



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 08, 2022 at 6:00 PM

City Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Bova, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 8, 2022 City Council Minutes

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 City Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea.

Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statistics were provided in the packets. Lower than January most likely due to weather.

Community Policing: Patrols were conducted of residential and business areas daily. JPD continued to respond to citizen complaints of speeding on Johnson Mill Blvd in front of Johnson Square. Additionally, JPD enforced violations of truck traffic coming off Wilkerson and onto Main Dr. Several warnings and citations were issued.

Employment update: The vacant Police Officer position has been filled. The officer has a tentative start date of March 28, 2022. The vacant Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer position is being advertised.

Fleet update: 2021 Chevy Tahoe has been upfitted and deployed in February. 2021 Ford PIU is

nearing upfit completion and should be deployed shortly. Please refer to the Vehicle purchase-unbudgeted-for further updates/information. Requesting Council consideration for approval.

Grant update: JPD applied for the State and Community Highway Safety Grant. This was the grant proposal presented to the Council on October 12, 2021 whereby application was made for computers, software, and printers to be installed in patrol vehicles. JPD was successful in being awarded this grant. Please refer to the E-Cite and CAD grant Funds addendum for additional information. Requesting Council consideration for approval.

This enhancement will provide for the following:

- Accident reports can be completed in the field.

- Automated Vehicle Locator connection with WCSO dispatch for increased officer safety.

- Increased accountability for dispatched and officer-initiated calls.

- Faster issuance of traffic citations, decreasing unnecessary time with the violator.

Training: All officers are signed up for "Documenting the Crime Scene" training and **will be completed by early March. One officer attended Instructor Development training during February.** JPD now has a total of 4 certified instructors.

Unbudgeted vehicle purchases for FY 2022- Johnson Police Department: Between August 2021 and January 2022, JPD has had 3 Chevrolet Tahoes suffer engine failure. The police vehicles are from model years 2015, 2016 and 2017. Each vehicle will need a new engine before they can be deployed for patrol utilization. Each vehicle has had a failure where a lifter has malfunctioned and requires the engines to be replaced or repaired at roughly the same price point. Taking delivery of the new engines may take several months and at this time, we have no date certain on when (or if) the engines will arrive.

A current class action lawsuit has been filed in US District Court where General Motors is the defendant. The class complaint alleges that model years 2014-2021 Chevrolet motors have defective systems that cause the engines to fail. More information can be found at this link <https://www.classaction.org/media/harrison-et-al-v-general-motors-llc.pdf>

3 new vehicles were budgeted for and purchased in 2021: 2 Chevy Tahoes and 1 Ford Police Interceptor (PIU). With the purchase of the 3 new vehicles during fiscal year 2021 (prior to the aforementioned Chevy vehicle engine failures and FY 2022 budget presentation) we believed no new vehicle purchases were necessary for 2022. It has caused concern recently, considering 2 of the new vehicles are 2021 Chevy models that may also fail, JPD may not have enough vehicles to deploy to cover the city 24/7.

We propose an unbudgeted purchase of 2 Ford PIUs for FY 2022. The state contract currently shows the Ford PIU as available for purchase. We have contacted Lewis Ford and were advised they would honor the state contract. Lewis Ford could not forecast how long the PIUs would remain available and, because of dwindling inventory, could exhaust available PIUs at any time.

Costs:

Ford Police Interceptor purchase, per unit:	\$ 34,822.96
Upfitting costs (lighting, safety, video, storage), per unit:	\$ 17,721.00
Total cost, per deployed unit:	<u>\$ 52,543.96</u>
Grand total cost for 2 deployed units:	\$105,087.92

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to purchase the 2 Ford PIU vehicles. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova

E-Cite and Washington Co. Sheriff dispatch CAD interface

E-Cite purchase: In October 2021, Johnson Police Department applied for a grant through the “State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program” to outfit the department with E-Cite, a mobile electronic solutions platform in which officers can issue electronic citations in lieu of paper citations. The benefit to the department is accurate, timely citation issuance thereby increasing officer safety by limiting the amount of time in contact with the violator. Officers will be able to complete accident reports on-scene. E-Cite is already being utilized by Johnson Court and will have seamless integration when implemented. The grant is for laptops, printers, and bar code readers to be installed in police vehicles. Equipment is warranted for 3 years, through the vendor, Howard Technology. JPD was awarded this grant for \$64,000 on February 1, 2022. The actual federal grant disbursement amount will be \$57,600. The grant requires a 10% match of City funds (\$6,400) relative to the disbursed federal grant funds. The City would need to outlay the entire cost of E-Cite initially and then would receive reimbursement of \$57,600 within approximately 3 weeks of remitting invoice to the Traffic Safety Program Manager (Grant administrator). Washington County Sheriff - CAD software proposal for installation: The remaining \$2,130.60 of city matching funds must be utilized. Installation of Washington Co. Sheriff’s dispatch CAD connection (Computer Aided Dispatch) into the vehicle laptops appears to be the most beneficial use of those funds. Having CAD installed in the new E-Cite laptops will align JPD with other small cities in Washington County by having direct connection to dispatch and visibility of dispatched calls for service. Additionally, officer safety is enhanced as dispatch, and other users, will be able to “see” (via Automated Vehicle Locator software) where the officer is located in case back up is needed or if the officer is not in radio contact with dispatch.

E-Cite Grant funding and City match:

Total approved Federal grant funding (includes city match):	\$64,000
Actual Federal funds to be distributed to JPD:	\$57,600
City provided 10% matching funds required:	\$ 6,400
E-Cite - Actual cost for equipment and install:	
Vendor: Howard Technology Solutions	\$61,869.38
(\$57,600 grant + \$4,269.38 city match)	
Amount of grant matching (City) funds remaining:	+\$2,130.60
E-Cite recurring costs (City borne):	

Internet connectivity is needed to communicate with E-Cite servers and is accomplished by a cellular air card installed in the laptops. ACIC (Arkansas Crime Information Center) records cost .035 cents per query (Example: 1,000 licenses or tags queried will cost \$35).

Recurring costs to the City:

10 air cards with data plan	\$435 - Recurring monthly
Roll paper 24 rolls (1,000 sheets per roll)	\$ 70 - As needed
ACIC queries	.035 cents per query
Annualized cost to the City:	\$5,290

(ACIC expenditures can not be estimated at this time as we have no comparison data)

CAD software cost (City funding)

Vendor: Southern Software (install 10 GPS devices in E-Cite laptops, 3 concurrent CAD licenses)

Cost to install software and 1 year of support:	\$6,885
Amount of remaining City matching funds that can be utilized:	\$2,130.60
City funds to cover remainder of CAD installation cost:	\$4,754.40
CAD annual recurring costs to the City:	\$810 (software support)

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the purchase of e-cite & implement CAD system. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department Head Chance Wright is at the State Fire Chiefs' Association meeting this evening. Employment update: Part-Time Employee Jake Wooden accepted the full-time position to fill C-Shift Captain role.

Fleet update: Ladder 1 has a bearing cap issue. Being worked on currently.

Training: Ben Dickey will attend Fire Academy at the end of March in Rogers

Unable to procure a vehicle through state bid.

4. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 5 (1 new homes, 1 commercial, pool, remodel, and storage shed) Mechanical Permits: 7 Inspections: 37 Finals: 2 (residential homes)

I completed MS4 inspections after rain events, all traffic light battery backups (all passed), prepared PC packets and emailed them, multiple phone calls and emails with developers, reviewed new construction house plans. Held two P.C. work sessions, posted signage for pc meeting. Held a meeting with future developers. I called and got a 911 address for a future development. Attended my quarterly MS4 stormwater compliance meeting.

Vehicle maintenance: Police vehicles: 1 oil changes, battery in 1802, picked up 1701 from dealership (bad motor) ordered motor for it, finished 2102 unit, and started 2103 ford P.I.U. upfit and installed new interior door handle on unit 1107. Took unit 2102 to dealership for programming update on electric steering.

Fire department: installed new driver side headlight assembly

Public works: ordered two new batteries 1 for a truck and 1 for their side by side, ordered new belt for their spreader.

5. PUBLIC WORKS

The guys spent considerable time dealing with snow again; spent more money on chat this year than the last 4 years combined. Filled holes created by weather and scraping.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

PUD on hold. Approved by PC with conditions to keep it within the City's guidelines. Discussed the Resortments concept for the property.

Good public hearing - 15 people showed up. Largest public hearing in years.

Stew Walton is the new vice chair

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

Due to the early date of this meeting, no State Turnback, Property Tax or Sales Tax has been received yet.

City received \$15,000.00 of RFA funding 2/15/2022.

The City received a donation of \$30,000.00 from John Tyson to pay for speed control signs in the City. These are the type that flash and show your speed to discourage speeding. Signs will be purchased and placed at the appropriate locations at the Mayor's discretion.

Please note the new Park A&P account listed. We received our first payments in February for collections made in January. Current balance is \$3,792.40. There are a few businesses that did not pay their tax, and City Attorney Justin Eichmann is sending a follow-up letter to remind them.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Attended the PC work session. Would like to come to more work sessions to continue the education process. Need some areas on the PUD ordinance addressed to streamline that process and correct some ambiguities.

SB 103 in the State Legislator has signed into law. This is a salary stipend for law enforcement, \$5,000.00 for full time law enforcement officers. City must request the funds, get form from Arkansas Division of Public Safety to apply. Received in a bulk amount. Includes City portion of Social Security & Medicare cost; need to find out about LOPFI. Inclusive of new hires up to 1/31/2023. We will be looking to the ARML to give us more direction as this is figured out.

9. MAYOR

**State of the City Address
Johnson – 2022**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council and fellow residents, as the City of Johnson is a first-class city, the Mayor is required by law to report to you about the state of the city and its future needs. 2021 was a year marked by the significant challenges of the ongoing pandemic, but for the City of Johnson this has been a year of progress and important milestones for the future.

The challenges of the last year are well known, and like 2020 these challenges do not need to be recounted in full as we continue to live through the upheaval of daily life and traditions, the fear and uncertainty, and unfortunately sometimes the loss. COVID-19 continues to significantly impact city government, local businesses, our residents. As in the year before, much of the work of 2021 was to make sure that our city could overcome these challenges and continue to provide the level of services expected by the citizens of Johnson.

With so many challenges that have been before us over the past two years, it is important for us to take this opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of last year and to set out the tasks that we need to accomplish for 2022 and beyond.

As always, it is important to first thank the members of the City Council, the City Clerk-Treasurer, and the Planning Commission for your ongoing service to our community as well as all the employees, uniformed officers, firefighters and volunteers for their dedication and hard work in service to the public and to our city.

2021 was a year of major accomplishments for the City of Johnson, including:

These accomplishments stand in the face of the severe operational constraints that have affected the city since March of 2020. 2022, however, will see the commencement of the long-awaited projects which will be transformational for the City of Johnson, including the start of construction on the Main and Wilkerson Street improvement projects. This project is a vital piece of the overall plan to improve the safety, traffic, sidewalk, bike and pedestrian ways, drainage and economic development of the heart of the City of Johnson.

Going forward in 2022, I want us all to undertake the following tasks:

Despite the ongoing challenges, this city, the administration, the city council, and this community have accomplished a lot in the last year. For this new year we will begin to see the beginning of important work to roads, drainage, sidewalks, and parks that has been in planning for years. While this work begins, we will continue to make sure that our community grows in a responsible manner and that the levels of service that we provide can meet the needs and expectations of the citizens of Johnson.

My administration will continue to dedicate itself to the work of finding these opportunities and securing them for our community, and at the same time we will dedicate all of our efforts to protect those things that we cherish the most in our community.

I am truly looking forward to working with all of you in this New Year. I thank you for this opportunity.

Council agreed reading the report aloud was not necessary, so it is included in these minutes in its entirety.

Mayor Keeney has a meeting March 19, 2022 with Hawkins-Weir ; it will be the last meeting before they release the info to the utilities for their needs. Hopefully, we can set Cassie loose at the end of the month to procure property for right of way.

Business License compliance is always hard. We are working to get some businesses to cooperate. Looking at a new application process. Hope to come back next month with a new application process for Council approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 10. ORDINANCE NO. 2022-06: AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 29.05 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE NE CORNER OF WILKERSON AND W JOYCE BLVD WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS FROM TOWNCENTER (TC) AND TOWNCENTER COMMERCIAL (TC-C) TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD).** Mayor Keeney stated an email was received this morning from the developer asking that ORDINANCE 2022-06 be postponed. After some discussion, City Attorney Eichmann said to table it to the next meeting so we can know what their intention may be. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to table ORDINANCE 2022-06. Motion made by Council Member Bova, Seconded by Council

Member Cross.

Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova.

- 11. ORDINANCE NO. 2022-07: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14.04.09: GENERAL STANDARDS OF CHAPTER 14: ZONING CODE OF THE JOHNSON MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE FOR A SIGHT DISTANCE TRANGLE CODE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** After the agenda was created, it was discovered that ORDINANCE 2022-07 has not been vetted by the Planning Commission so no action is to be taken at this time. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to remove ORDINANCE 2022-07 from this month's agenda. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Unger, Republican candidate for State Representative for District 19 introduced himself to the Council.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

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 Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova

Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Keeney, Mayor