

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session
February 8, 2016
7:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL

VISITORS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 25, 2016 Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Utility –Elliott (Chairman), and Foster and Ondera
- Budget & Finance – Hensler (Chairman), Elliott, and Ondera
- Police, Fire, & Traffic – Kitchen (Chairman), Queen, and Jones
- Service – (Street & Alley, Recreation, Buildings & Grounds) Foster
Chairman), 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 25, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Regular Session

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Jackson City Council Chambers. President Eric Brown called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Foster. The Prayer was given by Mr. Hensler.

Roll call was taken as follows:

- Mr. Ondera-present
- Mr. Kitchen-present
- Mrs. Jones-present
- Mr. Hensler-present
- Mr. Queen-present
- Mr. Elliott-present
- Mr. Foster-present

VISITORS

Mr. John Peters spoke regarding Section 3 of Ordinance 81-15 which increased the sewer rates. He had reviewed the rates and also found some reports which it states consumers should receive annually. He does not remember ever receiving any reports of this nature. He read a section of the Ordinance that states this. (See attached highlighted). He said he never knew of the city meeting annually to discuss the rates. It also mentioned "Grantees", but he could not find the definition of who this would be.

Mr. Peters stated he wanted to know how the sewer rates are calculated. Someone at the utility office explained there is a program they use that changes cubic feet into gallons. Mr. Peters stated at the end of the conversation with the person at the utility office, he found out he was overcharged by one cent. He said that doesn't sound like a lot, but if everyone is overcharged by a penny, it adds up over the years. Mr. Reed said it is probably rounding up or down. Mr. Peters said it should be stated on the bill if it rounds up or down.

Mr. Peters said he wanted to bring to everyone's attention that on Ordinances 07-16, 08-16, and 09-16, that it states in the ordinance,

"I am forwarding the appropriate paperwork to Joe Kirby to prepare an Ordinance for the next City Council Meeting to transfer funds as follows:"

He said this should not have been part of the ordinance, but it was passed this way. He stated a few months back, there was an ordinance passed that approved \$500,000 to buy record books for the clerk. This was found to be an error and corrected.

Mr. Peters stated a while back Administration encouraged everyone to read the code book and become familiar with it. He wanted to know why the section that states, "every lighted sign or billboard in the city will be turned off at 10:00 p.m.", isn't being enforced. He stated there needs to be more focus on detail.

President Brown referred these questions and concerns brought up by Mr. Peters to Mr. Kirby and asked him to research them and report back at the next council meeting.

The next visitor was Anita Causey who spoke about her utility bill. Anita stated she recently moved to Jackson and received her first utility bill. She was ok with the water rates, but questioned the sewer rates, because they were about triple the water rates. She said everywhere else she has lived, the sewer rates were about half of the water rates. She stated when she called the utility office and asked about it, she was told it was because the sewer is used more. She said that was impossible and that answer was

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not acceptable to her. Anita said she was then told it was due to the EPA testing every month. She wanted to know how much they are paying the EPA and how often they are testing. She wanted to know a breakdown of what the money is being used for. She said this should be printed on the bill. President Brown asked Anita to give the Clerk her address, so Administration can get her the information she needs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kitchen made a motion to approve the minutes from January 11, 2016 Regular Session, seconded by Mr. Hensler. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITY- Mr. Elliott said there is a request for sewer hookup from Ed and Sharon McGhee at 204 Watts-Blevins Rd. Mr. Elliott made a motion to grant the request, seconded by Mrs. Jones. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mr. Elliott stated he would like to start talking to Administration about the Utility office building. He also mentioned there is an article in the Cities and Villages magazine, which talks about storm water. He said if they could come up with a storm water rate, it would help the General Fund. President Brown asked him to get with Administration and discuss it further.

BUDGET & FINANCE-No report.

POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC-No report.

SERVICE –(STREET & ALLEY, RECREATION, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-No report.

CITY AUDITOR-No report.

LAW DIRECTOR

Mr. Kirby stated the gas station on Morton St. is going to be sold in the near future. The taxes owed are \$5,100.

MAYOR-

Mayor Heath gave his State of the City address. Please see attached.

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Mr. Sheward wanted to commend the Street and Alley and other departments who helped with the snow last weekend. They did a great job keeping the streets clear.

The sewer construction on McCarty Lane is still in progress. They had to delay some due to the snow and cold weather. McCarty Lane will be closed for about a week at a time in two sections. The second closing will actually begin at the intersection of McCarty Lane and 93, so the only entrance to Wal-Mart will be the one off of 93.

Mayor Heath wanted to remind everyone of the signs posted on the streets for when it snows. He said to pay close attention to them, so the plows can go through easier.

Mr. Odera also commended the city for their outstanding job with the snow.

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He said some citizens have contacted him concerning the lighting on Canterbury Drive. He said he thought it might be the LED lights. Mayor Heath stated this has already been addressed and new lights have been ordered. He hopes to have them in this week. Mr. Hensler asked if some of the poles are going to be replaced and Mayor Heath said no.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 07-16

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.

Second Reading

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

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 07-16 duly adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-16

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE MCKINLEY PARK FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Reed stated this is just money that has been collected and just needs appropriated so they can use it. It is just a pass through of funds.

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Mr. Elliott asked Mr. Sheward if changes in the parks are done with the city's oversight. Mr. Sheward stated yes.

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

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 12-16 duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO BRENNTAG PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,021.50 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Reed said these invoices came due the week they were shut down. The books were closed. The money is there, they just need paid.

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

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

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

Mr. Ondera-yes

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

Resolution No. 01-16 duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO RUMPKE WASTE, INC. PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,935.22 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

Mr. Reed said these invoices came due the week they were shut down. The books were closed. The money is there, they just need paid.

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

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

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

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

Resolution No. 02-16 duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO CITY OF JACKSON/UTILITIES PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,134.02 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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Mr. Reed said this is the same thing as the previous two resolutions.

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

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

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

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

Resolution No. 03-16 duly adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE-

The clerk stated there is information in their packets regarding the classes for the Ethics Commission.

There is also a notice for financial disclosure filing.

Mr. Elliott mentioned the letter from Mary Decker regarding the cemetery.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hensler asked Mr. Reed if they had made a decision about the online checkbook. Mr. Reed stated he is still getting information on it. He just wants to make sure there are no fees going to be assessed in the future. He said they are trying to sell programs along with it. He said all they have to do is hit a button to send them the information. Mr. Reed is not against it.

Mr. Kitchen said he saw in a newspaper article Whitaker Wright is helping the City of Wellston with grants. He thought maybe that would be a way to get money to work on the brick street we have left. Mayor Heath said he will check with him and see if he can set up an appointment with him.

Mr. Queen said some citizens of Chestnut St. had mentioned to him that Jackson Area Festival & Events gave the Homeless Committee some property near there. He said he knows it is in the wetlands, but some of the citizens are concerned about it. Mr. Sheward stated it is only zoned for a single family home and he has not received any calls regarding it.

NEW BUSINESS

President Brown wanted to know if the 10% late penalty assessed on utility bills can go into the Utility office fund. That would be less money that would have to come out of the General Fund. Mr. Sheward stated that money balances the non-payments. There is a lot of money collected in late fees. Mayor Heath stated he didn't think there

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is any money coming out of the General fund for the Utility office. President Brown said if that is the case, then it isn't an issue.

Mr. Hensler made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Queen. In a voice vote, all members agreed.



Sherry Barr, Council Clerk



Eric Brown, Council President

Date 2-8-16

Date 2/8/16

Hearst

I am writing this letter to request
application for a sewer tap, our
address is:

204 Watts Blinn Rd.

Jackson, Ohio 45640

740-710-1874

740-286-1048

Edwin Mc Ghee
Sharon Mc Ghee

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2016

City of Jackson

STATE OF THE CITY - 2016

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, despite our many challenges, continues to move forward in the right direction, continues to get better and better, and continues to serve our citizens well.

But progress and success such as this can only be sustained with the same continuing, dedicated effort from the city's administration, the city's council, the city's workforce and the city's residents, businesses and industries at large that must be clearly focused on a singular goal.

This doesn't mean we will be void of debates and disagreements, healthy discussion based on the facts, and not solely on political rhetoric or emotion, is a necessity if all parties are to share equally in the progress and the success.

The more input there is, the more factual information there will be to work with and ultimately produce the best result. Responsibility is the key, working to inform rather than incite, to educate rather than insinuate, to be honest with the facts rather than rhetoric and emotion. To always find a better way, not just be a naysayer with never a better answer.

It is my hope every person in this city wants to make Jackson the best it can be, but it can only be done if those who feel we are falling short step up and produce a better way for all to enjoy and benefit from.

Of course, no matter what there will always be the naysayers because saying no is easier than saying yes, and explaining there is a better way, laying it out for all to see.

But in the end, as is always the case, the facts will erase the rhetoric and the facts are our citizens are being served well in a most cost efficient and cost effective manner.

It is incumbent upon me, as I report on the state of our city, to remind everyone of the daily accomplishments our government provides to its residents, services that have been so efficient and reliable many times they go unnoticed and are taken for granted.

For example, we should never forget, we treat on average as much as 2 million gallons of water every day, every drop pure and safe to use.

We will safely treat more than 1 million gallons of wastewater every day to protect the health of our people, and potentially millions more if we have a large rain event, meeting all the requirements and laws of the Environmental Protection Agency which should be a primary focus of everyone at this table.

We deliver more than \$10 million worth of electric annually to nearly 4,000 customers every day.

We have more than 50 miles of water and sewer lines we must maintain, almost all underground and many of them getting old far beyond their prime, some as much as 100 years old.

The payments for all of our utility services go into our utility billing office, which handles more than \$20 million in payments annually, every penny successfully accounted for.

To keep our community healthy and clean, we remove an average of 20 tons, or 40,000 pounds of trash, from the community every working day. That means over 10 million pounds of trash is removed from the community each year.

We have a police department that last year answered almost 20,000 telephone calls and were responsible for more than 1,000 arrests. Our police must keep a community of more than 6,000 residents, plus any visitors, safe from harm in a world that is potentially more violent than ever before with a drug problem that could be society's greatest challenge and threat.

Our fire department answered 243 calls last year, whether it be 3 p.m. or 3 a.m.

We have 33 miles of streets in Jackson to maintain all year long, including the prompt clearing of snow in the winter with a street and alley department that also maintains all the outdoor city property, including keeping our parks beautiful, and is forced to mow a number of vacant lots each summer to help keep our neighborhoods nice and prevent them from being overrun by rodents.

We have an auditor's office, thanks to the excellent effort and leadership of Auditor Brett Reed, that has enabled our city to be commended multiple times 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. Last year, it became the final resting place for 96 family members and loved ones.

In the end, though, it is clear, by these facts presented here, our city is a business that is producing imperative positive results. It is not some arbitrary social program that can arbitrarily cut costs because it is politically popular, but a bottom-line business producing results for its customers who are the residents, businesses and industries of the city of Jackson.

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

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 eight years than to have him by my side and his steady hand at molding our city into a better place to live every day.

Keeping the lights on, the water flowing in and the sewage flowing out, protecting our citizens 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, thanks to the outstanding workforce our city is blessed to have and the incredible cooperation of our citizens, businesses and industries, you don't need myself or anyone else to tell you the job is being done well. All the rhetoric in the world will never change that.

But future success and progress, that not only duplicates these numbers but enhances them, starts today. If we do not maintain what we have and set up a clear, step-by-step path for our future to follow, these tremendous efforts from our past will have been for naught.

Then the community we have loved, cherished and worked so hard for will only be a shell of the potential we truly possess, and the wonderful opportunities that do lie ahead if we are willing to work and invest in them will never be realized.

For the future success we envision to be real, it is imperative that we, as a body, and our community, as a whole, be fully educated on the mission at hand, what it will take to make those accomplishments a true reality and be dedicated to seeing it through, because understanding and education of the facts is what will bring us our greatest success and defeat the enemies that would impede that progress.

If I were to ask each person in this room for their definition of government, I would receive a well thought out, unique answer from each, and each could very well be correct because of the many different types of government and the many different facets of our lives that government touches.

As for the different levels of government, we all know you have the federal, the state, and the local levels, but their responsibilities and requirements are as different as night and day and this is where the vital mission of educating our citizens must start.

Every one of us can voice our opinion on how costs can be cut at the federal level and be very justified, because so many of the programs undertaken in Washington are optional, they are arbitrary and social in nature and those will always be subject to philosophical debate. And when they really want something done in Washington and don't want to spend the money, they just create a law that forces the states to do it.

In many instances then, the same can be said for the state government, many arbitrary programs and mandates passed along to the cities and counties with no funds to pay for them.

And that leaves us.

Hardly any social programs, to speak of, very few arbitrary decisions left at this point, forced to pay for the costly mandates established by those more powerful, and as described before, a city that operates primarily as a bottom-line business, because that is truly what local government has evolved into - mandated services rendered, you have to have water, sewer and electric, pay the costs for providing them, and collecting a fair amount from those who use them to cover those costs.

Sometimes, it is really that simple.

In matter of fact, the closest thing we have in our city to a social program that we can arbitrarily assess is our police department, and their importance in today's combative society is more pressing than ever, with the always constant question, should we do more?

Of course, the most important bottom-line business operation of our city is the oversight of our city's most valuable asset, our utility system.

If our community is to not only survive, but to thrive, our utility system will be at the foundation of that success. For this reason, our utility system must always be treated with the greatest responsibility possible. There is no place for emotions or political rhetoric in its operation. Judgments can only be made responsibly based on the facts, and any other considerations must always be set aside for the good of the community, its residents and the business and industries that employ them.

If any other consideration, emotional, political or otherwise, is allowed to compromise the operation and upkeep of our systems, then they will not be able to adequately serve the community in the future, and history has clearly proven that whatever short-term gains might appear to be possible will only cost our customers more in the future.

There is not a one of us at this table, there is not a person living in this community, who wants to pay one penny more ever again for their utilities, me included.

But we are required by law to provide a certain level of service from our water and wastewater operations, and those rules are not arbitrary or optional.

We are required to obey the law, we do obey the law, and to do so we are required by law to generate the necessary income to obey those laws.

So to meet those laws responsibly, we have had our rate structures determined by the leading independent specialists in the field, so they are not guess work, so we will not make a devastating mistake because of lack of knowledge or political persuasion, but have a professionally generated rate structure in place that ensures that we, as a community, meet our responsibilities, even if that will cost more in the years to come than in the years gone by.

Our utilities are not optional, and their operation is not arbitrary, it is a business that must obey the law, we provide a service, providing that service generates costs we must pay, then we must collect the necessary amount to cover those costs.

If anyone tells you differently, then unfortunately they are not being honest with you.

But clearly, there is more to a community than the basic services of water, sewer and electric, everyone has them, everyone has to pay for them. But what really makes a community a home, what makes a community the place business and industry wants to come and be a part of?

What can give our community that edge, or see that edge belong to someone else?

This is the arbitrary question we must address every day, with the knowledge our decisions will have a bearing on this community's future for generations to come.

The role of government in the lives of the people has been debated since the beginning of time and will never end. The opinions range the gamut and the larger the governmental entity, the more the debate rages.

When you compare our community of Jackson to other communities in Ohio our size and the financial limitations we have faced in comparison, we have every right to be extremely proud of what we have accomplished, both in recent times and throughout the years.

It is a fact that our city's limited funding sources have prevented some of the advances I would like to see in Jackson, members of this council would like to see and I am sure a number of our residents would like to see.

Of course, maybe a core element in such a discussion is how you philosophically envision such expenditures. Do you view them as a cost, or as an investment, and simply are the people worth having that investment made in them?

There will always be those, and possibly influenced by the spending on the state and federal level, who will always view any expenditure by local government as a cost, and all costs should be reduced regardless of the benefit. Any expenditure will always be too much, and maybe even without a justified reason.

But what if each expenditure was judged as an investment, an investment in the betterment of the people as a whole?

Then, you measure each investment honestly by its worth, you determine if the return is equal or greater than the investment, and if the investment carries that kind of worth, do you move forward and create that benefit for the community as a whole?

Maybe there will be those who do not want to spend any money on our people or our community as a whole regardless of the benefit, but are our people and community worth the investment?

That is truly the question we must ask.

During my eight years of mayor, we have addressed potentially the most severe financial challenges our community has ever faced. We have faced them with strength, courage and conviction, and as a result, I still believe we can compete with the best communities in Ohio.

But do we have the tools in today's world and today's economy to maintain that level and have the community we truly want Jackson to be?

When I took office, our utilities funds, the lifeblood and future of our community, were all quickly approaching dangerous financial levels due to misguidance from the past. I am proud, though, to say today our utility systems are in a secure, financially responsible position, which will be a tremendous asset moving forward as we work to build our community's economy through more and better employment opportunities for our people.

Our general fund's taxable resources are still the lowest of any of the 244 cities in the state of Ohio. Over 500 municipalities in Ohio, cities and villages alike, assess municipal income taxes to their residents and those who work in and thus use their community every day, income which helps to cover the cost of vital services provided.

Jackson remains one of only four cities of the 244 in Ohio which does not have a municipal income tax, and is the only city in Ohio without either an income tax or property tax for its police. It also has the lowest millage among those four cities with only 3.5 outside mils for the operation of our fire department and cemetery.

But maybe the biggest obstacle that has adversely affected our community's available financial resources has been the national economic downturn and the state's decision to reduce its funding assistance to municipalities throughout the state.

Because of our utility system and the money we must keep in reserve, Jackson has always been able to supplement its general fund through interest income, which allowed Jackson to be able to provide the very basic of services, nothing fancy, nothing extra, but keeping our community battling to be the best it could be.

But when the national economic downturn took interest rates to almost nothing, our community took a tremendous financial hit.

In matter of fact, from the level of revenue the city received from interest income and state government funds in 2007, the year before I become mayor, our city has seen more than \$5 million less of potential income as a result over these past eight years.

Thus, when you consider that kind of financial setback with no other source of revenue to replace it, we absolutely can be proud of how we have managed our money on behalf of the citizens, and clearly we have spent it wisely or we would not be as financially sound as we are today and have the services and wonderful community we have.

Would I like to have nicely paved streets, curbs and sidewalks that are not in disrepair, the Memorial Building renovation complete, our creeks looking nice, more walking paths and other benefits that would make our community really, really better?

I absolutely would! If we would have had that \$5 million from the potential interest income and state government funding, don't you think the Memorial Building would have been renovated by now, streets paved, curbs fixed, creeks cleaned and other measures that would have beautified and bettered our community? Of course!

I believe we have proven over these past eight years the money would have been spent wisely, and our citizens could have been assured they would have received an equal or greater return from their valued investment and our community would be a better place to live.

But those sources of income are gone, and are not coming back. And each year as we make out our budget, we see more and more things we would like to do for the community and have to say not this year, maybe not next year, who knows when.

You cannot lose the potential of more than \$5 million in what had been dependable income and it not eventually have an adverse effect on your community. It might not be today, maybe not tomorrow, but each year as a result there is at least \$500,000 in annual income we desperately counted on in the past that is now gone and not coming back.

Then, when you consider communities the size of Jackson are bringing in between \$1 and \$1.5 million every year from municipal taxes and have a \$1 million head start every year over our community, are we going to be able to keep up?

Now, I am sure there will be those who will say it doesn't make any difference if we are like other communities or not, why should we care?

Every one of those 244 cities I referenced, whether they be Columbus, Chillicothe or Jackson, they are all battling for one thing, employment for their people, to not only keep but add the best and highest paying jobs available.

Many times there are not that many new jobs, which means the jobs you are getting use to belong to someone else. I am sure 20 years ago, we all thought there would always be the 1,000 jobs on East Main Street that Goodyear and Merillat provided, and now we are starting from scratch. We could lose all of our current industries just that easy, and I am sure everyone realizes now how difficult it is to get any of those jobs back.

Those businesses and industries want to know the community they are in, or looking at, is committed to strong law enforcement because of the workforce limitations drug abuse has created, they want positive activities for their employees and their families so hopefully those activities will deter further drug use, they want to come to a community where they know there is pride among its people, and they demonstrate it by taking pride in themselves and the community in which they live.

They want to know if you care, and that is usually reflected in how you show it.

The future is always today. Our people and our children are counting on us now. Have we reached the crossroads to where the future direction of Jackson is being molded as we speak?

The past has given us a wonderful community to call home. The present is in our hands, and the future has joined it.

What level of investment do we need to make so Jackson will always be the community we want it to be?

May God bless this wonderful community, all of its people, and I thank you with all of my heart.

Mary C. Decker
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1307
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Phone-Fax 903-586-5323

January 13, 2016

Mr. Randy Heath, Mayor
City of Jackson
145 Broadway Street
Jackson, Ohio 45640

Dear Mayor Heath:

Between November 29 and December 1, 2015, Leanne Phillips Halfman and I were in Jackson to arrange for the burial of the ashes of her first cousin and my dearest friend, Graves Franklin Ray, and so that Leanne could visit the graves of her Phillips grandparents and great grandparents in the beautiful and historic Fairmount Cemetery.

Both Leanne and I were struck by how vibrant Jackson is when most small towns across the nation are struggling even when they are a county seat. Downtown Jackson was very inviting; the Christmas decorations were lovely; and everybody with whom we dealt at the Jackson Monument Company, the Fairmount Cemetery, the funeral home, the restaurants, and the Days Inn Motel could not have been more courteous and helpful.

In that regard, we want to express special thanks to Mr. Edward Henderson and Mr. Robert Spriggs at the Fairmount Cemetery. Mr. Spriggs had the graves that Leanne wanted to visit already located and marked by the time we arrived, and personally escorted us to them while at the same time telling us more about the Cemetery that he obviously loves.

Little towns across the country, including my own here in rural East Texas, don't get the attention, including the financial backing, that they deserved. They figured large in our county's history, and have much to offer in the 21st Century if only given a chance. The welfare of our small towns is a passion of mine.

With very best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Decker

JAN 19, 2016

(2) COMMODITY CHARGES (AS OF 10/1/2012, AND FORWARD):

FIRST 1,000,000 GALLONS PER MONTH:

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>10/1/2012</u>	<u>1/1/2013</u>	<u>1/1/2014</u>	<u>1/1/2015</u>
/1000 GAL.	\$8.32	\$9.65	\$10.81	\$11.67

OVER 1,000,000 GALLONS PER MONTH:

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>10/1/2012</u>	<u>1/1/2013</u>	<u>1/1/2014</u>	<u>1/1/2015</u>
/1000 GAL.	\$4.94	\$5.73	\$6.42	\$6.93

THE FOREGOING RATES ARE SUBJECT TO A THREE PERCENT (3%) INCREASE, TO BE INSTITUTED JANUARY 1ST OF EACH YEAR AFTER 2016; IN THE EVENT THE INCREASE IS NOT NEEDED, IT MAY BE WAIVED.

- (3) Annual review of charges. The sewer service charge and user charges shall be reviewed annually by the City in order to determine whether or not they are sufficient to defray the fixed charges, amortization costs, and annual cost of operation and maintenance of the sewage system. If the difference between the total revenue derived and the total annual cost is sufficient to justify an increase or decrease in the sewer service charge or user charges, the City will adjust the rate as required.

Every other year, grantees must review the wastewater contribution of users, total OM & R costs and the adequacy of user charges.

Each user shall be notified as least annually, in conjunction with a regular bill, of the rate and that portion of the sewer service charge which is attributable to operation, maintenance and replacement costs of wastewater treatment services.

- (4) Late payment charges. Payment of bills are due on the date listed on said bill. In the event the due date is on a weekend or holiday recognized by the City, then the due date shall be on the next business day.

A delinquent charge of ten percent (10%) of the total amount of a sewer charge shall be added to the charges hereinabove set forth if such amount is not paid on or before the due date of such bill.