

JACKSON CITY COUNCIL  
*Minutes From*  
January 9, 2023  
7:00 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION

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Jackson City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 9, 2023. The pledge was led by Mr. Bopp and the prayer was given by Mr. Ondera

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

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

**VISITORS/RECOGNITIONS**~ Mayor Evans introduced Dave Channel to council. Mr. Channel has been with the Jackson Fire Dept. since he was a senior in high school in 1973. This is his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. During his 50 years, he has been involved in many service projects and disaster relief fundraisers. He isn't retiring, but Mayor Evans wanted to show his appreciation for 50 years of selfless service to Jackson by recognizing him and giving him a plaque. Council gave Mr. Channel a standing ovation, thanked him for his service, and continued service.

**SIGNED IN VISITORS TO SPEAK**~ None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**~ Mr. Peters made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 27, 2022 with a second from Mr. Newkirk. In a voice vote, all members agreed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**UTILITY** ~ Had a meeting this evening at 6:30PM. Met with Mr. Courtney from Courtney & Associates. Very informative. Will be taking a look at things soon.

**BUDGET & FINANCE**~ No Report

**POLICE, FIRE, & TRAFFIC**~ Complaints of the traffic light at South and Main St.

**SERVICE COMMITTEE** ~No Report

**CITY AUDITOR/ TREASURER**~ Audit has been reviewed by Auditor of State and posted. Went very well. They noted that we did not reconcile with the company that we hired to do it. He said the company could not get the reconciling done, but they did it themselves. He thanked the hard work of the people in his office through a difficult year. He said he appreciated the assistance that the County Auditor, Tiffany Ridgeway had given them, as well as, the help from the State Auditor.

**CITY ATTORNEY**~ No Report

**FIRE CHIEF**~ No Report

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**POLICE CHIEF** ~ Stat sheet in packets, as well as, a letter from the chief. It contains important information from 2022 and goals for 2023. He said there were zero burglaries in 2022. Proud of his staff and their hard work.

**MAYOR**~

- Mayor Evans thanked Mr. Reed for his hard work in the Auditor's office over the last year as well. They expected the audit to be less than great because of all of the changes. However, it was great. And the only thing they noted that the office did not reconcile with the company hired. Mr. Reed and his staff did the work themselves. And they did reconcile.
- He also thanked Chief Hinsch and his staff. There have been great changes since Chief Hinsch took over and the administration couldn't be happier with the progress.
- Mitchell to Wood Sewer Project should be done this week.
- Starting Mill St. this week or next.
- Looking at the paving list for 2023. Looking at what storm drains, sewer, and curb work will need done prior to this paving. Also, having to work with Columbia Gas. They are replacing all the gas lines in the city at the same time that we are trying to pave all the streets. Therefore, the administration is trying to strategically pave streets so that they will not have to be torn up by the gas company in the near future.
- FD received a \$50,000 grant for Marc's Equipment.
- New positions will be discussed in the executive session.
- Will give annual State of the City Report at the next council meeting.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR**~

- Putting up door hangars to houses on Mill St., and posting the changes for each resident to let them know what will be happening on their street during the sewer project.
- Still have flashing lights at two intersections where we changed to 4-way stops. The flashing lights will be deactivated this week. The lights will continue to hang a while longer before being removed all together.
- There is an ordinance on grease, oil, and mud traps. Will be sending out information to establishments. The grease causes a back up in the main lines, and causes problems in the laterals to other consumers.
- Sent out a mailer in November regarding coin machines. This was supposed to be back by January. Haven't gotten many back. Need to collect and get registration on these. Will be sending out a certified letter next.
- Discussed a while back about keeping the mowing at the cemetery in house. Talked about needing to raise the rate so that we can get enough dedicated workers to the jobs. Need to determine the amount and verbiage for these job descriptions in new business.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 70- 22**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING SECTION 945.19 OF THE  
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON GOVERNING  
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF BRUSH.**

Ordinance 70-22 was not removed from the table.

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**ORDINANCE NO. 71- 22**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING SECTION 1316.03 OF THE  
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON GOVERNING  
REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS.**

**Third Reading**

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

Foster	Yes
Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Ordinance 71-22 Duly Adopted**

**ORDINANCE NO. 01-23**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE UPDATED JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO,  
NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND REPEALING ORD. 65-17  
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

Every five years the county provides their Hazard Mitigation Plan. The city participates in this plan. Mr. Peters asked if the commissioners had approved this. Mr. Swackhammer said everyone is looking at it now. It is currently being circulated. The city's first responders would be adhering to this plan when passed. This is just replacing what is already there.

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

Foster	Yes
Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes

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Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

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

Foster	Yes
Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Ordinance 01-23 Duly Adopted**

**ORDINANCE NO. 02- 23**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING THE CITY OF JACKSON'S CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 179.01 ESTABLISHING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TREE COMMISSION.**

**First Reading**

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

Mayor Evans said that Mr. Newkirk had asked to enlarge the Tree Commission and include people who live outside of the city. The mayor didn't want to enlarge because it was difficult to get enough to serve as it was. However, they are changing the Ordinance so that they can have a member who lives outside of the city.

No further action was taken on Ordinance 02-23.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION PURSUANT TO A "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,552.13 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.

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The loan invoice comes to the office in November. The budget isn't passed at this time. They can't have the PO ready if the budget hasn't been prepared and passed. Therefore, must do a then and now in January when the payment is due with the new budget approved.

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	Yes
Ondera	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
Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Resolution 01-23 Duly Adopted**

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO, FIRE MARSHAL FOR FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE JACKSON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

This is a \$10,000 grant with no matching funds. Deadline is in January.

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

Foster	Yes
Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes

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Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

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

Foster	Yes
Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Resolution 02-23 Duly Adopted**

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-23**

**A RESOLUTION CREATING THE POSITIONS OF OPERATIONS MANAGER AND OF IT/GIS  
TECHNICIAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

No Further action was taken on Resolution 03-23

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-23**

**AN RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, OHIO  
TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE PASS THROUGH GRANT AGREEMENT  
WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE HAMMERTOWN  
LAKE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**First Reading**

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

This is for a \$150,000 grant. We didn't have to apply, just put our name on the list. We will be using this for the dock and paddle craft upgrades at Hammertown Lake. Need approval to accept this money.

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

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Foster	Yes
Ondera	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
Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Resolution 04-23 Duly Adopted**

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-23**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JACKSON OR HIS  
DESIGNEE TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR AN OHIO EPA EQUIPMENT GRANT TO BE  
USED BY THE CITY FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR LEAK  
DETECTION AND METER ACCURACY TESTING 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.

This is a \$10,000 grant for water distribution allows us to use specialized equipment.

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

Foster	Yes
Ondera	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
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Ondera	Yes
Colby	Yes
Peters	Yes
Newkirk	Yes
Crabtree	Yes
Bopp	Yes

**Resolution 05-23 Duly Adopted**

**CORRESPONDENCE~ None**

**OLD BUSINESS~** Mr. Peters provided council with information on neighboring city policies for brush removal. Chillicothe requires the sticks be bundled and be no longer than four feet. Athens requires them to have stickers, be no more than 4-6" in diameter and no longer than four feet. He asked council to send their questions and recommendations to him regarding their thoughts on changing our policy and he will discuss with administration.

**NEW BUSINESS~** Next Monday is a city holiday. The trash pickup schedule has been posted on the website.

Mr. Swackhammer presented Council with a Resolution from the Board of Franklin Township Trustees regarding the maintenance of a portion of the road in their township.

Discussion regarding Courtney and Associates from our Utility Meeting. Mr. Ondera said he felt we needed to move forward with the administration's recommendations.

Discussion over the pay for the cemetery workers. Council felt we need to pay them more to get good workers. Mr. Swackhammer said he would like the flexibility to pay someone more if they have a special skill set. Asked if council wanted to put a cap on the pay or a range. Mr. Peters thought it was good to be able to differentiate pay based on skill. He said there is a possibility with this change we could get good, future full time city workers from this seasonal work. Administration will revise the Ordinance and bring it to the next council meeting.

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 PM

  
Cindi Kuhn, Council Clerk

Date 1-23-23

  
Dan Fulks, President

Date 1/23/2023



Each new year, I like to remind myself (and all of you) of my goals when I ran for mayor.

I campaigned with three main goals.

1. "I wanted to see my hometown managed more efficiently, more productively, and more professionally." We continue working to reorganize and modify our staffing needs to meet TODAY'S needs, and to manage today's needs as efficiently and productively as possible. We continue to look at our processes to try to find newer and better ways of providing services. We exist to provide services to our citizens, and we want to do that very well.
2. "I wanted city utility rates to be more competitive, while still providing great service to our citizens." Once again, we can all claim, proudly: Utility rates were not raised in 2022 in the City of Jackson. The rate cuts that we have previously made and the lack of any new increases have made our city utility rates much more competitive and in line with other area providers. And we continue providing outstanding utility services and fast responses when there is a problem.
3. "I wanted to clean-up and fix-up my hometown." We continue efforts to clean-up and fix-up our town and its making a huge difference. In the last year our Code Enforcement Officer has dealt with over 400 cases of ordinance violations such as high weeds, litter & trash, 18 cases of unsafe buildings, and 6 building demolitions. We continue working with the land bank and currently have 11 more dilapidated or unsafe buildings out for demolition bid.

So as I begin my 4th year as Mayor, these things continue to be my goals for our city, and I am proud that WE are making progress in all those areas. And by WE, I MEAN ALL of us here, at this table, all of my staff, all of our city employees.

Some other things I want to mention:

#### THE INCOME TAX

The city income tax provided us over \$3.8 million in revenue in 2022

Remember, most of that income comes from people who live outside the city. And much of that tax, if it wasn't collected here, would just go to another city.

The income tax allowed us to budget for over 1.5 million dollars of additional infrastructure work for 2023, most of which will once again be street paving, repairs, and related work. Without the income tax, our paving program would not be possible.

The income tax also provides for over half of the \$2+ million police budget. Eventually, the income tax should provide the entire police budget. Without the income tax we would have a very small police dept, if we had one at all.

### PROJECTS & GRANTS

We continue our efforts to identify infrastructure improvement projects and to acquire grant money to fund them. Our water, wastewater, and storm water systems are very old and in need of repairs or replacement in most areas of the city. We spend a lot of our time determining our greatest needs, and how to get the needed funding for them. Most of our city owned buildings are in need of repairs or replacement too, and we plan to start addressing them in the coming years.

### PAVING

With the income tax revenue we paved over 6 miles of 31 different streets in 2022. Every penny of that paving was with income tax revenue. We also partnered with ODOT, who paved SR 93 (Main St) through town, finished SR 139 (West Broadway), and finally this year, ODOT will be paving East Broadway.

Our plan is to repair and pave every street in town. That's about 52 miles of streets plus the parks & parking lots. It's going to take 8-10 years to get them all, and then it will be time to start over.

### PARKS

At Hillcrest Park we added two shelter houses built with our own staff and added additional features to the Skatepark. This year we plan to replace old fencing, improve the basketball courts, and expand the parking area.

At Hammertown Lake we have planned a new boat ramp, a dock with a kayak launch, as well as handicap accessibility and parking improvements. This is all with grant money.

### IT & GIS

We continue making progress with our GIS mapping project. The goal is to capture geographical locations and data for all city utilities. Recently we have installed software and our workers in the field are beginning to use this for utility locations and to track work orders. We plan to add a new IT tech this year to provide additional support for our computer systems as well as our GIS program.

### SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

Includes street & alley, garbage, garage, and the cemetery.

Our Street and Alley Department continued upgrading streets, curbs and sidewalks in 2022, and we plan to do even more of that with our in house crew this year.

Rumpke has raised the landfill dumping fee drastically, but we have not raised the garbage fees we charge to our citizens.

We have new mechanics in the garage, and they continue maintaining our 46 pieces of equipment and 77 vehicles and work trucks.

Even though we increased the Cemetery budget last year, we still struggled with the massive task of keeping that 62 acres mowed and looking nice. We will continue working to improve on that because the Cemetery is an important service for our citizens. We completed paving the existing cemetery streets and have begun a preliminary layout for future cemetery expansion.

### UTILITY DEPARTMENTS

Include Electric, Water, Wastewater, and the Utility office.

These departments continue to provide incredibly reliable services to our customers, and respond very quickly to problems. We will continue improving efficiency by making in-house upgrades with our own personnel. Again, yet another year with zero increases in utility rates. We have worked with our electric consultant to have two pieces of legislation before you

now. One to update our electric rate structure to more align with the current industry standards, (this is a restructuring not a rate increase), and also legislation to provide policy and direction for small electric generation by our citizens, (such as solar power). That's a policy that this city has never had before.

Providing reliable and efficient electric, water, and wastewater service for the community continues to be a top priority for the city. Waterline breaks are common due to the age of our lines, and improper infiltration into our wastewater system is very costly at the plant.

Current projects to help address these needs include:

- Mill Street Area Sewer and Water Projects
- Mitchell to Wood Sewer Replacement Project
- Main Trunk Line Sewer Lining Project and
- South Street Waterline Replacement Project

We were awarded \$ 5.15 million in grant funding in 2022, and have several grants still pending. We continue working to identify and prioritize infrastructure repair and replacement projects. And we spend a tremendous amount of time seeking outside funding for these projects.

The Auditor's Office performed nicely in 2022 and recently received an outstanding audit report from the state.

Our Police Dept. continues efforts to rebuild but is hampered by the national shortage of police officers as well as police vehicles. Regardless, we are very pleased with advances made in the department. Even with the smaller police numbers, the JPD recorded 1334 traffic stops, 868 arrests, and a dramatically increased total of 6834 total calls.

Also, before council tonight is a new police labor contract that will help us retain and attract police officers. This administration recently negotiated and reached tentative agreement with our police union without either side using outside council.

Our Fire Dept. has had success in rebuilding its members as there are now 14 firefighters in the all volunteer department, up from a dangerous low of 6 members just a few years ago. And 2022 had the highest call numbers in the history of the JFD with 329 call outs.

## CONCLUSION

I have touched on a lot of good things, there are a lot of good things going on in our city, but I want you to leave you with these two thoughts:

1. We EXIST as a government here to provide services for our citizens. That is why we are here. We need to do that very well and very efficiently
2. The MONEY we spend here comes from taxes and utility revenues. We need to be good stewards of those dollars and spend it wisely and efficiently.

In closing, I'm just the mayor. Everyone at this table is part of our team, and the more we all work together, the more wins Jackson gets.

I truly thank each of you for your role in making it all work.

Thank you,

Randy Evans, Mayor  
City of Jackson

