



## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

**City Hall**

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### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Keeney called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present were Council Member Sean Engle, Council Member Katherine Hudson, Council Member Angela Perea and Council Member John Wright. Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Allen, Police Chief Chris Kelley, Fire Chief Chance Wright, Building Official Clay Wilson, and City Attorney Justin Eichmann. Council Member Dan Cross and Council Member Bob Fant were absent.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 City Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Engle, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

2. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Community Policing:

Patrols were conducted of residential and business areas daily.

JPD will be staffing the annual Trunk or Treat event at Worlds Underwater (2115 Main Dr) on October 31. The event runs from 6-8PM. Hope for good turnout

Enforcement:

Based on community complaints, Officers enforced speed violations throughout the city. Additionally, we began focusing on distracted driving (texting while driving) violations, especially in the area of crosswalks.

JPD enforced Truck Route violations of prohibited truck traffic on Wilkerson St, Elmore St, and Main Dr.

Personnel update:

Hired one officer in September. Field Training will begin on October 2.

One applicant has been provided with a Conditional Offer of Employment.

Currently advertising for one vacant Police Officer position. Utilizing Facebook, Instagram, Interview Now and Indeed for advertising.

Qualification/Training:

Continued defensive tactics training with our in-house instructor in September.

All Officers were certified in CPR by Johnson Fire Department Instructor.

### 3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Community Events:

Attended Event for 52 Children to talk about fire safety

9 Station Tours with Special Needs Adults and Children

Employment update:

Fully Staffed

Fleet Update:

Ladder 1 Waiting for a quote from Anglin Diesel (shop outside of Ft. Smith - closer than Springfield)

Brush 1 – still looking for mechanic to fix

Training:

Completed 286 hours of combined Training.

Completed CPR Training for JPD and JFD

Misc:

Radios to go live this month tentatively.

6:30 target response time, looking really good - one of the best in the area.

### 4. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 6 new (new home, 1 commercial build out and swimming pools); Mechanical Permits: 15; Inspections: 21; Finals: 1 (New home)

Attended an ICC class on code changes for single-family and two-family residences. Multiple meetings with developers and engineers. Issued a code violation warning for solid fence.

MS4 inspections after a total of 3.29 inches of rainfall and held a TPR meeting for a property line adjustment.

Vehicle maintenance:

Police department: unit 1601 fuel pump in gas tank, 1701 high pressure fuel pump under intake, 2102 and 1901 oil changed, warrantied both batteries.

Fire department: started installing light bar, switch box and sirens in Chief Wright's truck.

### 5. PUBLIC WORKS

There have been several problems with traffic lights this last month, particularly at I-49. They can be fine one day and fail the next. Battery back ups look good but have passed their 5-year lifespan and batteries need to be replaced. The guys have been working on the north side of the city fixing road cuts and working their way around town.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

State Turnback and Property Tax has been received, Sales Tax has not.

The final payment for the playground equipment installation at City Park of \$256,163.00 has been paid. Also, Cassie Elliott, the facilitator of securing the ROW/UE for Wilkerson and Main has been paid \$33,300.00.

Looking forward to the November Property Tax bump.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Has been working on park regulations - need to make sure that beautiful park is taken care of. There will be legislation coming forward soon.

Two years ago Act 224 provided a \$5,000 stipend to Law Enforcement Officers. Signatures were secured from all recipients stating that if they left law enforcement employment, they were required by law to pay it back. The City has a former employee that has not paid the stipend back. All efforts have been exhausted and it needs to move forward in district court to get the money back. Requesting the Councils approval to file the collection action. Motion made by Council Member Engle, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

9. MAYOR

When the purchase of the ROW/UE for Main and Wilkerson began, Council was advised that any amount over \$20,000 would come back for approval. Requested approval to pay E-Z Mart \$25,760.00. Motion made by Council Member Engle, Seconded by Council Member Wright. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

Last Council meeting we talked about the crosswalk in front of city hall. A Tapco system has been found that serves this purpose. It is solar powered, and the total cost is \$22,760 installed with a 10-year warranty. The system can be reused when the road project goes through. Motion made by Council Member Engle, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

The battery replacements each traffic light backup requires are \$40 apiece each traffic light backup requires 12. Requesting a motion to replace the needed batteries. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

Bids were opened Thursday for the construction of the Main and Wilkerson Road Project. The cost came in at \$9,569,570.00 - \$2.6 million above allocated \$6.9 million amount. Engineers

say to not accept because State law requires we reject any bid that is 25% or more over the allocated monies. Searching for extra money to add to the allocation pot. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to reject the bid. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. There is a 30-day turnaround to rebid, hopefully something can be done in the next 60-90 days.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 10. ORDINANCE 2023-05: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 4.24 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES OF THE JOHNSON MUNICIPAL CODE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to read Ordinance 2023-05 by title only waiving the second and third readings. Motion made by Council Member Perea, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. City Attorney Justin Eichmann read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the reading. Motion made by Council Member Engle, Seconded by Council Member Wright. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to read the emergency clause. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. City Attorney Eichmann read the emergency clause. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the emergency clause. Motion made by Council Member Hudson, Seconded by Council Member Wright. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Member Wright thanked the Fire Department and the Police department for their assistance at the Blessings Invitational Golf Tournament. Council Member Engle thanked the Fire Department for responding to a family member's house that was struck by lightning in Tontitown.

## **MOTION TO PAY BILLS**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer

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Chris Keeney, Mayor