

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session
February 10, 2014
7:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 27, 2014 Regular Session

VISITORS

Presentation by Elks Lodge

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Utility – Brown, Elliott, and Foster
- Budget & Finance – Elliott, Hensler, and Brown
- Police, Fire, & Traffic – Kitchen, Queen, and Jones
- Service – (Street & Alley, Recreation, Buildings & Grounds) Foster, Queen, and Hensler
- City Auditor
- Law Director
- Mayor
- Service/Safety Director

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes from
January 27, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Regular Session

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Jackson City Council Chambers. President Ron Speakman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Jones. The Prayer was given, led by Mr. Brown.

A roll call was taken as follows:

- Mr. Brown-present
- Mr. Kitchen-present
- Mr. Jones-present
- Mr. Hensler-present
- Mr. Queen-present
- Mr. Elliott-present
- Mr. Foster-present

Mr. Kitchen made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2014, seconded by Mr. Brown.

VISITORS

No visitors

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITY- Mr. Brown stated the Utility Committee met on January 22, 2014 to go over several topics. He said they would like to support an ordinance to prevent solicitation of utilities inside the city. It would include all utilities.

Another topic of discussion was water leak insurance. The cost would be \$3.00 per month added to the utility bill and would cover up to \$1,000 per year per customer. This would be completely voluntary for the customers. He said council voted to move forward with this project.

Council did not take any action on the dumpster franchise fee. This will require more information.

Council also voted to move forward on the project for ODOT. The city's portion of the project needs to be completed by May 15th. There would not be enough time to bid this out, get the bids back, and get special wiring needed in order to meet the deadline. There is a contractor already in place who can do the work and has access to the special wire needed.

Mayor Heath stated ODOT had justified 62.5% or \$132,000 of the cost of the project that would be reimbursed to the city. He thanked Melissa Miller for her help with the funding.

BUDGET- No report.

POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC – No Report

SERVICE – (STREET & ALLEY, RECREATION, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS) – Mr. Foster thanked the Street and Alley Department for their hard work during the bad weather we had recently.

CITY AUDITOR – No Report

LAW DIRECTOR – In regards to the Facebook posting concerning the eligibility of Mr. Brown to vote on electric rates, Mr. Kirby stated he could not find anything in the law that says council cannot vote on utilities if they don't have them. It actually would make Mr. Brown more qualified to vote, because he has no interest in the city electric personally.

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In regards to the condemned houses, Mr. Kirby spoke to the Executor of the first house and they are still working on it and it is sold. The other property is still in bankruptcy. The Trustee will probably release the property.

MAYOR

Mayor Heath gave his State of the City address. (attached)

Mr. Queen wanted to know if there are any potential tenants for the Merillat building. Mayor Heath said not yet. They are still not sure even when Merillat is leaving. They do have feelers out, but Masco owns the building and they have the say so. The way it is equipped it will be hard for just anyone to come in and make it another type of plant. It is a number one priority.

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Mr. Sheward said they need to accept the donation of an ATV and trailer from the Jackson Firefighters Association.

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

Mr. Sheward wanted to let everyone know about the AMP survey in their packets. He said they would be contacted by e-mail to complete the survey.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE 02-14

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A POLICY CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF UTILITY SERVICES TO ALL CONSUMERS IN THE CITY OF JACKSON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Kirby if anyone had mentioned to him about changing the wording of the ordinance. He said it had been brought up at the committee meeting by a citizen that the word "policy" might cause a problem. It might not be a strong enough word to make the ordinance work. Mr. Kirby said nobody had contacted him about it. He will see about changing the wording of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH U.S. UTILITY CONTRACTOR CO., INC. FOR INSTALLATION OF POLES AND HARDWARE TO REROUTE THE 795 MCM CIRCUIT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$210,212.00 AND FINDING THAT EMERGENCY CONDITIONS EXIST SO AS TO OBTAIN ANY FORMAL BIDDING AND ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

ORDINANCE NO. 10-14 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 11-14

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2013 CHIP GRANT FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mrs. Sexton said this ordinance is to get the 2013 CHIP grant started. It will help pay the office staff working on it.

Mr. Kitchen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Hensler. In a roll call vote, council voted as follows:

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes

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Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

ORDINANCE NO. 11-14 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 12-14

**AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND:
TRANSFER OUT TO THE CEMETERY FUND: TRANSFER IN; SCMR FUND: TRANSFER IN;
CEMETERY TAX LEVY FUND: TRANSFER IN; AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND:
TRANSFER IN AND DELCLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

First Reading

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

Mrs. Sexton said this is transferring from the general fund to cover shortfalls in these funds. Ordinances 13-14, 14-14, and 15-14 are for this reason also.

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

ORDINANCE NO. 12-14 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 13-14

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

First Reading

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

ORDINANCE NO. 13-14 DULY ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. 14-14

First Reading

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

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

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

ORDINANCE NO. 14-14 DULY ADOPTED

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ORDINANCE NO. 15-14

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

First Reading

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

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

ORDINANCE NO. 15-14 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 03-14

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO BRETAG
PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,959.80 AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

First Reading

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

Mrs. Sexton said all of the resolutions are for invoices that were dated before the purchase order date. State law requires any invoice with an amount over \$3,000 to come to council for approval.

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

Mr. Brown-yes

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Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes

Mr. Hensler-yes

Mr. Queen-yes

Mr. Elliott-yes

Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes

Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes

Mr. Hensler-yes

Mr. Queen-yes

Mr. Elliott-yes

Mr. Foster-yes

RESOLUTION 03-14 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 04-14

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO BRENTAG MID-SOUTH, INC. PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,228.31 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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

Mr. Brown-yes

Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes

Mr. Hensler-yes

Mr. Queen-yes

Mr. Elliott-yes

Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes

Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes

Mr. Hensler-yes

Mr. Queen-yes

Mr. Elliott-yes

Mr. Foster-yes

RESOLUTION NO. 04-14 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 05-14

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

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Regular Session

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO CITY OF JACKSON PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,559.32 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Jones. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

RESOLUTION 05-14 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO CITY OF JACKSON PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,208.73 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Hensler made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mrs. Jones. In a roll call vote, council voted as follows:

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

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Mr. Brown-yes

Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes

Mr. Hensler-yes

Mr. Queen-yes

Mr. Elliott-yes

Mr. Foster-yes

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 07-14

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO RUMPKE WASTE, INC. PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,398.15 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Jones. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

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

Mr. Brown-yes

Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes

Mr. Hensler-yes

Mr. Queen-yes

Mr. Elliott-yes

Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes

Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes

Mr. Hensler-yes

Mr. Queen-yes

Mr. Elliott-yes

Mr. Foster-yes

RESOLUTION NO. 07-14 DULY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO PROCESS PUMP & SEAL CO. PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,484.50 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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Mr. Kitchen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mrs. Jones. In a roll call vote, council voted as follows:

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes

Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

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

Mr. Brown-yes
Mr. Kitchen-yes
Mrs. Jones-yes
Mr. Hensler-yes
Mr. Queen-yes
Mr. Elliott-yes
Mr. Foster-yes

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14 DULY ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Speakman said a council member needed to be nominated to serve on the Visitor's & Tourism Board. Mr. Brown nominated Jeff Elliott, seconded by Mr. Hensler. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

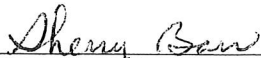
Mayor Heath said he went to Columbus for a meeting for the new railroad Ohio South Central. The new railroad is due to take over from U.S. Rail on Thursday or Friday. It should be a seamless transition. He feels this will be an investment well made. Mr. Elliott asked if the city would get monthly checks. Mr. Kirby said no, because the new railroad's operator will be making all repairs. Mr. Kirby said there would be an annual check of \$5,000.

Mr. Speakman mentioned the City of Wellston had paid \$60,000.00 in order to be able to keep the Depot and the park beside it. The property needs surveyed so it can be separated from the other property. Mayor Heath said he will pursue this to make sure this gets done.

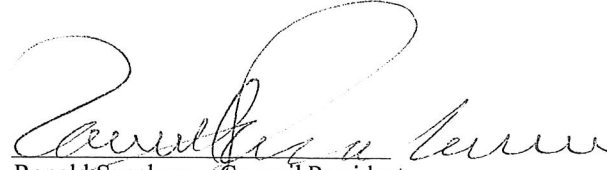
ADJOURN

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

Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Sherry Baro Council Clerk
Date 2-10-14



Ronald Speakman, Council President
Date 2/10/14

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - 2014

Mr. President, members of Jackson City Council, my fellow citizens,

At this time, it is my great honor, as required by the laws of the state of Ohio, to report to you on the state of our community, the greatest privilege I have.

And tonight, I am pleased to report our community continues to move forward in the right direction, continues to get better and better, and continues to serve our citizens well.

Positive results, though, such as these are only gained through a solemn commitment to responsibility and investment, making sure today is right through our responsibility and tomorrow is even better through investment in the future of our people.

The substantiated facts clearly demonstrate we are meeting these commitments, and our community can be proud we are enjoying our greatest financial stability in more than decade, deemed financially fit by the state auditor's office, survived a national economic recession that has severely compromised many cities, survived one of the most vicious attacks in our state's history, and survived the many maladies that would lessen others from both within and without.

We live in a community that is respected, responsible and keeping focused on the future, both in tomorrow as in days and tomorrow as in years. The present is what counts, the past and its troubles are behind us. The future is what we desire, a better one for us today and for our children tomorrow.

We are living evidence of the benefits that are enjoyed as a result of the efforts of our forefathers, and their sacrifices to give us a better life. We owe it to our future generations to continue that dream, and not allow our vision for such a future to ever be deterred or eliminated.

Since I became mayor six years ago, the facts clearly show our city has progressed each year and has moved from a state of financial despair with all major funds having expenditures over revenues, to the welcome sight of the financial stability they enjoy today.

This was not easy and took the strong efforts of my administration, and the many members of city council I have worked with who firmly believed in the future of our city and were unwilling to sacrifice that future.

It has certainly included our dedicated employees, who continue to work tirelessly for our citizens. They have also acknowledged the challenging economic times, accepting just over a one percent a year pay increase in the seven years of contracts my administration have negotiated as compared to the three percent annual raises that were received when economic times were better before I became mayor.

But most of all, it has included our citizens.

I am most appreciative of the citizens who understand that, as in their own lives, the price of goods change and those prices usually increase. It is on behalf of those citizens as to why it is incumbent upon us to find the most cost effective and cost efficient ways to deal with those increases responsibly while meeting the laws of the state of Ohio and our nation.

While some might have cowardly taken the easy way out and shirked their responsibilities in these areas that have kept our community vibrant, I am so proud to be the mayor of a city where we had the courage to meet these tremendous challenges head on and served our citizens well in doing so.

The simple fact is what we do must be responsible, because it is the most important business operation in our city. It can never fail. We are the city government of all the people, a government that makes our quality of life possible.

It is the government that provides the safe drinking water, which our neighbors in West Virginia have proven is so valuable.

We also have an auditor's office that, thanks to the excellent effort and leadership of Auditor Brett Reed, recently enabled our city to be commended once more by the state auditor's office for financial integrity and the accounting of every penny of the millions of dollars spent every year by our city.

We have a beautiful cemetery in Fairmount Cemetery that is superbly maintained and there when a family needs it most.

And we continue to look at ways in which our investments in these areas will make our community better.

We will be replacing a retiring police officer this year to keep our city as safe as possible.

We will continue our study of the physical center of our city's government, the 75-year-old Memorial Building.

We have already hired a consultant to do a detailed report on the feasibility of the Memorial Building to determine what will best serve our citizens in the years to come. The final decisions will not be easy ones and most likely will not be inexpensive ones, either, but will be necessary if we are to keep our community moving forward.

I want to personally thank the city council for their commitment on this project to explore what future investment might be needed to responsibly determine the proper course of action.

Construction will also begin on the replacement of the first of our three bridges that must be replaced in the coming years. We have been fortunate to be approved for grants that will pay for 80 percent of these structures, but ensuring their success still takes much work as again, we see responsibility and investment working hand-and-hand for the benefit of the people.

But all of this does not happen by accident, but by a well-designed responsible direction.

And the glue that oversees each of these operations and keeps them working in unison for the benefit of our citizens is my service-safety director, Bill Sheward. I could not have been more blessed over the past six years than to have him by my side and his steady hand at molding our city into a better place to live every day.

Thus, keeping the lights on, the water flowing in and the sewage flowing out, our citizens protected from violence and fire, our streets clear of snow, the trash hauled away, and all the other things that are expected of our city government is no small task. Clearly, it takes a certain number of employees to perform all these tasks, with the right tools to make sure it is done properly and efficiently. And when you look around, you don't need myself or anyone else to tell you the job is being done well. All the rhetoric in the world can't change that.

But providing these services in a safe and reliable manner is only half of the battle. Is it being done in the most cost effective, cost efficient way that meets all the expenses and laws that are required to be met? That is as important as providing them, and again, the facts bear out our operations are cost efficient and cost effective when compared with our brethren cities and fellow operations in Ohio.

First, Jackson is the only city out of the 192 in Ohio that does not have a municipal income tax or a property tax levy to support its police, the only one. Thus, for any wage earner or property owner living in any other city in Ohio, the cost is substantially more.

There are over 500 municipalities in Ohio that collect a municipal income tax, Jackson does not. Wellston does, Oak Hill is going to, every other city in southern Ohio does. Just this fact should clearly demonstrate the city's money is being effectively managed.

Other cities Jackson's size collect more than \$1 million every single year from their income tax collections, so the fact our city has remained competitive with all of those other cities without that over \$1 million a year additional income speaks volumes.

Our city's minimum water rate for our residents is approximately half of the other major local water provider. Despite the fact we had to make rate adjustments to keep our system current and meeting state requirements, our water is still the best deal around.

To city council, I thank you again and the community thanks you as well.

As we do move forward, though, we should always remember our deeds will never be judged by the statements we make, but by the results we produce, and our actions will always speak louder than words, not only as they are judged today, but judged months, years and even decades from now by those who will follow us, as we are nothing more than a small bridge from our forefathers to what is hopefully a better future ahead.

Once again, the undeniable proof of how responsibility and investment works hand and hand to make our community better.

Of course, returns on financial investments cannot always be calculated in dollars and cents, and the return might not always appear today or tomorrow, but will be there most when we need it to be. For example, we might not need a police officer today, but if we do tomorrow, be thankful we have made the investments we have into having them always there ready to serve.

I am sure there are those who always see a dollar spent as a dollar wasted. But there is a true difference in just spending money and making the investments necessary to help a community economically grow, prosper and provide a better life for all.

While there are those who will always oppose spending and clearly demonstrate a belief our citizens are not worthy of our investment, I am sorry to inform them our citizens are most certainly worthy of our investments, from keeping our senior citizens safe in their homes, to helping protect our children from the despair of illegal drugs, to providing safe, healthy drinking water and electric lights to show the way.

Yes, our citizens are certainly most worthy of our investment.

And it is those investments that will keep us moving into the future and not regressing into the past, it is those investments that hopefully will keep us moving toward more and better paying jobs, that will keep us believing, and not abandoning hope.

It is not about spending, it is about investing, it is about growing with the world around us and not being left behind. It is making sure we are ready for new challenges from those who will hopefully fill our empty buildings, and not get passed by because we live up to the unfair stigma that some attach to Appalachia.

We are about today and the future, we are about the needs that must be met now to brighten those days and years to come, and not drive people into despair over the past or changes that must be made. It is demonstrating we want the opportunity to move forward fairly and responsibly seize it, not simply waiting for another handout or another social program, but a true chance to show who we really are.

We have that opportunity, but we can never expect anyone to invest in us if we are never willing to invest in ourselves, we cannot expect others to believe in us and our sincerity to leap at that chance unless we demonstrate first the pride and commitment it takes to convince them their business, their industry belongs right here.

We need to show the world we are responsible to our needs, we meet those responsibilities, we believe our lives are worth protecting from killers and drug dealers, our children are worth investing in and we truly believe in their future. We need to continue to show our city has become financially responsible and you can trust Jackson to treat you fair and will work hard for you, we must continue to show those on the outside we will always be worth believing and investing in.

We must make sure our first impression is always the best.

So let's never take that hope away, let's never abandon our people for any reason, let's always make sure we are there for them, no matter the emergency, no matter the circumstance, and that all are treated fair and hopefully someday all will have the financial security they desire to make it on their own and meet the costs that are required for daily living.

But that only comes with solemn responsibility and the willingness and commitment to always believe the citizens of Jackson are worth investing in, that we explore every avenue to responsibly find out if we can turn a "no" if possible into a responsible, cost effective yes, that we can help make a tomorrow for ourselves and our children that is richer than today.

JOSEPH D. KIRBY
City Attorney for Jackson, Ohio
227 E. Main Street
Jackson, Ohio 45640

Telephone 740-286-3735
Facsimile 740-288-2161

E-mail joe@josephdkirby.com
www.josephdkirby.com

January 27, 2014

Council Members
Jackson City Council
45 Broadway Street
Jackson, Ohio 45640

Dear President of Council and Jackson City Council Members;

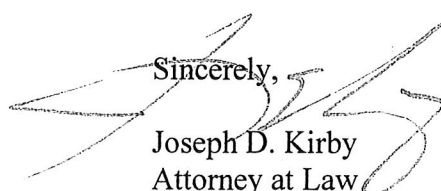
I have been asked to provide an opinion concerning the propriety of Councilman Brown voting on matters relating to increases and updates of City electric and serving on the utility committee. It is alleged that Mr. Brown is not a customer of Jackson City electric. For purposes of my review, I am assuming that Mr. Brown is not a customer of the City electric.

I have reviewed the Ohio Revised Code and case law and searched for advisory opinions that would tend to support an argument that a member of council must have an interest in legislation before him. I have been unable to support such an argument. Generally, the requirement is that legislators shall not have an interest in legislation greater than that of their constituents (RC section 102.03). There is no requirement that they have an interest equal to that of their constituents.

Ohio law prohibits a council member from voting on council matters that directly benefits his own property. As such, Councilman Brown is uniquely positioned to vote on matters relating to utility rates and to serve on the utility commission. It is not, however, my opinion that members of this Council, who are utility customers, are prohibited from acting on utility matters before them so long as there is no selective, differential or disproportionate benefit that is not recognized by others in the City (Ethics Op. 93-016; Ethics Op. 92-013)

If you have any questions concerning any matters contained herein, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Joseph D. Kirby
Attorney at Law

Jackson Firefighters Association
152 Pearl Street
Jackson, Ohio 45640

January 13, 2014


Mr. William Sheward
Service/Safety Director
City of Jackson
145 Broadway Street
Jackson, Ohio 45640

Dear Mr. Sheward:

As you are aware the Jackson Firefighters Association recently purchased an ATV for fire department use. This letter is to inform you that the Association more recently purchased an enclosed trailer to transport this equipment. Except for some minor work, such as having the lettering completed, the Association is ready to turn both the ATV and trailer over to the City of Jackson.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter please contact Interim Chief David Channell or Interim Assistant Chief George Wastier.

Sincerely,



George Wastier, Secretary
Jackson Firefighters Association

CC:

Interim Chief David Channell
Interim Assistant Chief George Wastier