

# JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

## *Minutes From*

February 24, 2020

7:00 P.M.

## REGULAR SESSION

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Jackson City Council Chambers. President, Carisa Edwards called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Colby, and the prayer was given by Mrs. Biggs. 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

**VISITORS** Brock Wolford –SPARC Vice-Chair ~ Substance Abuse Prevention & Resource Council  
Mr. Brock spoke about the Needle Disposal Project. He said SPARC is working with several entities and agencies such as Hopewell, TASC, Spectrum, the Sheriff, the municipal court and others. He and Anya Wakefield are part of a committee to propose a plan to place a needle disposal box in Jackson. They have a price and have the money for it. They just need a place to put it so they can collect data, and use the data to take to other parts of Jackson Co. SPARC will “man” the box and will properly train people to dispose of the sharps each month. The sheriff will go with this person when the box is emptied.

This box is not just for illicit drug needles. It is for diabetic needles, lancets, syringes, needles, auto injection sets, but not medication. Gallia and Pike Counties already have the boxes. It is an industrial box that is 93” tall with double bitted keys and bolted to the ground in cement. The problem they are facing is where to put one. They can’t place it in a police type facility because people using needles illegally will not come in and dispose of their needles. If they place it anywhere that is not private land, it must go through the safety/service director.

Mr. Brock was asked where they are placed in other counties. He said public areas like parks are good places. Mr. Brock said the box comes with signage in the price. It will say SPARC Coalition and whomever they partner with and what is allowed to be placed in the box. Mr. Brock said they are not condoning the use of sharps for illegal drugs. They just want them off the streets so people aren’t coming in contact with used needles.

The SPARC Coalition meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month in the community meeting room of Holzer Hospital on Burlington Rd. from 11:30AM -1:00 PM.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF AUDITOR’S REPORT**

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to accept the December auditor’s report with a second from Mrs. Colby. In a voice vote all members agreed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. John Peters made a motion to amend the minutes from January 27, 2020 with a second from Mrs. Biggs to show that she didn’t make the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the December’s auditor’s report, and also under Ordinance 7-20 that she said some homeowner’s insurance policies “may” give a discount because of mutual aid. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Mr. John Peters made a motion with a second from Mrs. Biggs to approve the amended minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting. In a voice vote all members agreed.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**UTILITY**~ Mr. Peters first went over the Rules of Order Committee meeting. He had passed out the new rules of order that the committee had come up with and the clerk had typed and copied for everyone. It was detected there were 2-#7 rules. The clerk will renumber the rules and re-print. Mr. Peters asked the clerk to provide a cover letter and asked council to read over the rules and to let him know if any changes needed to be made before the next meeting. Mr. John Peters asked Mr. Kirby if we needed to repeal Ordinances 64-17 & 36-09 before bringing these rules to council. Mr. Kirby said he will write up a new amendment repealing the old ones for the next meeting.

Mr. Peters said they had a Utility Committee Meeting on 2-13-20 at 6:30 pm. The main topic was electricity. They discussed the former information contained on the utility bills. There is a meeting with a Software Co. on 3-24-20 with a possible upgrade that will contain this information. Discussed minimum electric bills for all customers. Discussed Ordinance 58-18 on Elec. Rates. PCA miscalculation in the ordinance. Brainstormed possible solutions. Next meeting first half of March.

**BUDGET & FINANCE**~ Mrs. Biggs said the Budget Committee met this evening at 5:30. Mr. Swackhammer, Mr. Reed, and Mayor Evans have been working with the department supervisors for seven weeks and have a budget ready. It was passed out to council and the visitors to the budget meeting. The budget was lowered by 2 million dollars. Everyone was very pleased. Mrs. Biggs recommended approving this budget. Mrs. Colby said several people wanted to let the administration know how well they are doing and how much they have accomplished in just seven weeks; better than in decades.

**POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC**~ No Report

**SERVICE (STREET & ALLEY, RECREATION, BUILDINGS, & GROUND)** ~ Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM. Mr. Ryan Peters said they have had Ord. 83-89 on the books since the late 80's with a centralized -fire, burglar alarm that is monitored but not enforced. He said the fire chief came with some hard numbers, Chief Potter had an in depth report with calls that are false. The general fund is strapped. Any income we can produce to offset and help them is needed. Don't want to charge the public. An alarm system is a luxury that not everyone can afford. We need to get the old Ord repealed or updated.

Historic Board – District Board for downtown- not enforced. Rather than a new board –get the current zoning board we have.

Discussed the cemetery plots and the annual and perpetual care. In the end of 2019 council passed legislation to no longer collect money due for unpaid plot care. He asked Mr. Kirby what legal steps we can take to get back old plots and resell them. Mr. Swackhammer said it took over a month and a lot of physical activity for them to get a page and a half list of plots. There is \$957,105.13 in past due plot care.

**JAIL COMMITTEE**~ No Report

**CITY AUDITOR**- Mr. Reed said he added a page to the report to make it a little better. He welcomes any questions. People can call, email, or stop in. Mrs. Biggs said Mr. Reed has been extremely helpful to her and the budget committee.

**CITY ATTORNEY**~ n/a

**POLICE CHIEF**~ n/a

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**MAYOR**~ Mayor Evans thanked council for their kind words and would spread them to the department heads who helped make this budget happen. They gave a “needs” budget rather than a “wants” budget. Mr. Kirby is back tonight. We’ve decided to have him back for our meetings.

Youth baseball/softball signups are happening now.

He is looking at removing overgrown trees downtown.

He is meeting tomorrow with the Jackson downtown business association.

He thanks council for all the committee work they have been doing. Most work is done in committees and then brought to council.

**SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR**~ Several Ordinances & Resolutions need to be addressed tonight. There are 2 that need pulled from the meeting tonight. (Ord. 09-20, Res. 07-20) They were given some last minute information from the engineer. They were about to award a bid on the lift station project and an error was going to greatly impact the funding so they had to pull it instead of amending it later. Need to go ahead and approve 08-20 because we will need it later for this. The engineer is coming Friday to determine if we need to rebid the project.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE 02-20**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN VARIOUS FUNDS AS NECESSARY TO TRANSFER REIMBURSEMENTS FROM THESE FUNDS TO CLOSE OUT EACH FUND.**

**Second Reading**

**ORDINANCE 03-20**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SURETY BOND AMOUNTS FOR THE CITY AUDITOR, CITY TREASURER AND DIRECTOR OF THE LILLIAN JONES MUSEUM AS REQUIRED BY OHIO LAW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Second Reading**

Mr. Ryan Peters asked about the Ord 6-95 that is already on the books that discusses the bonding. Do we need to repeal that one to enact this one. Mr. Kirby said he will bring a new ordinance next time that repeals the old one. Mr. Reed said this ordinance has a bonding of \$5,000 for the Lillian Jones Director. The old Ordinance did not have that. She would need the bonding also. Mr. Kirby said yes, this ordinance would cover more than the last ordinance. Mr. John Peters said ORC 733.70 mentions a mayor’s bond. Should the mayor be included in this? Mr. Kirby said the mayor might have an ordinance with his own bonding. If he handles money he would be bonded. Would like to look through previous ordinances to see if the mayor is bonded.

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This led to a discussion of the need to be able to search the ordinances quickly electronically. Currently the ordinances are online by year. However, there is no search button to find them by topic. Everyone feels this is a definite need. Mayor Evans said he has asked the tech department to look into that.

**ORDINANCE 04-20**

**AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM VARIOUS FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OR REIMBURSING THE GENERAL FUND AND CLOSING ACCOUNTS FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS.**

**Second Reading**

Mr. John Peters said that people are complaining on social media about our streets again. The Harding Ave. bridge replacement fund is around \$2,000. Can we use the money for that before it goes to the general fund? There is a wash out on the other side of the railroad tracks on Harding Ave. Or can we get it out of the general fund for that project once it gets there. Mr. Reed said it can be transferred anywhere from the general fund that council sees that it needs to be spent.

**ORDINANCE 05-20**

**AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM VARIOUS WATER DEPARTMENT PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING THE WATER FUND AND CLOSING ACCOUNTS FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS**

**Second Reading**

**ORDINANCE 06-20**

**AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM VARIOUS SEWER DEPARTMENT PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING THE SEWER FUND AND CLOSING ACCOUNTS FOR COMPLETED PROJECTS.**

**Second Reading**

**ORDINANCE 07-20**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE, THE CHIEF OF THE JACKSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO ENTER INTO AN AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**Second Reading**

Mr. Ryan Peters made a motion to table this ordinance back to the Police/Fire/Traffic Committee for the details to be worked out. Mrs. Biggs seconded the motion. In a voice vote all members agreed. Mrs. Colby called a committee meeting for Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30. Dave Channelz will be there.

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**ORDINANCE 08-20**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING FUND NUMBER 449: LIFT STATION UPGRADES FUND AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**First Reading**

Mr. Ryan Peters made a motion to adopt the ordinance, with a second from Mr. John Peters. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Mr. J. Peters asked what funds would go with that? Would it be grant funds? Mr. Reed said yes, and could be some city funds to match.

**ORDINANCE 10-20**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

Mr. Ryan Peters made a motion to adopt with a second from Mrs. Colby. In a voice vote all members agreed.

**RESOLUTION 06-20**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON  
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE MONROE  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE HOUSING OF CITY OF JACKSON PRISONERS IN  
THE MONROE COUNTY JAIL, AS NEEDED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

Mr. Biggs made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. John Peters. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Mr. John Peters would like a list of contracts not only like the services in Res 6-20. But also of employees on contract that includes the expiration date and renewal date and whether they are going to be laid off, terminated etc. Same thing with this resolution. This contract expired on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> It should have been caught in our first meeting in January.

Mr. Ryan Peters made a motion to suspend the rules with a second by Mrs. Biggs A roll call vote was taken, and the results are as follows.

BIGGS	yes
COLBY	yes
COLL	yes

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FOSTER	yes
J PETERS	yes
R PETERS	yes

A roll call vote was taken to adopt the resolution, and the results are below:

BIGGS	yes
COLBY	yes
COLL	yes
FOSTER	yes
J PETERS	yes
R PETERS	yes

**Resolution 06-20 Duly Adopted**

**RESOLUTION 8-20**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO TO TENTATIVELY AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO SOUTHERN OHIO TRENCHING AND EXCAVATING, INC. FOR THE PARKVIEW TO WEST MAIN STREET SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AS IT WAS THE LOWEST AND BEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER AND DECARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

Mr. Ryan Peters made a motion to adopt the resolution with a second by Mrs. Biggs. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Mrs. Biggs asked how this started back in 2017 and why we are just now bidding it three years later. Mr. Swackhammer replied that he was not sure of the delays the other administration had ran into. Mayor Evans said this is the best bid, and we need your approval so we can award the bid. There was much discussion on the ordinance as to the amount not being on the ordinance and the wording "tentative". Mr. Swackhammer said this is the way the EPA is requiring it to be read. It was not our wording. The EPA is granting the loan and we must accept it this way. Mayor Evans said this was the lowest of eight bids. It was substantially lower than the engineer's estimate and the city has a history with this company.

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to suspend the rules with a second by Mrs. Colby. A roll call vote was taken, and the results are as follows.

BIGGS	yes
COLBY	yes
COLL	yes
FOSTER	yes
J PETERS	yes
R PETERS	yes

A roll call vote was taken to adopt the resolution, and the results are below:

BIGGS	yes
COLBY	yes

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COLL	yes
FOSTER	yes
J PETERS	yes
R PETERS	yes

**Resolution 08-20 Duly Adopted**

**RESOLUTION 9-20**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JACKSON TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO FEMA FOR THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

Mr. John Peters made a motion to adopt the resolution with a second by Mrs. Biggs. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Mr. John Peters made a motion to suspend the rules with a second by Mrs. Colby. A roll call vote was taken, and the results are as follows.

BIGGS	yes
COLBY	yes
COLL	yes
FOSTER	yes
J PETERS	yes
R PETERS	yes

A roll call vote was taken to adopt the resolution, and the results are below:

BIGGS	yes
COLBY	yes
COLL	yes
FOSTER	yes
J PETERS	yes
R PETERS	yes

**Resolution 09-20 Duly Adopted**

**CORRESPONDANCE~ n/a**

**OLD BUSINESS~** Mr. John Peters said coming up on month 3 with the Goodyear issue. Asked about our reservations for the Ohio Municipal League conference. He asked about the insurance policies that are due. He would like to get that done in a timely manner. Mr. Swackhammer said the policy renewal will be coming up. Mrs. Biggs asked if we should we switch from Cincinnati with this Goodyear problem? Mr. Swackhammer said we already have a history with this company, so probably wouldn't recommend it. Others asked if we switched, wouldn't we be a liability because of this issue with Goodyear.

**SIGNED IN VISITORS TO SPEAK~**

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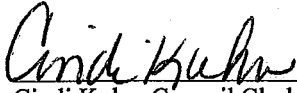
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**NEW BUSINESS**~ Mr. Peters said there is a software meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. He was not sure of the location yet. Mr. Woltz can send out some information to you if you are interested. Public Defender Indigent Defense Services contract expires June 30, 2020 and needs redone prior to that date.

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to adjourn with a second from Mrs. Colby. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

  
Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk

Date 3-9-20

  
Carisa Edwards, Council President

Date 3-9-2020