



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM

City Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. AUGUST 8, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 City Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Policing:

Patrols were conducted of residential and business areas on a daily basis.

Enforcement: Based on community complaints, Officers enforced speed violations throughout the city.

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

Main Dr.

Fleet Update:

2022 Ford Police Interceptor has had all equipment installed and was deployed to Patrol.

Grants:

Submitted a grant application for the 2024 Public Safety Equipment Grant through the Arkansas Department of Public Safety. This grant provides funds for equipment to improve trust between law enforcement and communities they serve. We have specifically asked for funds to update our body worn video server. There are no matching funds required for this grant. A committee will decide which agencies receive awards by December 2023. Maximum of \$50,000 awarded with no matching funds.

Personnel update:

Hired one officer in August. Field Training began on the 21st.

One officer resigned in August.

Two applicants are currently in the background investigation phase.

Currently advertising for two vacant Police Officer position.

Utilizing Facebook, Instagram, Interview Now and Indeed for advertising.

Qualification/Training:

Continuing defensive tactics training with our in-house instructor in August and September.

Officers will be re-certified in CPR by Johnson Fire Department in September.

Officers completed Supervisor Liability training in August. This training provides an overview of how to prevent, identify and manage legal liability in law enforcement operations.

All officers qualified with their firearms in August.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Community Events:

Attended Park opening.

12 Station Tours to public

Employment update:

Full time Wayne Cates left department for Memphis Fire

Hired Jordan White as Cates replacement.

Fleet Update:

Engine 2 has been returned to service.

Ladder 1 needs Blower replacement (working on finding a mechanic) Needs turbo rebuilt.

Brush 1 – still looking for mechanic to fix.

Training:

Jordan Womack Passed EMT class- scheduled to take national registry exam.

Attended AWIN Radio Training at Washington County

Completed 307 hours of combined Training.

Scheduled CPR training for FD and PD for end of September

Misc: Radios to go live 4th week of September tentatively.

4. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 2 (pool & new home); Mechanical Permits: 8; Inspections: 32; Finals: 2 (solar & new home)

Inspected all traffic light battery backups (all passed), Attended the quarterly MS4 meeting.

Multiple meetings with developers and engineers. Johnson Mill Blvd. and Main drive 4-way intersection is now open.

Vehicle maintenance:

Police department: replaced the emission control valve in 1601 and worked on 2201 PIU

Public works: 3 oil changes, ordered parts for different trucks.

5. PUBLIC WORKS

Department spent the majority of their time at the park working on completion. Opened 9/2/2023. Very well received by the community and seemingly always busy.

A number of pieces of equipment went down in the extreme heat, but are up and running again.

Back to mowing, maintenance and limb pick up.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Planning Commission: Large Scale Development at the top of the hill at Hendrix Heights was approved - estimated 60 days before they are ready to start.

Open position on PC due to a commissioner moving out of town.

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

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

The damaged Fire Truck has been received and payment of \$264,400.00 was paid.

The City Park is almost completed and is open to the public. The final payment for equipment installation of \$256,163.00 is the only substantial bill outstanding.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Lots of legislation on the agenda.

For the Wilkerson Road project, the City has possession of the right of way and utility easements needed and the project can move ahead. ROW/UE funds were filed with the court include Colvin, Walker, Short, and Johnson. 12:34 Properties has settled.

9. MAYOR

Council should have a copy of proposed bidding schedule for the Main & Wilkerson project. Bids should be opened 10/2/2023, and come back to City Council on 10/10/2023.

Working with Army Corps of Engineers to get a study for mitigation of flooding of Tributary 4. ARDOT should be coming through working on protected rail crossing on Main and Hewitt very soon.

The new park is open! It has been very well received by the community and is busy all the time.

The Lighting Project for the Greenway is still waiting for environmental release from the state.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. DISCUSSION OF 2020, 2021, & 2022 LEGISLATIVE AUDIT REPORT

All members of the Council have received a copy of the Legislative Audit Report for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. There were no findings of any kind, the audits were completely clean. State law requires this report to be reviewed and discussed in open Council. Mayor Keeney requested a motion to accept this report as presented. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Engle.

Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle.

NEW BUSINESS

11. RESOLUTION 2023-08: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATE OF PROPERTY TAX FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS FOR THE YEAR 2023 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2024.

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2023-08. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle.

12. RESOLUTION 2023-09: A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DIAMOND C CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE ASHFORD STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS.

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2023-09. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross. Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle.

13. ORDINANCE 2023-03: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL ("ICC") 2021 TECHNICAL CODES, 2018 ARKANSAS PLUMBING CODE, 2018 ARKANSAS FUEL GAS CODE, AND THE 2021 ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE CONSISTING OF VOL. I FIRE, VOL. II BUILDING, AND VOL. III RESIDENTIAL, OR MOST CURRENT EDITIONS BY REFERENCE FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSON; REPEALING CODE PROVISIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to read Ordinance 2023-03 by title only waiving the second and third readings.

Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle

read JE

Motion made by Council Member Perea, Seconded by Council Member Cross.
Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle

read em cl

Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.
Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle

JE read em cl

Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.
Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle

14. ORDINANCE 2023-04: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A 10-FOOT UTILITY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT LOCATED AT 5348 CORDELL DRIVE IN THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS.

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to read Ordinance 2023-04 by title only waiving the second and third readings.

Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.
Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle

read JE

Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.
Voting Yea: Council Member Cross, Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Engle

PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

6:35 PM