

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

*Minutes From*

October 11, 2021

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

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Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 11, 2021. The pledge was led by Mrs. Biggs, and the prayer was given by Mrs. Biggs. President Fulks called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

**VISITORS/RECOGNITIONS** ~ Recognized Chief Potter for his years of service to the City of Jackson as he is retiring later this month. Chief Potter thanks the City for being able to work for them. He introduced his wife and children who came to support him.

Mayor Evans also recognized Brett Hinsch. He will be the interim chief while they find a permanent replacement. There will be a reception for Chief Potter on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the police station.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** ~ Mrs. Biggs made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Mr. Peters. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**UTILITY** ~ Meeting Minutes in the packet. Extensive meeting about the necessary sewer and water projects throughout the city. Discussed the cost and how we can move forward and pay for these.

**BUDGET & FINANCE**~ Mrs. Biggs said several council members have given her information they would like considered for the budget. Budget meeting scheduled for November 1, 2021 at 5:30PM.

**POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC** ~ Haven't heard from the FD yet. Mr. Foster asked if there was news on the RR tracks on David Ave. Mr. Swackhammer said it is also State Route 776. Because of this, it takes longer. He has not heard anything yet.

**SERVICE COMMITTEE**~ Meeting had to be postponed for tonight. It will be rescheduled for November 15, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Peters asked if there was any news on the Tree Commission. Mr. Kirby said it is set by state code. Mayor Evans said we should have one. Mr. Kirby will look into it. Mr. Peters said we need a solution on what to do with the trees in the right of way. They will tear up the new roads, curbs, and sidewalks we have been working on.

**CITY AUDITOR/ TREASURER**~ Hired two new employees. One position is for the Deputy Auditor and the other is the floating position to be crossed trained for several offices. They will start tomorrow. Mayor Evans said he will bring the entire office to the next meeting.

**CITY ATTORNEY**~ No Report

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**POLICE CHIEF**~ Report in binders

**FIRE CHIEF**~ No Report

**MAYOR** ~

- The auditor's office received an award. The state auditor came himself to present it to the office. They are in the top 10% of all offices in the state of Ohio. This award is for last year, and Wendy Sexton played a big part in this.
- The deputy auditor and the administrative assistant start tomorrow. He is very happy with the candidates they had for these positions.
- Still doing repairs to roads as weather permits.
- A lot of work has been done at Hammertown Lake and it has been done all in house.
- Trees have been giving us a lot of trouble. Not only the sidewalks, curbs, and roads, but the sewer system is the biggest issue. If the trees are in the right of way they can take them out if homeowner requests. Can't remove them if on private property.

Mrs. Biggs asked if we can tell homeowners they are not allowed to plant any more trees in the right of way.

Mr. Peters said there is an ODNR approved list of trees that are urban friendly.

**SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR** ~

- Awarded the ½ million-dollar grant from CDBG. Would like to have this placed in the paper. This is for the Mitchell to Wood Sewer Line. This is one of the areas in the worst condition. The studies showed this area had the highest I & I. This will be out to bid this year and start in March of 2022. The \$500,000 grant covers 95% of the project.
- Thanked the Utility Committee for the in-depth meeting. He would like to share the projects the committee discussed with the public.
  - Mitchell to Wood Sewer Rahab Project
  - South St. Water Line Replacement project – covers 1/3 of our primary lines. The age & Condition of these warrants this project.
  - Florence Ave Project – also covers Lewis, Anderson, and Dawson Streets.
  - Chillicothe, Harding, Center Street Sewer Lining Project
  - Mill St. Project – Also covers Summit, Ohio, Cross, & Putnam
  - Clinton-Taft – High I & I. The township covers a large part of this. Would like to partner with the Lick Township Trustees to get this done.

Mrs. Biggs- This council dropped the 3% annual increase to the residents' water and sewer bills. If we are looking to add this on again, will it cover what we need to improve these?

Mr. Swackhammer – There are several million dollars in projects . We don't know how we are going to fund them all. We took the annual increase away because we didn't have any projects in the works, but now we do. We are in the early stages of planning projects and can't commit at this point.

Mrs. Biggs- Would want there to be a stopping point on the increase for the residents once the project was paid for.

Mr. Swackhammer – There will be a multi-year plan.

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Mr. Reed – Has been a proponent for years for this. They got the electric reserve set up, and wants to work with the administration to set up reserves for all the funds. He would want to increase for a specific function. Add to the bill what is needed to pay for the projects. We need a cash reserve set up by council.

Mr. Peters- Will not support a percentage increase. He will support a dollar amount increase for these things.

Mr. Reed- It would be fine to say a certain dollar amount for a residential account. But the Commercial/Industrial accounts pay most of what is needed. They are hard to do a dollar amount for the large entities. Commercial accounts would need to do a percentage.

**ORDINANCE 58-21**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A POSITION WITHIN THE AFSCME UNION, ESTABLISHING A PAY RATE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**Second Reading**

**ORDINANCE 60-21**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO TO CAUSE REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO LOCATED ADJACENT TO LOTS 633, 634, AND 635 OF THE B.W. THACKER ADDITION IN THE VILLAGE OF HAMDEN TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDERS.**

**Second Reading**

Ohio RR Commission is getting closer to take over.

**CORRESPONDENCE~** Public Hearing scheduled for November 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM for the property at 265 Pearl St.

**OLD BUSINESS~** None

**SIGNED IN TO SPEAK~** Kimberly Green of 274 State St. Jackson was present to ask for a variance for the fence she has on one side of her pool. It is 5'5" and it is supposed to be 4ft. Mr. Swackhammer said it needs to go before the Zoning Board. He will get that scheduled.

**NEW BUSINESS~**

Mayor Evans discussed the requests that we received from Ohio Division of Liquor Control about the transfer on two licenses and one new license. The two transfer licenses were from two gas stations currently owned by Jackson Petroleum LLC. They were changing to Seven South Stores INC. The new one is for JK Powers Enterprises LLC DBA Arch and Eddies. Council must request a hearing or waive the hearing. Mr. Peters made a motion to waive the hearings on all three. Mrs. Biggs seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all members agreed. Motion Carried. The clerk signed and mailed these to Ohio Liquor Control.

Council asked about help for the homeless population in Jackson.

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Mayor Evans – The entities that help with this problem require a drug test and many cannot pass the drug test. Most will not even take it, knowing they are not going to pass. Unfortunately, it is a problem without answers.

Mr. Swackhammer agreed. He said they welcome any new ideas on how to help this.

Mayor Evans said he saw the first panhandler in Jackson recently. It was an entire family. The police are doing what they can to help the situation.

Mrs. Biggs made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose to consider the employment and compensation for public employees for the Jackson Fire Department. She included everyone at the table to stay. The motioned was seconded by Mr. Peters. A roll call vote was taken to enter into the executive session, and the results are as follows:

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

Motioned Carried.

Council entered executive session at 8:11PM

Mr. Bopp made a motion to resume regular session with a second from Mr. Foster. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

Motion Carried

Council resumed regular session at 8:25PM

**Upcoming Meetings**

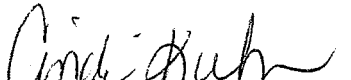
November 1, 2021 5:30 PM – Budget and Finance

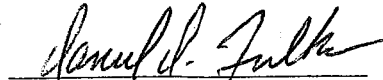
November 8, 2021 6:30 PM – Public Hearing

November 15, 2021 5:30 PM – Service Meeting

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:27PM

  
Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk

  
Dan Fulks, President

Date 10-25-21

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