

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session
February 25, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order..... President Speakman
Pledge of Allegiance..... Mr. Kitchen
Opening Prayer..... Mr. Brown

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

January 28, 2013 Regular Session
February 11, 2013 Regular Session

VISITORS

Apple Festival ~~XXXX~~

Brad Burnside, Jackson ~~XXXX~~, Streets for Apple Festival

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Utility - Brown, Elliott and Queen
- Budget & Finance – Kitchen, Smith and Brown
- Police, Fire & Traffic - Smith, Kitchen and Foster
- Service –Elliott, Foster and Jones
- Railroad – Jones, Smith and Elliott
- Building/Recreation – Smith, Foster and Queen
- City Auditor
- Law Director
- Mayor
- Service/Safety Director

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes from

January 28, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Regular Session

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Jackson City Council Chambers. President Ronald Speakman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was given, led by Mr. Foster. The Prayer was given, led by Mr. Brown.

A roll call was taken as follows:

- Mr. Brown - present
- Mr. Kitchen - present
- Mrs. Jones - absent
- Mr. Smith - present
- Mr. Queen - present
- Mr. Elliott - present
- Mr. Foster - present

Mr. Elliott made a motion to excuse Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mr. Queen. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from January 14, 2013 regular session, seconded by Mr. Kitchen. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

VISITORS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITY - No Report

BUDGET & FINANCE - No Report

Mr. Kitchen announced a Budget and Finance meeting will be held on February 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. if the budget is ready to review.

POLICE, FIRE & TRAFFIC - No Report

SERVICE - No Report

RAILROAD - No Report

BUILDING/RECREATION - No Report

CITY AUDITOR - No Report

LAW DIRECTOR - No Report

MAYOR

Mayor Heath gave his State of the City Address, see attached.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR

Mr. Sheward reported that a copy of the 2012 building permits was distributed to council members, see attached. He further stated we did lose a police cruiser, luckily not an officer; he is on restricted duty, only minor

injuries. We will try not to buy another this year; we will have to buy one next year. Settlement on ours, we kept it, had a new transmission. He stated he would explain Resolution 1-13 when read. Mr. Queen asked about the \$10,000 fines for EPA on the Board of Control minutes. Mr. Sheward explained that is a purchase order for future fines may or may not have to use these funds.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 1-13

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GARBAGE FUND: TRANSFER OUT TO THE GARBAGE UTILITY OFFICE FUND: TRANSFER IN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kitchen. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 1-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 2-13

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE SEWER FUND: TRANSFER OUT TO THE SEWER UTILITY OFFICE FUND: TRANSFER IN AND SEWER DISTRIBUTION FUND: TRANSFER IN FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kitchen. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 3-13

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE WATER FUND: TRANSFER OUT TO THE WATER UTILITY OFFICE FUND: TRANSFER IN AND WATER DISTRIBUTION FUND: TRANSFER IN FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Kitchen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 3-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 4-13

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE WATER FUND: TRANSFER OUT: SEWER FUND: TRANSFER OUT: AND GARBAGE FUND: TRANSFER OUT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Kitchen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Brown. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 4-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 5-13

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE TRANSFER OUT FUND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF FEMA WEATHER RELATED EXPENSES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Smith made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Brown. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 5-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 6-13

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE FEMA FUND: TRANSFER OUT TO REIMBURSE FOR FEMA RELATED EXPENSES FOR FLOOD AND WIND DAMAGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Smith made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Brown. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes

Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 6-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 7-13

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE MUNICIPALITY TO EXECUTE A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH INTERSTATE AND INTRASTATE PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES WITH MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SYSTEMS, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE AND PROVIDE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCIES THROUGH THE INTERCHANGE AND USE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.

Second Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Elliott. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 7-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 8-13

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REVISING ORDINANCE 24-10 OF THE CITY OF JACKSON SO AS TO ESTABLISH MANAGEMENT AND LIFEGUARD POSITIONS AND WAGES AT THE JACKSON CITY POOL.

Second Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kitchen. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 8-13 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 9-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE INDIGENT DEFENSE CONTRACT WITH THE JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SO AS TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUSEL TO INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH VIOLATIONS OF THE JACKSON MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2013 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,069.42.

First Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Elliott. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mayor Heath stated this has been done for a number of years. Mr. Kirby added this included Jackson, Wellston, Oak Hill and the County, allows three fulltime public defender prosecutors and two part-time.

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

ORDINANCE NO. 9-13 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 1-13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OF THE CITY OF JACKSON TO EXECUTE A HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

RESOLUTION 2-13 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2-13

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVOLPMENT OF JACKSON SENIOR HOUSING BY SUNSET DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY..

Second Reading

Mr. Queen asks if this was around a residential area, will it cause problems with traffic, flooding. Mr. Sheward stated it is an area not affected. As part of the construction, water retention areas will be built in the area. He further stated everything we do has potential to cause flooding.

Mr. Smith made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Brown. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes

Mr. Kitchen – yes
Mrs. Jones – absent
Mr. Smith – yes
Mr. Queen – yes
Mr. Elliott – yes
Mr. Foster – yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2-13 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 3-13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO CITY OF JACKSON PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,513.89 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Kitchen. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Kitchen stated he did not understand. Mr. Reed stated there was no purchase order in place, just moving money.

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kitchen. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown – yes
Mr. Kitchen – yes
Mrs. Jones – absent
Mr. Smith – yes
Mr. Queen – yes
Mr. Elliott – yes
Mr. Foster – yes

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

Mr. Brown – yes
Mr. Kitchen – yes
Mrs. Jones – absent
Mr. Smith – yes
Mr. Queen – yes
Mr. Elliott – yes
Mr. Foster – yes

RESOLUTION NO. 3-13 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 4-13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO JACKSON COUNTY TREASURER PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,556.98 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Reed stated he claimed responsibility for this, no purchase order for taxes done when the year was closed out.

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

RESOLUTION NO. 4-13 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 5-13

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S SELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT BOARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Elliott. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mayor Heath stated we receive sales tax funds, this board distributes, and everyone needs reappointed. In the past it has been the Mayor, Mr. Sheward and Auditor and Mrs. Sexton placed on the board.

Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a roll call vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

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

Mr. Brown - yes
Mr. Kitchen - yes
Mrs. Jones - absent
Mr. Smith - yes
Mr. Queen - yes
Mr. Elliott - yes
Mr. Foster - yes

RESOLUTION NO. 5-13 DULY ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS


NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Heath stated we should remember Jim Humphreys and his contribution, dedication and service to the young people in our community, he touched many lives's.

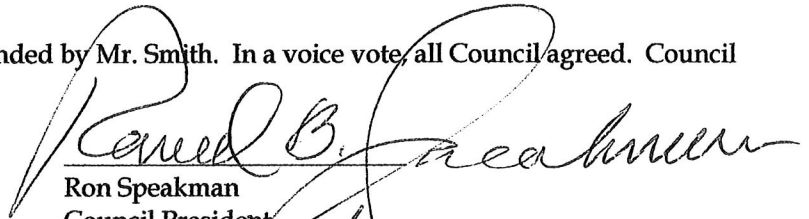
Mr. Kitchen commented on the passing of indigent funds, does the City and County pay transportation cost. Could we consider a co-op? Mayor Heath most cost is for female transport. Mr. Speakman stated this has been brought up in the past, it will not work, who would watch them while they wait. Mr. Kirby stated all city cases have been moved to Wednesday, no mix of county/city prisoners. Mr. Kitchen replied it was just a thought.

ADJOURN

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Smith. In a voice vote, all Council agreed. Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Tera Brown
Clerk
Date 2.25-13



Ron Speakman
Council President
Date 2/25/13

Mr. President, Jackson City Council members, citizens of our great city,

Once more, I am bestowed the greatest honor possible, the privilege to detail for you the state of our city, a city that works every day to protect you, our citizens, to keep your body strong and enhance your quality of life, as the safety, health and welfare of our citizens must always be at the paramount of our concerns.

Tonight, I am proud to report the state of our city is good, and is getting better. But that can not distract us from the many challenges we still have to meet.

Our mission is ongoing, stronger than ever, its desired outcome very clear, and our citizens have entrusted those of us at this table to help bring our community a fully encompassing life that is as good if not better than we have ever enjoyed.

Of course, there is a cost to live in Jackson, as there is any community. It is absurd to believe it can always be done for almost nothing, yet still compete for a better life and provide the health, safety and welfare our citizens so richly deserve.

But we have been most fortunate to keep that cost low while stabilizing our community financially during the five years I have served as mayor.

There are many documented facts to support this.

There are 192 cities in the state of Ohio, only two out of those 192 do not have a city income tax, and one of those is Jackson. The other has almost nine mils of property tax for law enforcement, we have none. Every other city in Ohio either has a city income tax or a high mil property tax for its police. Jackson has neither.

We also only have 3.5 mills of outside property tax, this for our cemetery and fire department. Another neighboring community, that also has an income tax, has almost 15 mills of property tax. This is just another area we sometimes overlook in determining it is less expensive to live in Jackson.

Maybe the most important event of 2012 was that our full utility system turned a very positive and important corner and became financially sound for the first time in a decade. The most important thing to remember about our city's utility system is that it is absolutely a business, not a social program. Those who have tried to politicize it and turn them into a social program to avoid meeting the necessary costs have often endangered the financial integrity of the systems and the entire community, ultimately creating more costs for the customers and citizens, not less.

When I became mayor five year ago, our utility systems were in sincere danger of financial collapse, which would have been catastrophic for our community. We are very fortunate today to have resurrected our utilities into having a sound financial foundation.

Utilities are vital to a community's success.

First, they are what keeps our homes going every day, from the electric to light the way, to the water and sewer to protect our health. Clearly, we have more residential customers than any other.

But the other reason our utilities is a lifeline for our community and is that our residents only consume a minority of the utility usage in our city. It is the business and industrial community that consumes more than 50 percent of our water, disposes of more than 50 percent of our sewer, and uses almost 75 percent of our electric.

Although some have tried erroneously to lead us to believe differently, this provides a savings to our residents, not a cost, as these business and industrial customers also contribute to the fixed costs of our utility operations, that without them, would have to be paid by the residents. We are very blessed to have the business and industrial customers we have in our system and thank them for what they do for our community.

But it also makes clear that if we do not have a reliable utility system, if business and industry were forced to leave the area because we could not meet their utility demands, then our residents would lose their jobs and have no way to support their families, let alone pay their utility costs, no matter how low we would make our utility rates.

This is why our utility system is not something you recklessly politicize or exploit for whatever reason, its operation is at the core of our existence, and why we must at all costs avoid letting it become politicized again and forcing us to face the very painful decisions we have had to make since I became mayor.

And although everyone always wants more for less, especially with their utilities, our utility system as a whole is still very competitive with other utility systems.

Despite having to raise our water and sewer rates in recent years to make up for past losses, our minimum water rate is still almost half of much as some surrounding systems, and a newspaper survey a couple of years ago showed our electric rates to be very competitive, if not lower, in general than residential customers for American Electric Power.

Yes, our sewer rates have been higher than some surrounding communities, but that is through no fault of our own. You see, the environmental standards we must meet are different than those in communities such as Gallipolis and Portsmouth along the Ohio River because we have to discharge into a very small stream in Little Salt Creek and they can discharge into a very large body of water in the Ohio River. For that, there is nothing we can do except do the best we can to make it as cost efficient as possible.

It also needs to be remembered the city remains under a court-imposed Consent Order in regards to issues concerning the operation of our sewer plant, some issues which are decades old. While we have made many successful gains in addressing the issues the court-ordered Consent Order say we must address, to reach the environmental standards deemed satisfactory will not be easy, inexpensive or quick.

But when it comes to any utility cost, we must always be cognizant of the costs we can control and the ones that are imposed on us, and unfortunately, the ones imposed on us by state and federal regulations as well as within the Consent Orders are costs we are forced to meet or face penalties and costs that will be even more substantial and a waste of our citizen's money.

There are those who espouse many inaccurate theories as to what make up the cost of your utility service. Some will blame employee costs, some new equipment and vehicles, but the true answer is the majority of costs for utility service goes toward meeting the environmental regulations placed on our city and our suppliers.

The facts clearly state this. Last year among our electric, sewer and water departments, less than six percent of our budget were employee salaries and wages and not one penny went toward any new road vehicles for any of the three departments, meaning 94 percent of their budgets went for items other than personnel and new road vehicles.

We must still work diligently, though, to keep costs at a minimum and responsible on our end, and I feel we have done that.

As difficult as it was last year, we had to adjust the sewer rates we charge our customers to meet all the demands it takes to responsibly operate our system. I praise the courage of our city council for not politicizing the issue, and acting on it responsibly to help protect it and keep it operating efficiently, which will help keep costs down in the future and allow it to stay reliable for our businesses and industries who must have it to survive.

Yes, it would have been easier to grandstand, blame others and conveniently avoid responsibility, but each one of us was responsible for protecting our city's greatest asset, our utility system, and this council is to be commended for asking the right and responsible questions. Bringing our utility systems to a state of financial stability not known for a decade and not allowing the city to fall into financial collapse was imperative for our community's future.

Thus, on behalf of our citizens, let me thank each member of city council personally, Ron Speakman, Sid Smith, Ron Queen, Jeff Elliott, Brett Foster, Eric Brown, George Kitchen and Loretta Jones, for the most productive year our community has enjoyed in more than a decade, for having the courage to provide the leadership to do things that were right for the community, even when there might be those who did not fully understand the ramifications as we might or lead people astray.

These are the decisions our citizens count on us to make correctly, and this year we faced those challenges with conviction and our residents and businesses were truly the beneficiaries. I thank you with all my heart.

I am sure most of our citizens have much more to think about in their daily lives than what it takes to keep our city running efficiently 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that is what they count on us to do.

But still, it doesn't hurt to put into prospective exactly what it takes to make our city the cost efficient and cost effective operation I firmly believe it is, not perfect, but still very good.

- Delivering more than \$10 million worth of electricity annually to nearly 4,000 customers every day,

- Producing as much as 2 million gallons of safe drinking water every day,

- Treating and disposing as much as seven to eight million gallons of wastewater during a day of heavy rain events,

- Maintaining more than 60 miles of water and sewer lines to make sure safe water gets to our customers and waste water gets to its destination as well,

- Processing more than \$15 million a year in utility payments,

- Removing more than nine million pounds of trash each year,

- Protecting from violence and fire more than 6,000 residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week,

- Maintaining more than 33 miles of streets, including clearing of snow during every winter storm,

- Overseeing more than 88 miles of rail line for our economic future,

- Keeping track of every penny in a city budget that has millions of dollars in hundreds of funds, and

- Making sure the Fairmount Cemetery is always in pristine condition.

But despite the enormity of all of these daily duties, it is only a part of what we do, because we must focus of the future as much, if not more than, we do on the present.

The present is fleeting, the future is our hope, and if we cheapen that focus, refuse to invest in it or feel it is not worth focusing on, then the present will soon be gone and so will our hope.

A prime example is we are working on the replacement of three bridges in our city, that all told will cost more than \$1 million, a project that could take five years to complete. We feel we are in position to secure outside funding for the majority of these three bridges, but if we were not planning today for what we need in the next five and ten years, then that shortsightedness would cause our city to fail in the long run.

We can remember that while many of our neighboring communities were out of power for as many as six days, losing thousands of dollars in food and income, most of the residents and businesses in Jackson were out less than six hours, potentially saving our residents thousands of dollars.

And those thousands of dollars were saved because of the wise investments we have made in our city electric system, because we did not see how cheap we could make it, but how efficient we could make it and that investment potentially saved our residents and businesses thousands and thousands of dollars, not cost them as some might lead you to believe.

The proof was in the results, and the results were crystal clear. Thank you city employees for your planning, preparation and effort that night, you certainly proved your worth to our community.

Of course, developing our economy continues to be one of most pressing and important challenges, but we are making many positive strides in that area as well.

There are many who believe the key to our future is just having an empty plant at the south end of town. But reportedly there are approximately 300 buildings that very same size in Ohio, 300 buildings that size that are vacant. So clearly, it takes more than just a building. It takes people and people who care.

Business and industries want to come to communities that have a future and a motivation to constantly improve their quality of life. They want to come to communities where the residents care enough to invest in life, their safety, their children, and their world outside of work. A more well-rounded employee is a more enthusiastic, healthier, productive employee and that is what they are looking for.

They are not looking to locate in a community where it is perceived everyone is demoralized, depressed and just doesn't care.

They are not going to come to a town where it looks like they don't even want to celebrate holidays, want to make constant cuts in safety forces and service, could care less about any quality of life if there is any cost involved and sacrifice the children in the name of supposedly saving a buck or two.

Hopefully they want to come to a community like Jackson is today, which is successfully overcoming such stigmas that compromise other communities. It is for this reason my administration has made improving our quality of life a key priority, because improving our future is a top priority as well, the future for us today as well as our children tomorrow.

That is why when I became mayor we did not abandon our Hillcrest Pool in the supposed name of saving a buck or two and potentially subjecting hundreds of children to no summer fun but to more aggressive drug dealers.

No, instead we went to work to make it better and make it better we have done. Last year, we used less than \$10,000 of our pool resources, no money from our general fund, two generous grants and dedicated employees and pool staff members to complete a project successfully that we were told the year before could cost as much as \$100,000.

Yes, you have to invest a little bit of money into something if you are going to make it better, but when we get those kinds of returns, everyone in our city is a winner, especially our children.

The last five years have not been easy. There was a maze of issues some thought we could never navigate, but we did and now have reached the other side. Our city has truly turned a corner.

Ten years ago, our city's economy was wrecked and turned upside down by forceful assertions that our citizens were being vastly overcharged for services and great savings were on the way. We now know better, we now know that those promised short term gains were simply not true, and in reality turned out to be a bevy of million dollar long-term losses.

But we can be proud. Our utilities for the first time in a decade are moving in a solid financial direction and being addressed responsibly, not politically, and that is absolutely essential if our community is to not only survive, but thrive economically and create new employment opportunities for our residents.

Jackson is still a great, affordable place to live compared to many of its fellow cities in Ohio, and has a clearer path to the future than many of those that have greater incomes.

We know now we can't sit back and believe in wild generalities just because it is what we want to hear. We know that saying no for no specific reason is not a responsible way but a reckless way to govern. We now know the right way to govern is to find the responsible way to say yes and invest our money in our citizens and in those things that gain us an even greater return.

We can never go through another ten years where our city's financial foundation is recklessly turned upside down and then have to go through the pain and cost of rebuilding it as we have had to do.

We can't turn back now, we can't start down that regressive highway under the false impression it is financially better for us when we have now clearly seen the proof it is actually worse.

We can't turn back the clock to 10, 20, 30 years ago and throw away the time and investments we have made. We can't regress into the past, stopping the progress we have made in the fictitious allusion that there is some kind of wonderful financial savings that never really materializes.

We must not be stopped from moving our community forward, because those who want to force us to regress will create only three things for us, no jobs, no hope and no future, and we deserve better than that.

I am more excited about Jackson today than I have ever been in my life. Yes, our nation's economy is struggling, and yes, we alone can not overcome that. Yes, state and federal regulations will continue to be a tremendous challenge for cities such as ours, and I think we all know that any financial help from our state and federal leaders is going to be less, and less and less.

We have demonstrated, though, over the last five years the courage and forthrightness we possess, and we are ready for the challenges of the world. We can't solve every problem, we will not agree of every solution, and that is just fine, because that is what democracy is all about and time will be our ultimate judge.

We realize as long as we are honest, we are sincere and there are no hidden agendas, as long as we realize it is not now and never will be about us, but all the wonderful residents, businesses and industries we serve, both today and in the future, as long as we realize we must be realistic and understand that whenever we make an expenditure, it is not a cost but a true investment in our city and make sure the returns are worthy of the investment made, if we can live up to those qualities then our city and our residents will ultimately succeed.

We won't be able to do everything everyone wants or hopes for, but hopefully when we talk about Jackson to anyone else in this wide world, we can always say from our heart, "I am from Jackson, Ohio, and there truly is no place like home".

God bless our community and God bless every single person associated with it.

I thank you with all of my heart.

2012 BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>				<u>COMMERCIAL</u>			
<u>TYPE OF PERMIT</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	<u>COST OF PERMIT</u>	<u>TYPE OF PERMIT</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	<u>COST OF PERMIT</u>
NEW CONSTRUCTION	3	\$202,000.00	\$630.00	NEW CONSTRUCTION	3	\$1,450,000.00	\$3,000.00
GARAGES / CARPORTS	4	\$37,930.00	\$189.00				
STORAGE BUILDINGS	1	\$2,500.00	\$45.00	STORAGE BUILDINGS	0		
ADDITIONS	2	\$94,000.00	\$249.00	ADDITIONS	0		
REMODEL/REPAIR	3	\$12,633.00	\$135.00	REMODEL/REPAIR	2	\$108,000.00	\$340.00
DECKS/PORCHES/PATIOS	5	\$17,950.00	\$225.00	DECKS/PORCHES/PATIOS	1	\$1,000.00	\$45.00
FENCES/POOLS	7	\$95,970.00	\$486.00	FENCES/PARKLING LOTS	2	\$29,500.00	\$105.00
DEMOLITION	5	N/A	\$80.00	DEMOLITION	2	N/A	\$80.00
SIGNS	0			SIGNS	2	\$2,200.00	\$90.00
CURB CUTS	0						
TOTAL	30	\$462,983.00	\$2,039.00	TOTAL	12	\$1,482,808.00	\$3,660.00

TOTAL VALUATION FOR BOTH COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL / TOTAL PERMIT FEE FOR BOTH COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
\$1,945,791.00 **\$5,699.00**

Permits issued 42
 Voiled/Missing 6
 By: *Lyn Speakman*