

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL  
*Minutes From*  
DECEMBER 18, 2017  
8:00 P.M.  
SPECIAL SESSION

"Amended"

Jackson City Council met in Special session on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. at Jackson City Council Chambers. President Eric Brown called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 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

Mr. Brown stated the meeting was for the purpose of the third reading of Ordinance 61-17.

**ORDINANCE NO. 61-17 (Amended)**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN INCOME TAX AT THE ANNUAL RATE OF 1% FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**Third Reading**

**VISITORS SPEAKING**

Brett Hinsch a Seargent with the Police Department spoke on behalf of the Chief of Police, Carl Eisnaugle. Mr. Hinsch stated the Jackson Police Department is the most effective department in southeastern Ohio. He said they have been told that if the income tax does not pass, the Police Department will be disbanded. Mr. Hinsch said he would ask council to please consider passing the income tax.

Randy Evans stated he hopes the council has exhausted any and all possibilities to the financial crisis. He said this situation did not happen overnight. He asked council do their due diligence for the citizens of Jackson.

Alyce Smith stated crime is on an upward trend and can't believe they are thinking about dismanteling the Police Department. The citizens will suffer. Can't cuts be made in other departments and the raises that were given recinded. She asked that council get back on track and do the right thing.

John Peters said this did not start overnight. He said they have been told many years ago the transfer was not legal. He said the Police Department is not in danger until the end of 2018. This does not need to be done immediately.

Phil Howard, Superintendent of Jackson City Schools said most people do not understand the different funds and what can be used from each fund. He said they have a tough decision to make. Have they had a staffing analysis done recently? Maybe they are overstaffed. He said they need to look at statistics and see if the staff they have is warranted. Just be prepared to explain to the citizens why they made the decision they did.

Richard Kisor with the Police Department said he used to work for the Wellston Police Department. He was layed off. They have had businesses leave and now they are trying to restore the city. He takes pride

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in the City of Jackson. Comparing the school to a city is like comparing apples to oranges. He invited council to ride with them to see what they do. They need to work together. He asked council to pass the income tax and then lower the utility rates if that is a possibility.

Gregory Ritterback represents the Union of the Police Officers. The Police Department cannot strike. They implemented the Michigan Conference of Health Insurance. If they do away with the Police Department, the health insurance they have will go away too. They have a 3 year contract with their rates and have saved a lot of money. They will have to go back to the higher insurance if this goes away.

Nicole Campbell said her husband has been a dispatcher for 27 years. She asked council to please vote yes for the income tax and keep the Police Department.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Reed stated the estimated revenue for the General Fund without any transfers and Rents and Right of Ways is \$2.6 million. The wages for the Police Department is \$1.98 million in this year's budget. The rest of the wages is \$1.5 million. A total of \$3.13 million is for salaries. He asked if anyone can tell him how to do this without making cuts, please let him know how. There is a need for the income tax now, because it takes 3 years to get the full return. The Auditor's office said they figure about 8 people will need to be layed off even with the passage of an income tax. The start of 2019 they will have \$2.0 million to work with. At the end of 2018, they will not have a carryover. On the Financial Health Indicators, it stated cautionary outlook for the General Fund. The other one is the condition of Capital Assests.

Mr. Elliott stated people had said cuts can be made in other departments, but that is not true. Cuts in other departments will not help the General Fund.

Mr. Queen said there is more employees paid out of the General Fund than the Police Department. He would like to have it put on the May ballot and it would probably pass if it is for the Police Department only.

Mr. Ondera said it had been stated this problem did not start overnight, but essentially did. When they lost the transfer, it did start overnight. He is in favor of passing the income tax and being proactive on the situation.

Mr. Kitchen said the problem did just surface, but it has been going on for 8 years. Ordinance 67-09 does not say anything about the Police Department. They should have re-written the ordinance and made it right so they could fund the Police Department. He said he is asking council to vote no without having a plan in place first.

Mr. Elliott said he wrote a Letter to the Editor and the numbers are clear. He said he said he has great respect for this Administration.

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

Mr. Ondera-yes  
Mr. Kitchen-no  
Mrs. Jones-yes  
Mr. Hensler-no  
Mr. Queen-no  
Mr. Elliott-yes  
Mr. Foster-yes

**Ordinance No. 61-17 duly adopted.**

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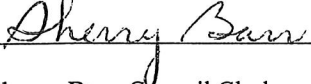
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Mr. Hensler made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m., seconded by Mr. Queen. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

  
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Sherry Barr, Council Clerk

Date 12-27-17

  
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Eric Brown, Council President

Date 12/27/17