



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 14, 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 Sean Engel, 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, 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 Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 10 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 City Council Meeting. 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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT
Community Policing:
Patrols were conducted of residential and business areas daily.
PD has begun reaching out to POA's within the City to discuss neighborhood watch/crime prevention strategies.
Enforcement:
Officers enforced speeding throughout the city. We have seen a downward trend in speed citations issued (September-December).
JPD enforced Truck Route violations of truck traffic coming off Johnson Mill, Wilkerson, Elmore and onto Main Dr.
Fleet Update:

Installation/upfit of emergency equipment for the 2022 Ford PIU's has begun.

Grant update:

We have received all of the equipment from Howard Technology that will be utilized for the E-Crash/E-Cite program. Install dates are February 7-10. all installed as of last week.

Personnel update:

Filled one vacant Police Officer position on January 26, 2023. Resigned as of 2/10/2023

Four Police Officer applicants are in the background investigation phase.

Currently advertising for 3 vacant Police Officer positions.

Qualification/Training:

A continuation of the E-Cite/E-crash training will be provided to all officers in February.

2 Officers have been trained and are certified to carry the Patrol Rifle (AR 15).

2 Officers will attend Advanced Interview Techniques at Ozark PD in February.

2 Officers attended Digital Evidence Search Warrant Preparation training.

All Officers will be certified to administer Naloxone (Narcan). Training is scheduled for February 14-15. This will be joint training with Johnson Fire Department.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Employment update:

Fully Staffed with 6 full-time personnel. Adam Silvis Completed EMT school

Fleet Update: Fire Master has said that Engine 2 will begin repairs in the middle of February

Fayetteville E-5 is still being run as front-line Rescue Engine.

Ladder 1 is getting quoted on repairing the starter issue.

Training:

255 hours of Training Completed

Jordan Womack is currently in EMT school at NWACC

Total Calls for Service: 36

Radios received - good communication with Springdale & Fayetteville

Estimate for generator for the Fire Station, \$2600 more than org quote + 1K for gas line installation. Chief Wright asked for approval from council for installation with a max not to exceed \$27,000. 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.

Fire Department & Police Department receiving NARCAN training for opioid overdose.

4. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 5 (1 commercial build out, 2 new homes and 1 solar panel); Mechanical Permits: 14

Inspections: 43, Finals: 6 (1 solar, 3 flood repairs, 1 commercial buildout and commercial building)

Inspected all traffic light battery backups (all passed). Started generators, MS4 inspections after rain events and ordered 6 new crosswalk signs for 48th and Johnson Mill Blvd.

Vehicle maintenance:

Police department: Replaced 1 battery in golf cart, new battery in 1101, new battery in police department generator, 1 new cabin mic and new DVR wiring harness and started installing all police equipment in one of the new PIU cars.

Public works: ordered both thermostats for 04 GMC diesel

Circle K is ahead of schedule. Planning grand opening for April 20, 2023. Johnson Medical Building passed final inspection; Best Start Pediatrics already open.

Zoom meeting with developers of Hendrix Heights development will include 240 houses 2 1/2 acres of commercial.

There is also a 1717-unit development on Elmore; hang up there is Springdale sewer capacity. Currently under a moratorium on sewer hook ups until fixed capacity issues are fixed which could be a 2-3 year timeline. Springdale Water is working with Arkansas Department of Health to work out a solution.

5. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

6. PUBLIC WORKS

Worked hard during the snow and ice storms; put down a lot of sand.

All the equipment and furniture is in for the park and staged on basketball court. Waiting for the dirt and concrete work to begin. Almost done with refitting of Ed Bockenstedt Park.

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

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

3 major bills paid include the repair of Johnson Mill Blvd. at Elmore, \$59,225.99 from the Street Fund, and the park playground equipment (\$314,611.00) and park furniture (\$67,821.90) from the General Fund.

Only 1 business license is being held due to late Park A&P payments. Everyone else is up to date and had no issues getting licensed. Our current balance for the Park A&P Fund is over \$100,000.00 and we look forward to it growing even more as our businesses continue to prosper and Circle K comes online.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Legislative update – A good bill put forth is to allow online publication for cities with “.gov” websites - ours is “.com” He will see if it still applies if approved.

A bad bill put forth allows fast tracking permits - if not approved in 60 days it is automatically approved. Significant pushback from Mayors. Delay is usually the engineers and utility companies.

An ugly bill put forth is regarding short term rentals. It forbids any city from prohibiting short term rentals. The City of Johnson regulation is the bare minimum – requires a business license, city needs a contact person, and they must collect A&P tax. Bigger issues are the definition of short term rental. Arkansas Municipal League is heavily involved in this one as it is a health, safety, and welfare concern item.

9. MAYOR

State of the City Address attached.

Road project moving, park moving, weather is the slow down right now. Engineers are slow. City is fairing the current inflation problem fairly well right now.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 10. RESOLUTION 2023-03: STATE AID FOR STREETS ACCEPTANCE.** Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03. City asked for \$81,000 worth of additional work beyond the \$300,000.00 grant from State Aid for Streets last fall which was approved by the Council. 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.
- 11. RESOLUTION 2023-04: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04. Purpose is to allow a \$250,00 line item be added to the 2023 budget to allow the City to pay for the acquisition of right of way and utility easements in a more expedient manner. Only time an item would need to come back to council is if the amount exceeds the \$20,000 spending authority of the Mayor. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to pay the bills. 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.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to adjourn. 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.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Keeney, Mayor