

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes From

October 12, 2020

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2020. The pledge was led by Mr. Foster, and the prayer was given by Mrs. Biggs. President Dan Fulks called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken as follows:

- Mr. Foster – Present
- Mr. Coll – Present
- Mrs. Colby – Present
- Mr. R. Peters - Present
- Mr. J. Peters – Present
- Mrs. Biggs - Present
- Mr. Bopp -- Present

VISITORS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES~ Mrs. Biggs made a motion to amend the September 28, 2020 minutes, under Ordinance 49-20 to show the SCMR fund is the Street and Alley Fund, not the Cemetery Fund. The official minutes will reflect this change. Mr. R. Peters seconded this motion. In a voice vote, all members agreed. Mr. J. Peters made a motion to approve the amended minutes with a second from Mr. Biggs. In a voice vote all members agreed.

AUDITOR’S REPORT~ The August report is included in the packets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITY ~ Minutes are in the packets from the previous utility meeting. Would like to hear the survey results for the recycling questions asked when customers paid their bill.

Scheduled the next Utility meeting for October 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM

BUDGET & FINANCE~ No Report

POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC~ No Report

SERVICE ~ Had a meeting tonight. Twelve to fifteen people came, city & countywide. Scheduling another meeting for November 16, 2020 6:00 PM to have more time to focus on community involvement in working together as groups to take care of the cat problem.

CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE ~ No Report

56-19~ No Report

CITY AUDITOR/ TREASURER~ No Report

CITY ATTORNEY~ Still in discussion about settlements concerning 56-19. The tolling agreement ends at the end of 2020. They could extend this agreement, settle, or do nothing. We are just waiting right now.

POLICE CHIEF~ Call Records

OH-1 Crashes

<u>September</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	490	403	9	21	8

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OHLEG

<u>September</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>		
Incidents	Arrests	Incidents	Arrests	Incidents	Arrests
120	80	125	93	124	91

FIRE CHIEF~ Statistics Report is in the packets

MAYOR ~ Updates: Continued progress on Main St. for the work on sewer, curb repair and sidewalk paving.

Parkview to Main St. project is mostly done. Still need to pave a couple of streets: Lee St. and corner of High and Main.

Four county mayors decided on the combined date and time for Trick or Treat. Saturday, October 31st 5:30-7:00 PM subject to Covid restrictions or any new information or orders from the county health commissioner or the governor.

In early stages/ early planning of a city-wide Christmas celebration. December 5, 2020. Might have a bigger, evening parade, and the lighting for the city and the park that evening. Possible fireworks, Jackson Schools will be allowing their band to participate.

Layoffs announced this past week for positions we cannot fund if the levy does not pass. These were announced early because their contract says we must let them know 30 days in advance. We are letting them know a little earlier. Their last day would be November 20, 2020. The city does not want to move forward with the layoffs, but without another source of income, we cannot pay them. They will be laid off before the end of the year because the city will still be paying benefits paid even after their layoff date.

The layoffs are happening because we can no longer take the income from utilities and pay general fund items such as police, street and alley, etc. Utility revenues pay for all utility services and utility employees. However, utility money cannot pay for other general services. The State Auditor says these things should be funded through city income tax or a levy, which Jackson has neither.

SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR ~ Utility Office Survey – Customers who did use the curbside recycling when it was available: 87- yes 53 – No. Those who would be willing to pay for curbside recycling to return were 55 – Yes 66 – No

The report from Rumpke about the Dumpster Bins that the Solid Waste District is providing showed the percentage of items in the bins that were recyclable when we had curbside recycling to be:

95% recyclable and 5% garbage.

Now that we do not have curbside recycling, the percentage of the items in the bins is:

80.68% recyclable and 19.32% garbage

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We have drafted a new application that goes in conjunction with Ordinance 50-20. Mr. Swackhammer would like council to look at it during the three readings.

Looked into using the old bridge on High St. as a footbridge when the new bridge goes in. Mr. Swackhammer has been working with ODOT. They would have to cut and disassemble the bridge in a certain way in order to do recycle the bridge. This would cost more, plus additional money for the paving part, which would increase our match.

Met with some of the wards and community advisory board members. He would still like to meet with the other wards.

Mr. Coll asked for more of a description for the land we are going to sell with the water tower.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE 43-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO TO CAUSE REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO KNOWN BY TAX PARCEL NUMBER C050010003900 TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDERS.

Third Reading

A roll call vote was taken to adopt the Ordinance, and the results are as follows:

Foster	Yes
Coll	Yes
Colby	Yes
R. Peters	Yes
J. Peters	Yes
Biggs	Yes
Bopp	Yes

Ordinance 43-20 Duly Adopted

ORDINANCE 44-20

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES THERETO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Third Reading

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R. Peters	Yes
J. Peters	Yes
Biggs	Yes
Bopp	Yes

Ordinance 44-20 Duly Adopted

ORDINANCE 49-20

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE WATER DISTRIBUTION UTILITY OFFICE, ELECTRIC UTILITY OFFICE, SEWER COLLECTION, ELECTRIC AND SCMR FUNDS: CASH IN PAY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

ORDINANCE 50-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPEALING ORD 17-20 REGARDING UTILITY BILLING AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNER/LANDLORD TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTIONS 919.031

First Reading

Mr. R. Peters made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. J. Peters. In a voice vote, all members agreed. Except Mr. Coll who opposed.

Mr. J. Peters said he will move, after the discussion, to table this and send it to committee. Mr. Coll then reversed his vote to yes.

Mr. R. Peters said we have been dealing with this since January. Compromises have been made. The committee listened and came up with a fair resolution.

Make sure the working points are included in this.

- A list showing every person living in the residence. The property owner must verify and sign off on this before turning it in to the utility office. We want to avoid the issue of tenants changing utilities into someone else's name to avoid delinquent bills.
- Make sure the landlord is still ultimately responsible for the bill. This is an Ohio law.

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- Wants to have a waiver built into the process in which the tenant would sign, giving the property owner permission to receive copies of the bill, late notices, and shut off notices.
- He feels the credit check feature is too expensive. If we are not going to do this, we need some sort of procedure to open an account rather than just a deposit.
- We use the tax lien feature for the tall grass and mowing. We should also use this feature for delinquent or unpaid utility bills. Other municipalities do this.

Mayor Evans believes the things Mr. Peter has asked about are addressed in the administrative paperwork.

In the past, the slate was wiped clean, so they are able to start over fresh. This will change. The tenant will be held accountable for past due bills.

The landlord will no longer co-sign with the tenant for the liability. This was a huge point of contention amongst the property owners. The landlords did not want to cosign so they began putting the utilities in their name and charging the tenant for them. Metropolitan housing and other groups give assistance to low income renters. If the utilities are not in their name, they cannot get help paying the utilities. By taking away the co-sign feature, the tenants can put utilities in their name and then get assistance with paying those bills.

Mr. J. Peters said he wants to table it so the committee can see all of the documents put together and can look over it all. Then if in agreement, they could still move on to the 2nd reading at the next meeting.

Mr. R. Peters also said thank you to everyone for making this come together. He feels some of the things we do are not right. And when this happens, we need to fix it and work together to find a solution.

Mr. J. Peters made a motion to table it until after the next committee meeting which is 10-26-20 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Coll seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all members agreed except Mrs. Biggs who opposed.

RESOLUTION 40-20

Second Reading

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE CITY 'S INTENT TO
NOT RENEW ITS CONTRACT WITH THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS
ADMINISTRATOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

CORRESPONDENCE~ Tom & Ramona Douglas sent in a letter expressing their opinions on things happening in the city.

The clerk announced there was a report from the State Auditor that was forwarded to everyone's email. She has only one printed copy because it is over 100 pages long. If anyone wants to see it, they can.

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OLD BUSINESS~ Mr. J. Peters said the utility committee would like to suggest that they move forward with the tax liens. He also asked about the federal court case that our legal advisor submitted to each of us in the packets. Has there been any progress on the shutoff procedure now that we have the court order. Mr. Kirby said he believes that our policy is verbatim what the court order said. Mayor Evans said he does believe we can shorten the time on that shut off process and still be in compliant with the court order. Utility office and the SD have been working diligently to resolve these issues.

SIGNED IN VISITORS TO SPEAK~ Mark Fout- led the Trump parade through town. He wanted to apologize for all the negativity that had been stirred up, over the parade on social media. He said it wasn't council's fault and he wanted to apologize if they had to deal with any of the complaints.

He said they had a contract with the Jackson and Vinton Co Sheriff offices. He said he did call the city police department who said they would help, but he states they did not. He said that Waverly and McArthur didn't charge them anything. He received a bill from the city of Jackson for \$1400.00.

Mayor Evans said people were asking how much the city charged for the work they did, because it was known the Sheriff's offices were paid to escort the parade through the towns. Mr. Fout's group had said on face book they would pay the city, so city figured it up and sent him a bill.

Included in the bill were the wages for the workers and for use of equipment such as the fire trucks and police cruisers. The employees turned all the lights to flashing. The FD and PD were both Involved in blocking off streets and keeping the citizens safe while the parade went through town. From the time the workers started until they got back to their regular jobs was about 2 hours.

Mayor Evans said he does not care if the bill is paid or not. He said if council does not want to deal with this issue, administration will if council is good with that.

Mr. Fout said that legally he does not owe anything, but he wanted to come offer \$200.00 to the police department.

NEW BUSINESS~ Mr. Coll said he would like the utility committee to look into a paper that he received about getting free FICO scores. He thought this might be a way to make decisions about giving utilities to tenants.

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to adjourn with a second from Mr. R. Peters. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM.


Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk


Dan Fulks, Council President

Date 10-26-20

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