

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL  
*Minutes From*  
February 12, 2024  
7:00 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION

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Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024. The pledge was led by Mrs. Colby 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. Elliott -- Present
- Mrs. Colby – Present
- Mr. Peters – Present
- Mr. Newkirk - Present
- Mr. Crabtree - Present
- Mr. Bopp -- Present

**VISITORS/RECOGNITIONS:** Mayor Evans introduced Ashley Aldrich. She was recently hired as the Parks and Rec Director. This job will encompass the previous Pool Manager position with addition duties covering city parks and baseball/softball fields.

**SIGNED IN VISITORS TO SPEAK~** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES~** Mr. Elliott made a motion, with a second from Mr. Newkirk to approve the regular council meeting minutes from January 22, 2024. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**UTILITY ~** No Report

**BUDGET & FINANCE~** No Report

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

**SERVICE COMMITTEE ~** Council met with the firm that is going to help us update the Zoning Regulations. We will start working with them in March to start this process.

**CITY AUDITOR/ TREASURER~** Completely switched to new payroll account. This allows the office to balance out within a couple of days rather than six weeks. The next step in the process will be to go paperless. The invoices and requisitions will all be electronic.

**CITY ATTORNEY~** No Report

**FIRE CHIEF~** No Report

**POLICE CHIEF ~**

- PD received the three new Tahoes. Been waiting two years for these. It has been four years since they had a new cruiser. One was purchased with 2023 money and two with 2022 money. In the future, they would like to replace one a year.
- Did not go with the CAD that Jackson County had purchased. It wasn't functional for the city PD. It was taking four minutes for the dispatchers to communicate with the car, and they want to be on the scene within four minutes. Anytime there was an IT problem they had to rely on the county to fix it.

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- E-Tickets are streamlining the paperwork process. It used to be a 7-page report even for a small traffic citation. Now the entire process can be done from the car. The officers are issuing more citations due to the quicker time line. They will have the new system in the new cruisers.
- Received 1850 calls this month.
- Received a reimbursement from the state for officer training from 2023. The check for continuing professional education was for \$10,315.94.

### **MAYOR~**

- Several positions posted
  - Garbage Department
  - Mechanics Garage
  - Seasonal positions
- Mill St. Project is about 70% complete
- Grants
  - City of Jackson received \$10k for the Water Dist Systems for leak detection.
  - House State Bill 2 on the way to Governor.
  - Met With Jason Stevens – 2 requests
    - Didn't get the full amount. Asked for \$5 million and was approved for \$2 ½ mil to fix the Memorial Building.
    - Requested \$3 ½ mil for parks/ trails and flood mitigation and received \$1 mil for this.
    - In April, the senate will have money to budget. They are meeting with Senate Rep. Shane Wilkin to try to get more.
  - Still trying to get some money from the Appalachian Community Grant.

### **SERVICE DIRECTOR~**

- Short on IT Support for several months. Have contracted with the company that Mr. Woltz works for. They have looked at a couple of different scenarios. One was having a full time person with a part time back up. Or two, using an outside company, and an employee with the city. Met with Freedom Link last week. They are based out of Chillicothe and have local employees. They have worked with other county entities. They are going to map our current IT software, equipment, passwords, etc. And, see where we are at risk and make recommendations. We will be hiring IT support back into the city. Hope to have that before the next meeting.
- Taking bids to seal blacktop at the cemetery.
  - Council asked why we are sealing if the roads were just done. Mr. Swackhamre said some were done in 2019 and the rest 2021-2023. They used the funds that were originally for the cemetery streets. These are not actual city streets. Not part of the Street and alley coverage.
  - Council asked if these streets can be on a paving schedule like the city and not use the cemetery funds levy because that money is already strained. Mayor Evans said if the income tax levy continues they will put them on the schedule. Mr. Reed said the income tax can be used because it is Capital Improvement money. Council said things are falling in and need maintained at the Cemetery. The mayor said yes, it just hasn't been the priority due to all the other needs of the city.
- Council asked about the trees that were cut down on Dickason St. Mr. Swackhammer said there was a homeowner, who aggressively cut down trees. It was in a flood plain, so they are working with the owner to create a cleanup plan and secure the area.
- Monday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> is a city holiday. Trash pickup will be Tuesday.
- Met with Tree Commission tonight. Will be doing an event for Arbor Day on 4-26-24. There will be a tree care and selection workshop on 3-5-24. Info about this is on their Facebook page.
- Flood Plain Review – This review comes every four years. They reviewed our procedures, permitting process, ordinances, etc. They did make some recommendations. The clerk and the attorney will be

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- working on this. There is a formal review with several steps including council passing an ordinance and a public hearing. There will be updates to Codified Ordinances.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 06-24**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE AND SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR SALE AND TO SELL TO THE HIGHEST AND BEST BIDDER CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FROM THE CITY ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE, PURSUANT TO R.C. SECTION 721.15 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

There are traffic lights, cabinets, signs and other items that we have either taken down or ODOT has replaced that are sitting at the impound lot. Will place these on the Gov deals auction online site as we have other city items. Break these into smaller groups to sell.

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Ordinance 06-24 Duly Adopted**

**ORDINANCE NO. 07-24**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE AND SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR SALE AND TO SELL TO THE HIGHEST AND BEST BIDDER THE**

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**2015 FREIGHTLINER M2 PACKER GARBAGE TRUCK NOW OWNED BY THE CITY  
BUT NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE,  
PURSUANT TO R.C. SECTION 721.15 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

This is the smallest of our four trucks. It can't run a full day before it is full. Like to sell it and use the funds to move forward with the garbage can program. Mr. Peters confirmed this was the old recycling truck that we got a good deal on.

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Ordinance 07-24 Duly Adopted**

**ORDINANCE NO. 08-24**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING THE CITY OF JACKSON'S CODIFIED  
ORDINANCE SECTION 303.11 REGARDING TOWING OF VEHICLES BY CITY.**

**First Reading**

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

Mr. Swackhammer said our current Codified Ordinance has no limitation on how far away a towing company can be. Several companies were on a rotation list, and if it was the next person's turn, it could be someone who is far away, even in another county. We need a quick response, and would like to use the towing companies within the city first, and then go to the ones farther out. Want them to be in the county.

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Chief Hinsch had some concerns. He said sometimes the PD needs a car impounded right away because there is only one officer on duty. That officer can't leave the car to attend to other needs in the city until the vehicle is towed. They can't wait 20 minutes for tow truck just because they are in the city if that company is busy with another tow. He wants to be able to have several on the rotation so he can call another when the local one can't get to him. If it is an icy night and several trucks are out doing tows we don't want to wait 2 ½ hours for a truck. He is concerned of being in violation of the ordinance if this is updated requiring him to use certain companies.

Mr. Reed said there is only one towing company within the city. They are the only one who pays Rita tax. This tax pays 100% of the PD salary. Would like to see us use them first then go to the ones outside of the city if this one can't get to us right away. He feels we should reward and support the businesses within the city and work our way out.

Chief Hinsch said they might have three tows in one day. He does not want to call the same company three times and not use the others. They have several companies with long standing service with the city. If we do not use the others on a regular basis, they might not be willing to come for us when we need them. The PD has asked the companies to do difficult jobs for them such as pulling vehicles from the lake and going into the woods to find a stolen car that has been wrecked. He prefers to continue using them equally.

160 tows last year – 56 Angles  
42 Mapes  
62 Ron's

The employees of these companies often live within the city and are paying their RITA tax.

**No further action was taken on Ordinance 08-24**

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-24**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF TWO AMKUS BATTERY OPERATED RESCUE TOOLS FROM THE JACKSON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION FOR USE BY THE JACKSON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

Mr. Peters made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a second from Mr. Elliott. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

This is for hydraulic equipment that the Firefighter's Association is donating to the Jackson Fire Dept. Need to get it insured and in use.

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Resolution 09-24 Duly Adopted**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-24**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY OR THE DIRECTOR OF THE LILLIAN JONES MUSEUM TO APPLY FOR THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE DIGITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

Deadline for them to apply is 2-15-24.

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Resolution 10-24 Duly Adopted**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 11-24**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF TASER UNITS AND BODY WORN CAMERAS, INCLUDING HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, SERVICES, TRAINING, AND WARRANTIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

Council approved for the PD to apply for this grant. They received it for \$69,437.75. Police departments will be required to implement this program, to be eligible for future grants. The program costs \$ 84,282 for 5 years. They received a discount because they are implementing both programs. This was budgeted. They are not asking for any new money.

Mr. Peters asked if the company is offering support. Chief said everything needs to be stored. They will provide the cloud storage and software tools to edit things. For example, if they need to block out faces for a public records request. The company offers the ability to do this. They will likely authorize and train two people at the PD for this. This company is the leader in the U.S.

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

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

Foster	Yes
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Resolution 11-24 Duly Adopted**

**CORRESPONDENCE**~ The clerk reminded council that she needs their reminder disclosure signed and returned to her.

**OLD BUSINESS**~ None

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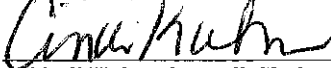
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**NEW BUSINESS~**

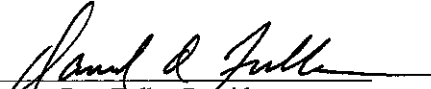
- Board of Zoning Appeals meeting is set for 2-26-24 to consider a request for a variance for Jackson City Schools for a zero setback at the middle school football field for new concessions and restrooms.
- Mike Williams requested city utilities at 380 Florence Ave. The water line runs right past his house. Needs a 5/8" tap. Mr. Elliott made a motion to grant the utilities, with a second from Mr. Peters. In a voice vote, all members were agreed.
- Mr. Swackhammer said they are having more and more requests for utilities outside of the city. Some of them adjoin the city or adjoin a property that has been annexed into the city. Would like council to consider whether they should require annexation if the property adjoins city property before granting the utilities.
  - In the past, we have granted it because the city is gaining a new customer. But, we have to maintain these utilities at a cost to the city and the customer is not part of the city. They are not paying property tax or income tax. The city has reduced rates on electric by 10% since the new administration came in and has held the other utilities at the same rate. If residents want to benefit from this, they should be part of the city.
  - Mr. Kirby said he could have an ordinance drawn up for this.
  - Mr. Swackhammer said if they do not adjoin a city property, we can't require annexation. Because we are not allowed to strip annex. But, would like council to consider requiring them to annex if possible, and discuss again next meeting under old business.

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:07PM

  
Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk

Date 2-26-24

  
Dan Fulks, President

Date 2-26-24