because I am not going to compete with our schools and produce a counterproductive environment.

I'm going to be honest, I believe the total recreation program, with the additional funding four years ago, fell far short of its potential and it was my goal and desire to see that potential met with the financial foundation we had, using it as a true tool to not only improve our overall quality of life, but make us a more attractive entity economically.

But obviously, our recreation program has become another quality of life issue which I am going to have to go back and start over from scratch, and hopefully I can find the ways to make it better, and certainly more stable, than it was before.

## **2. CONSENT ORDER**

You'll be glad to know the rest of my report on each of the issues is short.

As Jack mentioned, we do seem to finally have a tentative, final agreement concerning the consent order. This was a very tedious process and hopefully will allow us to start on the right foot and not have some of the issues we have had in the past.

Now, this agreement is still very cumbersome and we have some benchmarks we must meet or it will be very costly to our wastewater customers, so while the agreement is final, there is still much to be done to live up to the agreement.

I also want to thank our industrial users for their patience in this process and although I tried to do this as a member of council and failed, I believed they should have been included in the process long before they were, and if that would have happened, most, if not all, of the issues we have had to deal with since the beginning of the year would have been settled.

I also want to especially thank law director Detty for his tireless work on this issue, because he had to pick up the lead on this last spring with very little prior involvement and I feel got this resolved in the best interest of our citizens. Thank you, Jack.

### **3. UTILITY RATES**

As you know, there is a third reading on our garbage ordinance tonight and first reading on two other vitally important utility-related ordinances.

I certainly respect the time and deliberation council has taken concerning these issues, as I am sure no city council with five new members out of seven have ever been confronted with a \$5.5 million spending deficit in its three major utilities over the previous four years, then be faced with the incredible situation created by the unique underbilling situation in our electric department.

I want to thank the committee members and council members who spent three hours in the utility committee meeting hashing this out. I believe having the supervisors come in and explain the situations thoroughly was very beneficial, and will do that in the future if the committees so desire.

While we, as an administration, continue to work very hard to reduce as many utility-related costs as possible and will continue to do so, it is important that our funds regain their financial stability and I appreciate your hard work toward this goal.

### **4. CHIPS MEETING**

Earlier this month, Mike and Deanna Stroth, who the city contracts with for the oversight of our CHIPS grant, and myself met with officials from the Ohio Department Of Development concerning the fact our CHIPS Grant application was not funded for the coming year.

The state officials told us this was possibly the most competitive year ever for the program, with 25 of the 87 applications not getting funded.

One example of how competitive the scoring was, the city was deducted points from a sign-in sheet to a mandatory meeting that must be held with pre-selected individuals. As the participants arrive, they are to sign in on a sheet that has his or her name already typed in and are to sign beside his or her name.



Obviously, the ones who are present sign in and the ones who are not present do not sign in. Now, we did not lose points because there were those who did not attend, but because in the blank spaces we did not write the words "did not attend".

There said no points were deducted due to past performance issues, and in most normal years, our request would have been funded. But this shows how competitive the funding for all programs are now, and how limited some funding from other governmental sources might be in the future.

The office will continue as past projects are being completed with left-over funding, and we will apply again in the spring for next year.

## **5. CAUSEY SITUATION**

At a previous council committee meeting, resident Kent Causey attended with concerns over work done at his property by the CHIPs program.

The administration met with Mike Stroth concerning Mr. Causey's issues, and Mr. Stroth has written a response that I have included in your packet and if you have any further questions, you may contact Service Director Sheward or myself.

## **6. LAKE HAMMERTOWN DAY**

On October 11, our city recreation department had its second annual Lake Hammertown Day. For anyone who was not present, you missed a wonderful day.

This was totally organized by our recreation director, Lisa Hudson, and she was able to get donations and grants so the event could be held at no cost to the city with an attendance of between 100 and 200 people.

What I felt was most impressive about the day was the number of entire families that were present, parents playing with and having a great time with their children, and not being just a baby-sitting service where the kids were just dropped off.

The park side of our lake is one of the most beautiful settings in Jackson County, and we need to take more advantage of the peaceful, aesthetic setting our lake provides.

This is the kind of project I wish we could, and should be doing more of, but because of the circumstances now in our recreation department, this sadly will probably be a casualty because as simplistic as it might look, it takes a great deal of organization and work and I want to thank Lisa for the effort she put forth.

## **7. RECYCLING UPDATE/CHANGE**

Our recycling program to date kept about 24 tons of items out of the landfills and placed them into a future use, which is equal to about one-half of the city's garbage collection in a week.

When we re-instituted the program, I had felt it might be best to collect the recycled items twice a month rather than every other week, because every other week could be confusing.

But we ultimately decided to go every other week, and now we believe it would be less confusing to do our collections twice a month, meaning that in some months those who have their recyclables collected in the first week of the month might have to go three weeks at the end of the month between collections if their day happens to have five days in it in a month.

In other words, if your recycling is picked up on Wednesday, the first day of the month, you will have it picked up again on the 15<sup>th</sup> but not on the 29<sup>th</sup> two weeks later, which is the fifth Wednesday of the month. It will be picked up again on the first Wednesday of the next month.

I sent out a news release to the newspaper last week explaining this, and when all of our utility adjustments are in place, I plan on sending out a four-page, detailed letter to each of our utility customers explaining the changes in our water, wastewater, electric and recycling programs.

## **8. POLICE/EXTRA PATROLS**

You will also see in your packet a letter from me I had forwarded by the assistant police chief to all of our police officers, asking for extra patrol throughout the city, but especially in the Mound/Morton Street area, where we have had two violent crimes, and in the Jackson Heights, where there have been a number of thefts.

## **9. JAMES CEMETERY SIDEWALKS**

At a recent council committee meeting, we met with Anthony Coyan concerning some issues at the James Cemetery, including property boundaries, that Jack is working on, and helping them with steps from the city sidewalk into the cemetery itself.

Mr. Coyan and his fellow society members have done an absolutely wonderful job in rejuvenating the James Cemetery and deserve much credit.

In talking with Mr. Sheward, though, he is concerned that none of our city employees really have much experience to speak of in building steps, and we all know how tricky building steps can be.

So, I just wanted to let the council know we are still working on this issue.

## **10. MEETING WITH THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMM.**

Lou Jannazo of the Ohio Rail Development Commission arranged a meeting in Jackson involving the city's administration, Mr. Jannazo, representatives from U. S. Rail and the Jackson County Economic Development office, concerning our grant-and-loan agreement project with them and potentially a phase two of the project.

The administration has pretty much turned the project over to our consultant, George Wehner, as to any potential re-direction of the project, and we are working with him on that now.

## **11. LEAF PICK-UP**

The city's street and alley department has been picking up leaves on a daily basis, and our residents can either bag them or just rake them into the street and they will be picked up.

This department has worked hard all year despite being a man short the entire year in an effort to save money, yet I feel they have kept up well from snow removal, to mowing to now leaf pick-up.

If someone does have leaves to be picked up and unfortunately we miss them, either call the city garage or the mayor's office and we will get them picked up.

## **12. HALLOWEEN**

Our community was invaded yesterday by many scary looking individuals.

I did not have any reports of any problems and obviously the word got out, because I know I gave out my allotment of 440 Heath bars in just 75 minutes.

I also want to thank the Jaycees for their efforts in helping to keep our streets safe during this time.

## **13. PARKVIEW SCHOOL**

On Friday, I met with school superintendent Phil Howard to go over the city's possible acquisition of Parkview School.

I have given the deed to Mr. Detty for his review, and Mr. Howard and myself talked about some of the stipulations the school would like to have in the agreement.

Now this is just for the school building and the area behind it, but Mr. Howard said they were willing to discuss with us the future of the front portion of the building.

I think the major stipulation the school has is that they would like to see the senior citizens be able to be in the building within a six-to-nine month time frame, which I certainly think is possible.

I know we held a previous Building, Grounds and Recreation meeting concerning this, and I think prior to the next full council meeting it might be advisable for us to meet again and decide on a definitive plan as to how this might incorporate into our plans to do the needed renovations of the Memorial Building.

Associated with that, you will have a resolution for us to apply for a potential \$30,000 grant from the Governor's Office Of Appalachia I found out was available through my association with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission.

They only have 10 grants available in the 29-county area, and I know this is going to be very competitive, but I would hope the circumstances of our project will give it a good chance.

Now, if anyone has any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them or if not, thank you and I'm done.

# **BIDDEE LEAGUE**

## **GRADE 3-4 BOYS**

Tuesday  
Jackson only – Fieldhouse

Thursday  
Area League – YMCA

## **GRADE 3-4 GIRLS**

Thursday  
Jackson only - Fieldhouse

Tuesday  
Area League - YMCA

## **GRADE 5-6 BOYS**

Monday  
Jackson only – Fieldhouse

Wednesday  
Area League – YMCA

## **GRADE 5-6 GIRLS**

Wednesday  
Jackson only - Fieldhouse

Monday  
Area League - YMCA

## **JACKSON ONLY**

Monday	5-6 Boys
Tuesday	3-4 Boys
Wednesday	5-6 Girls
Thursday	3-4 Girls

## **YMCA AREA LEAGUE**

Monday	5-6 Girls
Tuesday	3-4 Girls
Wednesday	5-6 Boys
Thursday	3-4 Boys

## **SATURDAY**

Boys/Girls Clinic	Fieldhouse
Upward Basketball	CUMC Church

Dear Jackson City School officials and coaches,

For decades, the city of Jackson has been an integral partner in the development of the athletic and social growth of our community's youth.

As a former coach in our city's recreation program, a former city recreation director, and now as mayor, I believe this has been a most beneficial partnership for all involved.

As mayor, I want to make it a priority to grow this relationship to an even greater level that I know will benefit our community, our school system, and more importantly, our youth.

To fully understand this relationship and its importance, I believe it needs to be looked at in the number of areas that are affected.

## 1. THE PURPOSE OF A YOUTH PROGRAM

There are two primary reasons for the establishment of an athletic program for elementary age youth, and I am an absolute firm believer in that if you don't meet both objectives, you will never really meet either of them.

First, there is the educational, or athletic growth, component. Helping to give these young people skills they can use for the rest of their lives, whether it is in a pick-up game or as a future college athlete, this should be able to be accomplished to suit whatever level the young person might participate in as they mature and grow older.

Any time there is an event involving young people, it is a bonus any time you can incorporate an educational component and it must be utilized. A program such as this is a wonderful opportunity to properly begin young athletes on the road to proper fundamentals to where they can enjoy the game for as long as they are physically able to play.

It is also imperative that the educational component at this level be evenly distributed and enjoyable to the participants as well. The reason it must be equally dispersed is because it is almost impossible to determine at the elementary age level as to what degree of athletic participation any young person might enjoy in the future.

The star athlete in the fourth grade who has had an early growth spurt and is made to feel like the "star" of the future, is going to lose interest in the sport if the skill of others pass him and it appears his ability has diminished, when it really hasn't.

In addition, how many times does the youth program role player become a leader by the time they reach high school because of later growth and skill development.

This is why it is imperative each young athlete is treated with patience and without judgment so they are allowed to develop at a natural rate, always being able to adapt to any changing circumstance and feel accomplishment in doing so.

But all of these means absolutely nothing if it isn't fun, if there is not some sense of short term accomplishment and fulfillment, no matter how minor it might seem. If it is not fun, if there isn't a sense of visible accomplishment for each athlete in their own eyes, no matter how minor, whatever is learned will be useless because it will not be utilized in the future.

And if this is not the goal of the program for each and every participant, no matter what their skill level might be at that particular time in their life, then the program has come up short and has not fulfilled its objective.

To be honest, the greatest social benefits of this kind of program might be for the participant who never gets to play on another team after participating in a youth program.

If the program is structured so there can be meaningful, competitive competition, as far as basketball goes, it might be the only time that boy or girl gets the thrill of putting on a uniform, being part of a team that actually wins or loses a game that is playing toward a team championship, with standings for wins and losses.

It might be the only time they get the thrill of having a foul called and getting to shoot a foul shot with everyone watching, getting to score a basket and know the scorekeeper is writing a "2" beside his or her name.

I am sure that is petty to someone who feels they are going to score 20 points a game in high school, but someone like me, who only got play three minutes and 38 seconds in games after sixth grade, tried out every year and was told all but one year you are not good enough, those are my memories of a lifetime and I still cherish them today.

In Jackson, in any given year, there could be 30 or more participants from any one grade participate in a youth basketball program. More than one half of them, maybe as many as two-thirds, will never play again after sixth grade.

But if they are able to play in a structured system prior to reaching the junior high level, they will have had the chance to play in a wonderful environment before being naturally eliminated from further competition, having every minute of fun they could.

By the time those 30 or more reach high school, 20 percent at the most, and maybe as few as ten percent, will still be playing competitive basketball. And out of that, only between 10 and 20 percent might start, with some seniors playing, and because of moving in or other reasons, having never played in the youth program.

This is why it is counter-productive to use a program such as this as solely the foundation of a varsity basketball program, because so much potential of the benefits of such a program would be lost and circumstances could provide little benefit.

Also, if such a program becomes nothing more than an instructional tool in an eight-to-ten year basketball program, with the benefits being only what they might accomplish as a varsity basketball player, that naturally tends to lead to an emphasis on the more talented players at that particular time and if it is others who are the most talented as juniors and seniors, and lost interest early on, then having the program go in such a direction is a detriment.

These are the reasons why having the right philosophical approach to such a program is so important if it is to reach its maximum potential.

## 2. THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND ITS COACHES

Obviously, this is a program that is meant to be a benefit to every child in the school system that participates, regardless of talent level. I am sure this is the goal of the school system in educating every child regardless of the discipline, whether it is in math, social studies or athletics. The goal is to allow every child to reach his or her greatest potential in every discipline possible.

On a personal level, in the 535 games I volunteered my time to coach in as a youth league coach, I coached with one statement as my guide.

When I was nine years old, a fourth grader in the fall of 1963, my mother took me to the Memorial Building to sign me up for Biddee League basketball. I can still remember her telling the man who was signing up players, then head basketball coach Dave Fisher, that I didn't know very much about basketball.

"Then that's what we're here for, to teach him," I remember Coach Fisher saying, the winningest coach in our school's history. And I remembered it every day I coached with every athlete I coached.

Unfortunately, the youth athletic programs in Jackson have never taken proper advantage of our athletic coaches since Coach Fisher left Jackson in 1972.

This is a great opportunity to change that and for our coaches to officially put their stamp of approval on the direction of the program

There have often been comments about the quality of coaching in the youth programs, and I have no problem whatsoever in working with the high school coaches to see we have the most qualified people possible in the school district as coaches.

But in our youth basketball programs in the past, none of the high school coaches have ever taken the time, for whatever reason, to "coach the coaches".

I know as someone who coached for a number of years, I would have been eternally grateful if the high school coach would have imparted some very basic knowledge to me, on how to teach a child to dribble, to shoot, suggest some drills.

I know how much it would have impressed me as a child if the head coach would have held, for example, two clinics on successive Saturdays, so the players could have engrained in them from day one what was the right way to do a particular skill, the right way to dribble, pass or shoot.

This way, the coaches, the players, all have the proper direction and now every one involved can go out, have fun and grow with the knowledge they have been given before the season ever starts.

There are two more great benefits to approaching the educational component in this manner.

First, it should allow for more proper individual instruction for each young person. If you have 12 to 16 boys teams and 12 to 16 more girls teams, as many as 32 teams, then you have 32 teachers who can teach these fundamentals all year long, rather than having to rely on the high school coaches to try to coach and teach the elementary children as well as the high school teams.



It is practically a full-time job to coach a high school team once the season starts, especially with as many coaches as Jackson has who are non-teachers and have jobs outside the school district. If they try to do too much, maybe no one will be coached well.

Another great benefit is that it allows the coaches in the program to naturally buy into the varsity coach's program and helps the varsity coach build trust within the community.

Rather than just having a couple of coaches or school officials trying to sell the program within the community, you now will have 20 to 30 more individuals from every walk of life out there supporting the program, reaching members of the community previously gone unreached.

It also allows the varsity coach to demonstrate he has trust in the members of the community to help him build his program and communicate what he wants taught to the young people.

It also gives the coaches in the youth program more confidence in selling the varsity coach's program to the public and gaining support. Whether it would be John Wooden or Randy Heath coaching, a coach has to earn the support of any community he coaches in, and this is a great way for the varsity coach in Jackson to earn that trust.

### 3. OUR CURRENT VARSITY BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

There is concern about the state of our current basketball program, more so seemingly with the boys program than the girls. There is also seemingly concern about the role the youth basketball program has possibly played in the program's current state.

During my 30-plus years as a sportswriter and sportscaster, I have been around some very successful high school programs. When I was in Pike County, I covered Eastern High School under coach Don Cantrell, who I consider to be the finest high school coach I have ever covered or been around.

I have also been around programs which have been very unsuccessful as well.

My last year as a youth basketball coach was when the senior class of 2005 was fourth graders. My final game as a coach was winning the tournament championship. Those fourth graders as seniors went on to play on the winningest regular-season team in Jackson High School history with a 17-3 record.

We had members of the community coaching the teams including me, who never played a varsity game in my life. I certainly doubt that we made them the winningest team in school history, just as I strongly feel the current youth basketball programs have not contributed that much to the demise of our current basketball program and lack of participation.

But if we are looking for reasons, I guess I would like to put my two cents in.

First, most likely the biggest impact on our current program was the upheaval two years ago involved in the replacement of the two varsity coaches and the impact it had on both programs.

The result was the dismissal of a coach for the girls who was popular with many of the players, a key player transferring, the boys program having a total turnover in coaching from top to bottom except for a sophomore in college volunteer coach, who was the only returning coach last year, bitterness within the school among some because of coaches no longer a part of the program, resentment among some members of the community with the dismissal of the girls coach, a series of events some might feel were done in the long-term best interest of the program, but has certainly had short-term detrimental ramifications.

For the boys, this is the fourth head coach in five years following one of the most popular and successful coaches in school history in Dustin Ford, and any coach is going to have to re-earn the trust of the community and athletes.

Last year's program was low on numbers and low on talented players. We did not have the talent and the skill of other teams. I must admit, I thought junior varsity coach Max Morrow won one more game than I thought he could, and he won one.

You can't have that kind of turnover in coaches from top to bottom every year and have any consistency in your program.

Unfortunately right now, it appears we have very low numbers in our freshmen class in all sports as there was no freshmen football team and that could bleed over into basketball.

But why should any young person be interested in physical activity, feel that it is an important skill to be developed in the educational and life-maturing process when the school system itself says it is not important?

I must admit, I was shocked this year to find out we have no structured physical education in our elementary schools! If it is so important to have these athletes at a premium skill level in high school, if it is a priority to encourage our young people to be at a level of physical excellence it allows them to be competitive with other schools, why then is it not important right from day one in elementary school to teach everyone the value of being physically healthy and physically fit?

If we don't stress to them from day one the importance of physical fitness in the creation of a healthy lifestyle and the development of their athletic skills, why are they going to feel it is so important in third or fourth grade to start developing skills for something we want to pay off in eight to ten years?

There are a number of valid reasons, I feel, that have negatively impacted our basketball program in recent years, but with all due respect, the youth basketball program and those who have participated in it I don't think is really one of them.

#### 4. WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT NOW

There are a number of critical reasons why I feel it is so important that we enhance and grow the relationship between the school system and the city government at this time, and not allow it to begin to deteriorate.

- a. The operation of this program is critical to the success of city's recreational program.

Four years ago, our city government made an unprecedented commitment to recreation for our citizens, and primarily the youth of our school district, based on a proposal initiated by the school district.

The proposal came about when the school district had made a promise to the residents of the school district to open the field house for public use and had made no provisions to have supervision to do so.

To assist the school district in providing this supervision, of which they offered \$10,000 annually for these services, the city expanded the city's recreation department, based solely on this request, to employ a full-time director. This meant an additional approximate \$20,000 a year commitment, or a \$100,000 additional commitment over the last five years.

Although the school district chose to terminate the agreement which provided the \$10,000 a year to support this program, I have tried very hard to maintain this position for the benefit of our community, especially for the benefit to our young people.

But if we don't have a winter program to manage, and gain some income from one, there is simply not enough programs for us to manage to justify this position, and the additional programs we used that \$100,000 investment to develop, will have to be eliminated and that investment, for all intensive purposes, was for naught.

Thus, if the school district takes over the youth basketball program, it would mean the termination of the full-time recreation director's position, which is a true step back for our community and our children.

It might also mean, with the financial limitations facing the city, if someone can't be found part-time or to volunteer to oversee our summer programs like baseball and softball, which has almost become a full-time job during the season, then in addition to the school system assuming the youth basketball programs, the high school baseball and softball programs will have to assume the direction of the summer program for youth if our community is to have a summer program.

With the school's financial shortfall in the athletic funds, said by the superintendent to be \$50,000 last year, I would think it would be very hard for the system to invest the financial resources, not to mention the time, to have to take over the summer program.

With these circumstances, I would hope the school would want to work with the city to not only keep the current structure in place, but to strengthen it for the benefit of both parties.

- b. There are a number of long-range ramifications the city and the school district could both face by the potential elimination of the city's recreation department.

If we are to help our city and school district both become the best they came be, which should be the goal for both of us, we, in no way can we underestimate these factors.

When talking with the superintendent, he pointed out the cost of health insurance to the district as being nearly \$3 million, with the system facing as much as a \$300,000 increase.

Of course, one of the ways to keep health care premiums down is the have healthy employees, the less trips to the doctor, the less costs to the insurance company, the lower they can make the insurance rates.

One of the best ways to accomplish this is to promote healthy lifestyles, such as exercise, for example.

I know the schools have been very enthusiastic in promoting the city's recycling program, hoping to instill at a young age the need to recycle. Of course, it is hard to encourage a physical healthy lifestyle at that same level without physical education in our elementary schools now.

In addition, we need to find a tenant for the Meridian Building. As mayor, that is all I hear. And what a boon it would for both the city and the schools.

For the city, we would gain a key utility customer that could help bring down the average cost for our residential users.

For the schools, what a great asset to the tax base, and the school's financial funds, if there was a tenant paying property taxes like Meridian did.

Of course, finding a tenant for the Meridian building doesn't have a single thing to do with physical education or the city having a youth basketball program.

Well, think again, because it has everything to do with it, and this is why.

Just like the schools, health care is one of the top issues for any industry, especially when looking to relocate a facility or expand operations into a new location.

When I talked last year with the president of the Ohio Chamber Of Commerce, a gentleman who found new locations for his company, he said the number one issue they looked at was quality of life, and that includes right at the top the effort to create a healthy lifestyle.

Why? Because if the employees have a healthy lifestyle, if the community has recreation programs that helps keep the residents in a healthy condition and frame of mind, if the community has outdoor programs for their prospective employees that keep them energized and enthused, if they feel better because of this, they are going to be better employees.

And if one community has a full-time recreation program, are trying to develop healthy lifestyles for the young people and adults alike that will continue to help companies avoid health-related issues and their costs, versus another community that could care less if people exercise, if they feel healthy or not, or whether they are energized and enthused or not, if you have one community that is working hard to invest in themselves and working diligently together, and one that wants to invest as little time, effort and financial resources as possible and can never seem to get on the same page, well, which community do you think is going to get their empty building filled with the top quality jobs, and which community do you think is going to continue to struggle?

Then which community is going to have the shrinking tax base, meaning more cuts in education, more children on public assistance because of no jobs, more children with troubled home lives, children more occupied with issues at home than learning at school, meaning lower test scores, and more public scrutiny because of state assessments?

But all of that could change, overnight, if you can just build the community's economy so the citizens and school district both prosper. JHS graduates now with college degrees get to come home because there are jobs, more children coming from more sound home lives, now they can concentrate more on education and succeed more.

And what attracted those good-paying jobs and not some fly-by-night minimum wage outfit? Simple, an attitude, because the quality companies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century want a quality and healthy lifestyle for their employees, because they know it will make their employees more productive, and most importantly, will help keep health insurance premiums down.

And with a full-time recreation department in our city, we can compete with the other cities to bring in the quality companies, the ones that pay \$17 or \$27 an hour, and not just the minimum \$7 an hour, and we can do that if we have the programs and the income from those programs to justify such a position.

Amazing how everything else effects the other.

## 5. IN CONCLUSION

There are many reasons why I feel it is in the best interest of both the city government, and maybe even more importantly the school district, for our current recreation department to continue to play a lead role in the community's youth basketball program.

With the proposed set-up involving the city and the YMCA, it allows a child and his parents to choose the level of participation that child will have, from a limited role to a very active role without having to travel all over Ohio to get it.

It will help strengthen the goal of both the city and the YMCA, and hopefully the school, to further develop a healthier lifestyle in the community by strengthening the operations and financial base of both the city recreation department and the YMCA.

It will help us improve our image to the outside business and industrial community that the schools, city and YMCA are working hand-and-hand to produce a healthier lifestyle that the quality operations in the business and industrial community feel is imperative in any community for the industrial community's success as well.

It also allows the coaches within the school system's program to play an integral role in the formation of the fundamentals taught with early intervention, then allowing the coaches and participants to grow on their own from that instruction.

It also provides valuable organizational efforts which could be a burden to the high school coaches who have many other vital responsibilities within their own programs.

It also allows the high school coaches and members of the community to build a much stronger trust and bond in helping to promote the program to the community, as well as all of the other reasons I have outlined in detail.

We have the opportunity to place the past behind us and create for our community and school district, especially our young people, a new and exciting level, an active collaboration between the schools, city and YMCA never before attempted.

As I want to do everything I can for every resident of Jackson, especially our youth, I know you want to do everything you can for every child of this school district, both educationally and athletically.

If we are all willing to work together, I know we have the people in place to put forth the effort. The future awaits us, we just have to determine the investment in time, effort, finances and cooperation we are willing to make to have our dreams become reality.

Sincerely yours,

Randy Heath, Mayor  
City Of Jackson

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO  
145 BROADWAY, JACKSON, OH 45640**

**October 25, 2008**

**City of Jackson  
145 Broadway  
Jackson, OH 45640**

**ATTN: Mayor Randy Heath**


**RE: Kent Causey Project, 402 North High Street, Jackson, OH 45640**

**Dear Mayor Heath:**

**At your request I am enclosing the material requested concerning the Kent Causey project.**

**I have taken the liberty of including various terms and conditions of the contract that our office has with the Causey's that are relevant to this discussion. I hope these will answer your questions and if I or the Community Development Office can be of any further assistance please contact me.**

**Best regards,**



**J. Michael Stroth  
Director, Community Development Office  
City of Jackson, OH 45640**

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO**  
145 BROADWAY, JACKSON, OH 45640

October 25, 2008

RE: Kent Causey, 402 North High Street, Jackson, OH 45640

- 1.. The City of Jackson (*the Grantee*) signs a grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Development that has many stipulations with which grantees must comply.
- 2.. The City of Jackson has no funds involved in the grant program. All project costs and administrative services are paid by the grant.
- 3.. All contracts are "private contracts" between the homeowner and contractor(s). Congress passed this provision to avoid the high costs of paying prevailing wages.
- 4.. The City of Jackson's Community Development offices primary responsibility is to provide the administrative services required by HUD and the State of Ohio as well as the technical assistance, including inspections, for each project. The Community Development office acts as an agent between the homeowner and the contractor(s).
- 5.. Kent Causey makes no payments of any kind toward the 20k+ the program put into his home.  
In this project, the contract was signed on July 01, 2007. In part, the terms of the contract were: two liens were filed; the first was for the rehabilitation part of the assistance and was for the amount expended for rehabilitation. That lien will decline over 10 years (10% per year) and will disappear at the end of this term. The second lien was for the down payment assistance/buy-down and will be deferred with no payments due for twenty (20) years (the city will go longer if the private mortgage is for a longer period). This mortgage will bear no interest nor decline, but will balloon at the end of the term. The City, at that time, will have the option of:
  - a. If all conditions are still being met, rolling the mortgage forward another ten (10) years.
  - b. If the family income has risen and the original mortgage is paid off, continuing the mortgage and collecting regular payments based on the homeowner's income.
  - c. If conditions are not being met, or if household circumstances have markedly improved (better job, inheritance, etc.) demanding payment in full at that time.
  - d. Completely forgiving the loan at the end of their mortgage.

Continued



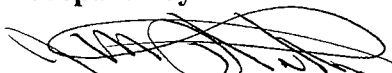
- 6.. If a homeowner has complaints during the rehab phase of the project, he or she is obligated to follow the programs "Conflict Resolution Procedure" document. This document outlines a set procedure that all homeowners must follow to settle any disputes.  
*(This document was signed by the Causeys on 08/20/07)*
- 7.. The owner signs a "Waiver of Liability" statement holding the city or Consultant blameless for any loss, damage, or injury incurred by any member of their family.  
*(Signed by the Causey's on 11/13/08)*
- 8.. At the time of completion of the project a "Homeowner Satisfaction Statement" is signed by the homeowner.  
*(Signed by the Causey's 01/28/08)*
- 9.. Upon the signing of the Homeowner Satisfaction Statement a one year warranty period begins warranting all work performed under the specifications.
- 10.. Regular home maintenance and the introduction of additional items occurring after the construction period, but during the one year period warranty is not part of the Community Development office's responsibility.
- 11.. During the one year warranty period that has been in effect since 01/08/08, Kent Causey has called the prime contractor back for repairs or corrections '0' times. The time Kent Causey has called the Mechanical contractor back for repairs or adjustments has been '0' times.

**NOTE:**

During the time this project was completed (2006-08) CHIP Round, the City of Jackson CHIP office completed 27 projects. Ten contractors were used in the completion of this work.

The only complaints received during this grant period were made by Kent Causey.

Prepared by:



**J. Michael Stroth**  
Director/ Community Development Office  
City of Jackson, Ohio

October 17, 2008

Dear Officer On The Street,

First of all, thank you for the hard work you do every day in protecting our citizens.

As you realize, one sector of our community has been brutally hit with crime over the past month with two murders occurring within one mile of each other.

Since no arrest has been made yet in either case, our citizens are very worried right now. They are scared that even the smallest of crimes, vandalism, minor theft, could turn into a capital offense very quickly.

I believe now, more than ever, it is vitally important that we are as visible as possible within the community, with stepped up patrols especially in the area of Jackson Heights and the Mound-Morton Street areas.

I would ask that those working the shifts from 4-9 p.m. make a special effort, as this is the time people are home and will feel even safer seeing you drive through the neighborhoods.

In the Mound and Morton Street areas, it might not hurt to just set 5-10 minutes near an intersection and let those who might desire to commit a crime see that we are sitting and watching for anything going on. Maybe that might be a deterrent to some, not knowing where we might be sitting and watching them next time.

With the price of gasoline down, at least for today, hopefully we can take advantage and do this extra patrolling without too much additional cost.

Again, I thank you for your efforts on behalf of our citizens and as they used to say on television, "let's be safe out there".

Sincerely yours,

Randy Heath, Mayor  
City Of Jackson

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Jackson curbside re-cycling program has successfully taken its baby steps, and now is looking to become even more customer-friendly to the citizens.

The program, which started August 17, has now collected nearly 24 tons of recyclable items, or more than 48,000 pounds, which have been saved from the landfill and put to productive use again.

"I think we have been most pleased with the response we have received so far, and I know many people are putting forth a great effort to recycle as much as possible," said Jackson mayor Randy Heath, who re-instituted the program after it had been terminated four years earlier. "I truly think we are back on the right track."

The mayor wanted to remind citizens that any resident needing a recycling bin should call the city utility office at 286-4419, and also praised the efforts of recycling coordinator Lisa Atwood in her efforts to grow the program.

Heath pointed out, though, every program needs some adjusting and the city is working on doing that now with the new recycling program.

He said one minor alteration is that the recycling program will now collect two times a month rather than every other week.

This means that the residents who have their recycling collected on the first and third Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday night might have a few times there will be a three-week lapse in between collections at the end of the month.

"This new method means we will be collecting half of the city on the first and third Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Fridays of the month and the other half will have their recycling collected on the second and fourth Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Fridays of the month, in conjunction with their regular garbage pick-up day," the mayor said.

"Unfortunately, though, when there is a fifth Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday in the month, we will not be collecting those days and those residents will have to wait until the next week, the first day of that month they have normal garbage pick-up, to set out their recycling," he noted.

Heath said there were two major reasons for this.

"First, I think this will make it much easier for people to remember when their recycling days are," he pointed out. "Sometimes, I know that people just lost track of when their every other week was, especially when there were five of those particular days in a month. We certainly apologize for any inconvenience this might cause, but we think the program overall will be better for it."

He said the second advantage is it will give the employees of the recycling program more time in those off days at the end of the month to promote the program and get more recycling bins to those who have requested them.

"Again, any resident who needs a recycling bin can call the utility office at 286-4419, and we will get you one as soon as possible," Heath reiterated.

Some of the facts citizens need to remember concerning the recycling program are as follows:

1. Have your recycling to the curb no later than 6:30 a.m.
2. Routes will now be running two times a month.
3. You may tune into Cable Channel 24 to see when your route is or call recycling coordinator Lisa Atwood at 286-2996 if you do not have cable.

4. Some items that are not recyclable at curbside are plastic shopping bags i.e. Wal-Mart or Kroger bags. Also, please no plastic containers that microwavable foods or donuts come in.
5. The #1 and #2 recyclable plastics are jugs and bottles only, not containers. Also, please no Styrofoam.
6. The city cannot accept anything that still has food in it.
7. The city will have to leave any items that are not recyclable in your recycling bin, so please do not be offended.

“We certainly appreciated and thank every one’s patience and cooperation in getting this vitally important program back underway,” the mayor concluded.



**ANNUAL REPORT** by Executive Director Randy Heath

On January 2 of this year, I had the honor of adding another job to my resume. Unlike the resume of most people, though, I still have all the jobs on my resume.

This has unquestionably been the most challenging year of my life, but I hope in the same vein the most rewarding year of my life. To have your native community place the faith in you this community has placed in me is a privilege and an honor I do not take lightly.

Because I have tried diligently to fit my previous full-time duties, it will be of great benefit to our chamber financially, and hopefully that will reflect in being able to keep our dues structure at a constant for some time to come. Our chamber is about giving you're the best investment on your dollar to us, and making the dollar as small yet efficient as we can.

While I have tried to not let our chamber miss a beat this year, and I would like to think we have done fairly well at that, this is only possible because of one dedicated, driving force within our chamber, Pam Wilson.

As with her job at the newspaper, Pam never stops thinking of ways to make our chamber better and more efficient, not to mention keeping me on my toes and reminding me of everything I have to do.

Thank you, Pam, for making what I do possible.

But the challenges that lie ahead in both of my positions are very challenging and very connected, because helping to build and improve our economy will bring assistance and hopefully closure to many of those challenges.

But the road is not easy. We have all suffered since the closing of the Meridian plant, especially those who lost their jobs and contributed to our economy.

Filling the building with a tenant that can replace those jobs and salaries would be wonderful, but we must realize almost every community, both here in Ohio and elsewhere, has an empty building and wants those jobs just as bad as do.

( over )

Since we now have the utilities, the roads, the new schools and the healthcare, like many other communities also have now, we must concentrate on the next battleground, the quality of life, a healthy quality of life for a new industry's employees.

There isn't a business or company in America that doesn't fear the rising cost of health care. It seems maybe the only way to battle it is to keep our employees healthy and on the job so the premiums can be kept as low as possible.

This is where the quality of life, and the healthy quality of life, could be a deciding factor in whether we get the industry with \$17 and \$27 an hour jobs with full benefits, or the one with \$7 or \$8 an hour jobs with little benefits.

This is why it is so important to have a quality of life we can boast about, that provides adequate programs of enjoyment and healthy benefits to our children as well as our adults.

This is where the war among the communities is being fought right now, with communities working diligently to provide a quality of life that will sell their community and help assure their employees will be healthy, energized and enthusiastic because their entire lifestyles, both at work and at play, resemble those qualities.

What goes on away from the job will carry over into the job, and this is why last year's president of the Ohio Chamber Of Commerce told me personally this was the area his company looked at first, and most.

This kind of environment does not come easy, and it takes commitment and investment. But if the business community and citizens at large come together and work hard to make this kind of environment a reality for Jackson and this area, we will be among those on the front lines of proving we can help those prospective industries to keep their health costs low, and we will be on the front line battling every other community for the best employment opportunities possible for our citizens.

In return, this will hopefully result in a more meaningful return on the investment each of you has made into your business and a more prosperous tomorrow for everyone.

Times are not easy now, I don't have to tell you that, but the effort we put forth will resonate in the results we receive. We are capable of being on that front line, we deserve to be on the front line and I hope that is where I am able to take you.



**JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ACTIVITY REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2008**

<b>TELEPHONE CALLS</b>	<b>6622</b>
<b>UTILITY CALLS</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>911 CALLS</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>PEOPLE ON STATION</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>REPORTS RECEIVED</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>ARRESTS &amp; CITATIONS</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>BOND TAKEN</b>	<b>\$2250</b>
<b>IMPOUND STORAGE</b>	<b>\$4090</b>
<b>WEB CHECK</b>	<b>\$64</b>







**Criminal**

Minor Misdemeanor Charge	Totals	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cat Violation	0												
Disorderly By Insult/Taunt	8				2	3	1	2					
Disorderly By Intoxication	179	5	12	30	20	26	30	31	25				
Disorderly By Fighting	52	15	7	4	7	7	6	6					
Disorderly By Hindering	0												
Disorderly By Uhreas. Noise	8	1	1	1	2			2	1				
Dog Violation	5	1	2	1				1					
Loitering	0												
Loud Stereo	0												
Open Container/Cons. In M.V.	2			1					1				
Open Container in public	3			1			1	1					
Possession Of Marijuana	23	2		6	3	2	2	3	7				
Skateboarding on Street						1		2					

October 23, 2008]

To Randy Heath, Mayor

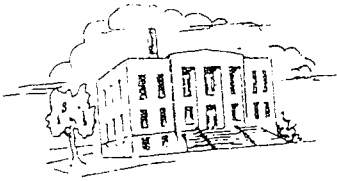
From Bill Cole

Here is a copy of the letter that needs to be prepared on letterhead.

Since this is a TREX transfer we must have the blessing of the council.

A TREX transfer is when a liquor permit from another area is transferred to a different area which has no permits available. This is done to promote economic development.

The liquor permit currently held at Bud's came from Licking County



RANDY R. HEATH, *Mayor*  
WILLIAM R. SHEWARD, *Director of Public Service / Safety*

# CITY OF JACKSON

MEMORIAL BUILDING 145 BROADWAY ST. JACKSON, OHIO 45640  
(740) 286-3224 (740) 286-2201

Ohio Department of Commerce  
Division of Liquor Control  
Attn: Bruce D. Stevenson, Deputy Superintendent  
6606 Tussing Road  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-9005

RE: Letter of Endorsement for TREX Transfer  
To Michael Bennett  
970 East Main Street  
Jackson, Ohio 45640

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

The Council of the City of Jackson, Ohio has considered the request of Michael Bennett for the City's consent to a TREX transfer of a C1 and C2 class liquor permit to the premises located at 970 East Main Street, Jackson, Ohio. Upon said consideration, the City of Jackson has no opposition to the TREX transfer to Mike's One Stop Jackson, LLC, at 970 East Main Street, Jackson, Ohio for an economic development project.

Sincerely,

Randy Heath, Mayor

*Jackson County Apple Festival*  
*Held Annually Third Full Week in September*

