

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes From

January 25, 2021

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 25, 2021. The pledge was led by Mr. Foster, and the prayer was given by Mrs. Colby. President 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 ~ Recognitions:

Mayor Evans recognized Steve Willis, Shawn Sexton, and Kathy Greer: Lick Township Trustees for donating Covid money to purchase much needed air packs and bottles for the Jackson fire department. Mayor Evans presented a plaque to Steve Willis.

Mayor Evans recognized Keith Denney, VP of Osco Industries, for their support and civic leadership in cleaning up of the properties on Morton and Chillicothe Streets.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES~ Mr. J. Peters made a motion to amend the January 11, minutes on page 3 second paragraph to read, "Mr. Coll made a motion to enter executive session to discuss pending or imminent court action and to seek advice from legal counsel." Mr. R. Peters seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to approve the amended minutes from January 11, 2020 with a second from Mrs. Colby. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

AUDITOR'S REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITY ~ Mr. J. Peters asked the Service Director about the rate sheets that were discussed in the last utility meeting. Mr. Swackhammer said they will be ready for the utility meeting on 2-8-21

Next meeting 2-8-21 6:00 PM

BUDGET & FINANCE~ No Report

POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC~ Meeting this evening. Decision to revise the ordinance to separate the chaplain portion out to another ordinance.

SERVICE~ Met this evening. The committee consensus was to commit \$6,000 in an effort to combat the feral cat problem. There are several details that need to be worked out between administration and the Humane Society that we want to partner with. Need something drafted by Mr. Kirby to allocate the \$6000 to start the program.

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JAIL COMMITTEE ~ No Report

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to enter into executive session for purpose of preparing or reviewing collective or bargaining strategies. The motion included council, the mayor, the service director, & Mr. Kirby. Mrs. Colby seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the motion and enter into executive session, and the results are as follows:

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

Motion carried

Council entered executive session at 7:11 PM

Mrs. Biggs made a motion with a second from Mrs. Colby to resume regular session. In a voice vote, all members agreed. Council resumed regular session at 7:37 PM

CITY AUDITOR/ TREASURER~ Two-Then and Now resolutions tonight need approved to pay bills. Money spent when we did not have purchase orders yet.

CITY ATTORNEY~ No Report

POLICE CHIEF~ No Report

FIRE CHIEF~ No Report

MAYOR ~ Gave State of the City Address (see attached)

SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR ~

- New demo application, adding couple of steps. Requiring a weight ticket, notice of intent from health department. Need to know who is doing the demo work.
- ODOT project: 93 traffic signals. Will ask the Police, Fire and Traffic committee to meet when he gets the updated info on this.
- Gave updated financials for the Christmas Décor Cost. He feels the dollar amount coming in from the fee from each owner will be close to covering the cost each year.
- Kelly Landrum is present and requesting a water tap at 22 ½ Short St. Would like council to vote on that in new business.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

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REGULAR SESSION

ORDINANCE 01-21

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING ORD. 92-99 REGARDING POLICE PERSONNEL AS SET FORTH IN THE CITY OF JACKSON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS SECTION 131.01

Second Reading

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

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

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

Foster	Yes
Coll	Yes
Colby	Yes
R. Peters	No
J. Peters	No
Biggs	No
Bopp	No

Ordinance 01-21 Duly Defeated

ORDINANCE 02-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LICK TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO, FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

First Reading

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

There was discussion about the increase of fees, the missing chapter 733 codified ordinance, the need for an emergency clause, and questions about a one hundred dollar charge.

Mr. J. Peters made a motion to table this ordinance until all questions are resolved. Mr. Coll seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

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ORDINANCE 03-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO, FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

First Reading

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

Mr. J. Peters made a motion to table the ordinance with a second from Mrs. Biggs. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

ORDINANCE 04-21

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE WATER FUND: TRANSFER OUT, SEWER FUND: TRANSFER OUT, AND GARBAGE FUND: TRANSFER OUT TO THE TRANSFER IN FUNDS OF WATER UTILITY OFFICE FUND, WATER DISTRIBUTION FUND, SEWER UTILITY OFFICE FUND, SEWER COLLECTION FUND AND GARBAGE UTILITY OFFICE FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Foster made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a second from Mrs. Biggs. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

RESOLUTION 01-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FROST, BROWN, RODD, LLC FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE GOODYEAR CERCLA CLAIM FOR CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CITY.

First reading

Mr. Foster made a motion with a second from Mr. R Peters to adopt the resolution. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

RESOLUTION 02-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LICK TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO, FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

First Reading

Mr. Foster made a motion with a second from Mr. R Peters to adopt the resolution. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

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Mr. R. Peters made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Foster. A roll call was taken to suspend the rules, and the results are as follows:

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

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

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

Resolution 02-21 Duly Adopted

RESOLUTION 03-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO BRENTAG MID-SOUTH PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,991.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

Mr. Foster made a motion with a second from Mr. Biggs to adopt the resolution. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Foster. A roll call was taken to suspend the rules, and the results are as follows:

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

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

Foster	Yes
Coll	Yes
Colby	Yes
R. Peters	Yes

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J. Peters	Yes
Biggs	Yes
Bopp	Yes

Resolution 03-21 Duly Adopted

CORRESPONDENCE ~ None

OLD BUSINESS~ Mr. J. Peters asked about the pavement deterioration at the three way stop at Wal-Mart. Administration said ODOT has refused to fix it. The city has it on their agenda for repairs.

SIGNED IN TO SPEAK~ None

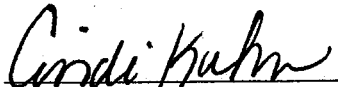
NEW BUSINESS~ Mr. Bopp made a motion to approve a water tap for Kelly Landrum at 22 ½ Short St. Mrs. Biggs seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

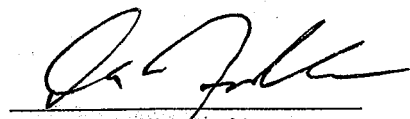
Mr. J. Peters said there is a constituent in his ward that has requested sewer. He is still on septic. Mr. Peters said there are still many addresses on septic within the city limits. Administration said to send the address and they will look at it. The health department makes recommendations based on the addresses. Some are not in areas where city sewer is possible.

Mr. R Peters asked council to consider March 1, 2021 as the date for a working meeting as discussed in the last council meeting. Starting at 6:00 PM. There are about 10 topics needed to discuss. Maybe cover only half of the topics at the first meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM


Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk


Dan Fulks, President

Date 2-8-21

Date 2-8-21

Subject: State of the City 1-25-2021.

Jackson, Ohio. State of the City 1-25-2021

Good evening Council, friends, citizens,

A couple years ago, when I decided to run for mayor, I talked about bringing a new perspective, as I had no previous involvement in city government. I talked about how I wanted to see Jackson managed more like a business. I wanted to see my hometown ran more efficiently, more productively, and more professionally. I wanted city utility rates to be more competitive. And I wanted to clean up and fix up my home town.

After being your mayor for a year now, I want you to know my goals for our city... have not changed.

We started the year with almost everybody in this room, new and inexperienced.

The opportunity for failure was high.

Friends of mine shook their head and laughed, one gave me 6 months.

A few people actually popped corn...as they watched...and waited... for us...as a group...to self destruct.

Fortunately, we have let those people down. Thank you, to each of you, for cooperating and working together, for the good of the city, while fulfilling the jobs that we all were elected to do.

First, it was the budget.

We began the year with only a 3 month budget in place.

In spite of our inexperience and the fact that we faced serious revenue shortages in the general fund, we were able to put together a budget that not only would get us through the year, but also CUT over \$2 million from the overall budget!

Then COVID-19 hit.

Nobody here had ever had to deal with anything like this.

We quickly determined that all our city services, were ESSENTIAL.

Water, sewer, electricity, garbage, police, fire...

Every service we provide is essential in the daily life of our citizens.

Our city employees have been GREAT in dealing with COVID.

Many have continued working, isolated, even when quarantined, many have voluntarily helped out in other jobs and other departments to provide coverage.

Thank you and hats off to our city staff in dealing with the COVID pandemic.

COVID is not over, and sadly, one of our own is still battling the effects.

Please continue to keep Rob Norman and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, early in the year, we began planning a reorganization of city leadership. Our goal was to create a stronger management team that would provide better continuity with much less risk at the next turnover in the mayor's or Service Directors office. We created Department Heads to allow our supervision to take a deeper and more active role in running their departments. We created a HR position to better manage our staff...as I believe our most important resource...is our human resource. In the workforce we began looking hard at the true staffing needs in each department. We reduced positions in several departments, and will continue to look at staffing levels. We are in the process of combining smaller departments, to become more efficient and to provide better service to our customers. Our reorganization is ongoing and will evolve over the next few years. Thank you to council for your cooperation and support in this reorganization.

The General Fund. We ALL knew coming in, that the general fund issue was going to be the BIG issue for 2020. We knew that Jackson had supplemented the general fund with transfers from utility funds in the past and that we were no longer going to be able to do that. I had made the decision and stated that we would either fund these general fund services appropriately...or we would not provide them. We spent half the year studying the situation and looking at options and alternatives. We reduced utility rates as these funds would no longer be transferred. We cut general fund positions and services and announced that deep layoffs, mostly in the police, would be necessary. In the end we determined that the dreaded city income tax was the only real solution. So, with councils unanimous support, we explained the situation thoroughly and transparently to our citizens, we earned their trust and support, and now we have proper source or revenue for our general fund services of streets, parks, and police. Thank you to each of you for your support on this. Nobody wants to pay more taxes. But in the state of Ohio, this is how cities fund their general fund, that's just the way it is.

Throughout the city we have had many smaller successes in 2020. We have cleaned up a number of unsafe or unsightly properties. We have improved a lot of curbs, and sidewalks. We completed a couple small paving projects, and recently completed a badly needed sewer line replacement.

One thing I need to make VERY CLEAR...our city still faces many struggles ahead. Like most small cities in our area, we have a very old infrastructure of water and sewer lines that are in need of replacement. We are currently prioritizing our greatest needs and will be seeking funding for projects over the next several years. And although the income tax will allow us to begin a street paving program, and that is very exciting... the reality is that it will take many years to meet all the current paving needs. Also, most of our city buildings are run down and in need of major repairs or replacement. Although not a top priority today, it is something that we are going to have to address in the future.

2021 should be an exciting year.

The 2021 budget, you have already approved. And for the second year in a row, it shows a cut to overall spending.

Hopefully COVID will become a memory in 2021, and some sense or normalcy will return to our lives. Personally, I really enjoy the day to day activities of being your Mayor. There is never a dull moment, and every day seems to bring a new challenge. I find myself spending more and more time with other local officials, County Commissioners, other Mayors and other business leaders and officials. I've taken an active roll with the Land Bank, and with the Economic Development Partnership, and really enjoy helping our entire area become a better place.

All in all I think 2020 was a good year for the city of Jackson. It takes all of us working together to be successful, and we have been.

My expectations for 2021 are very high. We've got a lot to do...and our time here is limited.

Thank you
Randy Evans, Mayor