

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes From

June 26, 2023

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 26, 2023. The pledge was led by Mr. Newkirk and the prayer was given by Mrs. Colby.

President Fulks called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken as follows:

- Mr. Foster –Absent
- Mr. Elliott -- Present
- Mrs. Colby – Present
- Mr. Peters – Present
- Mr. Newkirk - Present
- Mr. Crabtree - Present
- Mr. Bopp -- Present

Mr. Elliott made a motion to excuse Mr. Foster, with a second from Mrs. Colby. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

VISITORS/RECOGNITIONS~ None

SIGNED IN VISITORS TO SPEAK~ None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES~ Mrs. Colby made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 12, 2023, with a second from Mr. Newkirk. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UTILITY ~ No Report

BUDGET & FINANCE~ No Report

POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC~ No Report

SERVICE COMMITTEE ~ No Report

CITY AUDITOR/ TREASURER~ No Report

CITY ATTORNEY~ No Report

FIRE CHIEF~ No Report

POLICE CHIEF ~ Changing to a new Computer Dispatch System It was a 1.5 million dollar project for the county, funded by ARPA money.

MAYOR~

- Two jobs have been posted. A skilled laborer and an operator at the Waste Water Plant.
- Seasonal help is going good. We paid more this year and had more applicants than we needed.

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- Speyside in Jackson is expanding with 71/2 million in investments and bringing 42 new jobs. This has really helped Jackson. Part of the reason we were recognized as one of the top Micropolitan areas.
- Received the preliminary report from the state auditor. The city did very well. Out of 17 financial categories, we were positive in all but one. This one was condition of capital assets such as streets, sidewalks, buildings, equipment, ect. It's improving, because we are focusing on these areas, but not where they need to be yet. The auditor's office is doing a great job.
- Reminder next week is a holiday week. Will be in office on Monday, July 3rd, and closed on the 4th. Tuesday's trash pickup will be on Wednesday.
- Monday is the City Freedom Fest Activities. Start at 5:00PM in the park. Parade at 8:00 and fireworks at 10:00PM. This is all on July 3rd.
- Mr. Reed commented that this auditor report was the best he has seen. It is always a year behind. So, he feels within two years the entire report will be green.

SERVICE DIRECTOR~

- We have three more grant opportunities that are being brought tonight.
- Will have a shortfall in employment from Mid-August through October when students go back to school. Will need some seasonal fall workers then.
- City's realignment of the electric power billing process phase I is going into effect July 1st. They will get a credit next month and the new rate schedule. It will take a few months to see a stable electric bill. This is from the restructuring passed by council back in February. This is a rate restructure not an increase. There is a minimal cost of energy not on the bills previously, but a decrease in the cost of energy. It is a fairer distribution of cost.
- Reminder that the City Codified Ordinance Ch. 15.19 states that residents can't let off fireworks within the city.
- Mr. Peters asked about the generator for the water department listed on the Board of Control minutes. He thought some generators were purchased a few years ago. Mr. Swackhammer said those were portable generators. This is a permanent one and it was funded mostly through a grant.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE NO. 31-23

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING THE CITY OF JACKSON'S CODIFIED
ORDINANCE SECTION 557.01 GOVERNING WEED CONTROL.**

Second Reading

No further action was taken on the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 35-23

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPEALING ORD. 60-16 AND AUTHORIZING
AN INCREASE OF THE STIPEND PAID FOR THE POSITIONS OF FIRE CHIEF
AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF.**

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Second Reading

There were concerns about whether the Chief & Asst. Chief were volunteer, appointed, could they be let go. If new administration came in could they re-organize and get new people. Mr. Swackhammer said there was a clarification from the Civil Service Board that the fire department positions are not civil service positions. The Chief positions can be removed with the majority of council. Mr. Peters was concerned that this could cause issues down the road. He doesn't want the positions to be volunteer. He wants them to be protected. Doesn't feel this is good for morale. Mr. Swackhammer said this situation has always existed. They have always been volunteer positions. The wording doesn't change the situation itself. Mayor Evans said they only thing changing with this ordinance is the pay. Mr. Peters agrees they deserve a raise. Mr. Elliott asked how many fire departments are volunteer and can they protect themselves. Mr. Swackhammer said most in Ohio are volunteer and they do not get any stipend or reimbursement. Mayor Evans agreed that it would not be fair for another administration to get rid of these people. However, this ordinance is not changing that.

No Further Action was taken on this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 36-23

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING THE CITY OF JACKSON'S CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 133.01 REGARDING PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Second Reading

Mr. Peters asked about other city fire departments. If they are volunteer or paid. He said if we pass this, they would have no civil service protection. Mr. Swackhammer said they already do not have protection. This brings it more in line with the verbiage of the policies manual. Plus, this adds the cadets and auxiliary. Wellston has paid on call volunteers and full time volunteers. Nelsonville has full time fire fighters plus 10 volunteers. Mr. Peters asked why we can't allocate in the future some of the income tax money to fund this. He said right now the fire department has to buy and finance their equipment. He feels it's time to look at creating a full time FD in Jackson. Mr. Swackhammer said the income tax is for city residents. The Jackson FD covers two townships and with the automatic aid, we are pulled out county wide when needed. We can't fund a full time FD that covers way more than the city with the city income tax. If we don't pass this, we can't put the auxiliary and cadet program into place. The high school students plan to be involved in this. It has already been discussed with the high school. Looking forward to establish a full time FD would require a much bigger group of people than what is there in council.

Mr. Peters would like to broaden the scope of the tax verbiage and allocate some for fire service. He agrees with the cadet program, but doesn't want to add volunteer to the Fire Chief and Asst Fire Chief. Mayor Evans said it has always been that way, we aren't changing that.

The Policies and Procedures manual says volunteer. Can look at the Civil Service Commission Rules to see what they say.

Mr. Crabtree asked if there was current support from the FD on this ordinance. Mr. Swackhammer said they helped rewrite the manual, which has volunteer all throughout it.

No further action was taken on the Ordinance.

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RESOLUTION NO. 25-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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	Absent
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	Absent
Elliott	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

Resolution 25-23 Duly Adopted

RESOLUTION NO. 26-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR AN ABANDONED MINE LAND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION GRANT 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.

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

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

Resolution 26-23 Duly Adopted

RESOLUTION NO. 27-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY OR HIS DESIGNEE TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE CLEAN OHIO FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading

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

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

Foster	Absent
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:

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Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

Resolution 27-23 Duly Adopted

CORRESPONDENCE~None

OLD BUSINESS~ We discussed bidding out the wire at the last meeting. Mr. Swackhammer has given Mr. Kirby a copy of how AEP handles it for him to look into having the city do this.

NEW BUSINESS~ There is an issue with people not removing their trashcans from the curb after pick-up. There is nothing in the codified ordinances about this. The operational procedures say it needs to be removed, but we can't enforce this without an ordinance. If council wants to address this situation, we can look into having legislation for it.


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

Meeting Adjourned 7:56PM



Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk

Date 7-24-23



Dan Fulks, President

Date 7/24/23