

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes From

January 13, 2020

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 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 Mr. Foster, and the prayer was given by Mrs. Colby. Roll call was taken as follows:

- Mrs. Biggs- present
- Mrs. Colby- present
- Mr. Coll- present
- Mr. Foster- present
- Mr. Matchett-present
- Mr. J. Peters-present
- Mr. R. Peters-present

VISITORS

ACCEPTANCE OF AUDITOR'S REPORTS -n/a

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. R. Peters made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session on December 23, 2019, as well as, the minutes from the special meetings held on December 26, December 27, and December 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Biggs. In a voice vote all members agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- President Edwards announced the placing of the members on committees.

UTILITY- John Peters, Dan Coll, & Marva Colby

BUDGET & FINANCE- Debbie Biggs, Tim Matchett, Marva Colby

POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC- Marva Colby, Dan Coll, & John Peters

SERVICE – (STREET & ALLEY, RECREATION, BUILDINGS, & GROUND) – Ryan Peters, Debbie Biggs, & Brett Foster

JAIL COMMITTEE- Brett Foster, Ryan Peters, & John Peters

CITY AUDITOR- No Report ~ They have the year rolled over and will be involved in working on the budget.

CITY ATTORNEY- No Report

POLICE CHIEF- At the end of December 2019 they had 106 call records compared to 107 in December of 2018. Traffic crash reports from 2019 were 20 compared to 18 from the previous year.

MAYOR: Congratulated the new council members. Felt the new and returning members as well as administration all have the same goal. He and his Service Director, David Swackhammer, have spent the first days of their administration on general operations. They are still trying to meet with every department. There are over 100 city employees counting the police and fire departments.

SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR- Mr. Swackhammer said they have met with 2 of the 3 unions. He has placed the annual cemetery report at each member's seat. He said that we haven't been taking advantage of

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some grant opportunities. Will be meeting with Cincinnati Insurance Group, AMP, & Southern Ohio Safety Council. They have been working on pending and/or ongoing projects.

Mr. Ryan Peters said at the end of 2019 they had discussed the cemetery fund and the nearly one million dollars in uncollected fees. What are the options to collect this money? The fund obviously needs the money. Mr. Peters would like for them to dive into that, and he will gladly help.

Mrs. Biggs asked who writes the grants. Mr. Swackhammer said there are some grants that can be divided up where needed. One in particular is a 3 to 1 matching grant. He said the BWC grants were not being taken advantage of, and they are working on that. He feels they are off to a good start.

Mr. John Peters asked about the AMP booklet they were given, and referred to page 16. The city of Columbia saved \$100,000 by reducing peak usage. He wanted administration to see if they could find out at the AMP meetings what this city did. He would be willing to come to the meeting and work on this. Would like to reduce the citizen's utility cost as much as possible.

Mr. Ryan Peters asked about the Board of Control minutes item 6 the jail expense of \$40,000. He asked if there was any hope of this number decreasing. Chief Potter said there are still a lot of people on probation which is the city's expense. They currently have about a 50/50 between city ordinances and state codes. Chief Potter said he can't really give an answer to that question. He can't predict when people are going to commit a crime or not comply with terms of probation.

Mr. Reed said he could tell them how much was spent on this for the same month last year compared to this year.

Mr. John Peters then asked if we are using the cheapest facility to house the inmates. Chief Potter said per day, no because of the cost of equipment and cost of personnel to transport them. Mr. Peters asked if the Jackson City Correctional Facility is the cheapest facility. Chief Potter said we are most expensive at \$70/day. Morrow County is \$60/day, but when you figure in the expenses of travel, it doesn't make sense to transport them.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE 01-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO EMPLOY THE LAW FIRM OF COLE, KIRBY, & ASSOCIATES, LLC., AS ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

First Reading

Mr. Foster made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a second by Mr. Matchett. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Mr. John Peters had several questions regarding the contract hiring of Cole, Kirby, & Associates. He asked about how we would terminate this agreement. How records would be transferred from one law firm to another. Are all of our existing records with Kirby? Who assigns the work and how do we do that with a contract attorney rather than a city employee attorney. Police might need legal advice on a daily basis, how would this work? What about the status on current cases?

Mayor Evans said that Mr. Kirby does have all records and not sure what the turn-over would look like. This should save the city, however, because he is not a city employee. He is being paid hourly for his time, but he was being paid for that time before as well.

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It was asked if we could move legal questions and reports to the beginning of the meeting so we wouldn't be charged for a possible 3 hour meeting, when it could all be done at the beginning. Mayor Evans said Mr. Kirby might not need to be at the meetings at all.

Mr. Ryan Peters asked what is going on now without an attorney. Mayor Evans said they need legal representation. For the city to be acting without it, is somewhat of a liability. They have not had any for the first 13 days of this new year, and it has been problematic. They have situations they need to deal with and do not have representation.

Mr. Ryan Peters asked if we can add to this agreement and how do we approach needing legal advice. Can anyone on council call or email the attorney? After much discussion amongst the members it was decided that all legal questions from council will be directed to the council president. She will then contact the administration who will seek the answers from the attorney. That way he isn't reading the same email or getting the same call multiple times costing us more money. The administration will always know what is going on as well.

Mr. Ryan Peters made motion to amend Ordinance 01-20 by adding line item 5. All legal questions from council will be directed towards the president of council. She/he will then notify the administration. This motion was seconded by Mr. John Peters. 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
Matchett – Yes
J. Peters – Yes
R. Peters – Yes

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

Biggs – Yes
Colby – Yes
Coll- Yes
Foster – Yes
Matchett – Yes
J. Peters – Yes
R. Peters – Yes

Ordinance 01-20 Duly Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. John Peters expressed his concern over the passing of resolution 44-19. He said there is concern over where the funds are coming from to pay this. He said the city was responsible for defending only civil actions not criminal actions. He also asked about the lack of signature on the resolution by former mayor Randy Heath. He asked if this vetoes the resolution. Mr. Reed said it does not veto it. By the mayor not signing it, it goes into effect in 10 days. It would go into effect in 30 days unless council changes it.

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Mr. John Peters made a motion that no further action of any kind be taken by the city of Jackson regarding Resolution 44-19. So as to prevent any payment of legal fees until such time as council can consult with its legal advisors concerning the resolution. Mrs. Biggs seconded the motion. In a voice vote there were 6-yes votes and 1- no vote.

CORRESPONDANCE- None

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Biggs told council about a contest sponsored by HGTV called Hometown Takeover. It is a make-over for a town of less than 40,000 people. They are to turn in 5 still pictures and a video. She is ready to take this project on and has helpers. Mrs. Biggs provided council with copies of the information on the contest.

Mr. Swackhammer asked about the terms and conditions box that had to be checked when applying. Mrs. Biggs said that was all the information that was available to her for printing. She would look into it. Mr. Swackhammer said he would want to read everything before agreeing to it. Mrs. Biggs said if she waited to get started on everything until after the next meeting, it wouldn't leave much time for the deadline. She said she would start on everything and bring all information to the next meeting. This way things would be ready to go if approved.

Mr. John Peters talked about AMP and electric cars. He said the city would probably be buying electric cars at some point, and asked about possible charging stations.

Mr. Ryan Peters said he felt that the council had a bad PR problem. He said the community doesn't seem to care what they are doing. He would like council and the administration to work together and hold a town hall style meeting once per season. He wants to invite the public to come and talk rather than come to a council meeting and listen to the members talk. He wants to listen to them and be available to serve the community. He referred to Mayor Evans' "LEFT" acronym. Legal

Ethical

Fair

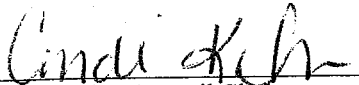
Transparent

Mr. Matchett mentioned the ordinance that Mr. Peters had brought up back in 2019 about the historical preservation of buildings in Jackson. He said he feels this needs to be researched before a TV network comes to our city. We need to know what can be changed and what can't.

President Edwards asked for nominations for a Pro-Tem candidate. Mrs. Biggs made a motion to nominate Mr. Ryan Peters with a second from Mrs. Colby. In a voice vote all members agreed.

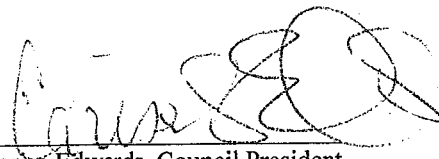
Mr. Ryan Peters made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. John Peters. In a voice vote all members agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 PM.



Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk

Date 1-27-20



Carisa Edwards, Council President

Date 1-27-20