



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 10, 2022 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 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, Fire Department Head Chance Wright Building Official Clay Wilson, and City Attorney Justin Eichmann.

1. DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY 2022-2

Due to the floods of May 5, 2022, Mayor Keeney declared an emergency in the City, followed shortly thereafter by Washington County and other surrounding cities. As of yet, the State has not yet declared an emergency. The purpose of this is to allow trash and debris that has washed around not to be a code violation as well as people not mowing grass that is gravel filled, giving folks time to get some cleanup done without penalty. If the State also declares an emergency, there is a possibility for property owners to get some money to try to recoup some their damages.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. April 12, 2022 City Council Minutes

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the April 12, 2022 City Council Minutes. Motion made by Council Member Wright, 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

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Flood on May 5 has taken a priority the last few days.

Patrols were conducted of residential and business areas on a daily basis. JPD continued to respond to citizen complaints of speeding on Johnson Mill Blvd in front of Johnson Square.

JPD enforced violations of truck traffic coming off Wilkerson and onto Main Dr.

JPD enforced red light violations at S 48 St/Interstate off ramps/Johnson Mill Blvd.

Several warnings and citations were issued in response to these complaints.

Employment update:

The vacant Police Officer position was advertised. One potential applicant is currently in the background investigation phase.

The Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer position has been filled. Whitney Perry has been hired for that position and started employment on April 26.

Fleet update:

2021 Ford PIU is nearing upfit completion and should be deployed shortly.

8 Police Department vehicles were damaged during the April hailstorm. Insurance adjuster has completed assessment of damage and the City is awaiting Municipal League payment for repairs.

Grant update:

Howard Technology has shipped some of the computer and installation equipment for the Ecrash grant. Awaiting mounting brackets.

Signed contract with Southern Software for the Computer Aided Dispatch install on the in-car computers. Hardware coming in. Should all be received by July.

Training:

1 Police Officer is continuing in the Field Training program.

1 officer attended Criminal Investigations training in April.

All officers attended Shotgun and Rifle qualifications.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

4/24/2022 – Engine 2 was struck on the interstate while JFD was on scene working an accident. Nobody was injured in the wreck from Fire or EMS. Truck is in Springfield.

Met with Assistant Chief Willie Watts from Fayetteville to establish a permanent solution for Automatic-Aid.

Scheduled meetings with John Luther (DEM 1) and Springdale Fire Chief Blake Holte to discuss Automatic-Aid with the City of Johnson.

Installed headsets in Engine 2.

Completed Gear Rack installation.

5. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 3 (commercial buildout, truck canopy) Mechanical Permits: 21 Inspections: 46 Finals: 2 (remodel and commercial remodel)

Completed MS4 inspections after rain events, all traffic light battery backups (all passed), prepared PC packets and delivered them, multiple phone calls and emails with developers and engineers, reviewed new construction house plans. Held a meeting with future developers. Started generators, attended my quarterly storm water compliance meeting, held a TPR meeting, attended my yearly HVAC class, also attended a HVAC state board meeting via zoom and put pc signs out.

Vehicle maintenance:

Police vehicles: 1 oil change, installed radar system in unit 2101

Public works: Ordered a front wheel hub assembly for the 2000 Dodge Ram

6. PUBLIC WORKS

Pedestrian landings installed and waiting on electrical equipment. Will coordinate striping when it arrives. New striping across Main for crossing at Ball being used.

Bores have been done on Johnson Mill Boulevard at Elmore to try to determine the cause of the road sinking. It is believed when the road was built, dirt was introduced in the base creating mud there and in the backfill which is now causing the road to sink. The process to fix this is to dig out the road and use flowable fill. This is where the old creekbed was diverted and filled in.

The new digital signs have been received and will be installed on Great House Springs Road, Johnson Mill Boulevard and Wilkerson.

Guys will be working on clean up from the flood and doing mowing and maintenance of the city as the weather allows.

Finding a source to replace rails on Mud Creek Bridge on the Greenway that were broken and pushed completely over by the flood.

All City buildings and police vehicles have been inspected by the insurance adjuster. Eight vehicles have hail damage to repair, and all buildings need new roofs due to hail damage in all the recent storms. The white block building is slated to be torn down

7. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Dan Cross said the Planning Commission letter included in the packets has been sent to Johnson Square and thus far there has been no response.

PC approved the Circle K Large Scale Development plan, and the building permit plans have been turned in.

Also exploring food truck ordinances and how that can be handled.

8. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

State Turnback and Property Tax have been received, but Sales Tax has not. The May bump in Property tax totaled \$176,834.17 (\$159,311.09 General Fund, \$17,523.08 Street Fund) This total is 10% higher than the funds received in May of 2021.

Many, many insurance claims have been filed.

May 3, 2022, Quarter 2 RFA funding of \$15,000 was received.

We are still behind on the receipt of Park A&P tax receipts. City Attorney Eichmann will be sending a letter to businesses that are behind in their payment.

Higher than usual expenditures this month are due to the arrival of the E-crash computers and software (reimbursable via grant money), digital speed signs (paid for from Tyson donation) and quarterly bills. The concrete work is also done at the Wilkerson & Joyce Pedestrian Crossing (\$23,834.50).

Election packets will be available in my office shortly. They must be signed for before they can be picked up. Council Members in Position 1 are up for election this year. The first day to file is August 3, 2022 and the final day is August 10, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

9. MAYOR

In packets there is a letter from Dr. Dustin Clark at the UofA - had complaints about the numbers of ducks allowed after the new fowl Ordinance was passed. Not knowing the answers to the concerns voiced, Dr. Clark was contacted, and his letter is a result of that. After the recent flooding, the City is concerned about the duplexes off Hewitt. They have flooded at least 4 times in recent memory, the last time was in 2017. Further investigation is needed. We do not want to be the City that lets somebody die down there because we did not exhaust every avenue to keep it from happening. There may be steps we can take to mitigate this issue.

Waiting on getting pricing back for the restroom and playground equipment for the park project. Everything is more expensive and harder to get locked down.

10. CITY ATTORNEY

Working on several issues prior to the flood including the code revamps, business licenses, and need to get Police Chief involved in working on the noise. Planning code issues have popped up that are being looked at. Of course, flood related issues. A&P collection issue, letter will go out soon.

Discussions with the Mayor about the flooding of the duplexes off Hewitt. The amount of water and how fast it was moving make it exceedingly difficult to deal with. No easy solutions. Sometimes it takes time to get answers, have to look at the fiduciary responsibility when someone says you cannot take my property. But are trying to get the best solution to protecting lives in the future. Taking the gravity of it very seriously.

Municode legal review showed some clean up that needs to be taken care of, old ordinances that need to be taken off the books.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 11. ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A 25' UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 3991 JOHNSON MILL BOULEVARD WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve reading Ordinance 2022-09 by title only waiving the second and third readings. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Bova. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova. Ordinance 2022-09 was read by City Attorney Eichmann. Mayor Keeney said this is vacating a utility easement for Circle K to relocate a sewer further back. Mayor Keeney then asked for a motion

to approve this reading of Ordinance 2022-09 by title only waiving the second and third readings. Motion made by Council Member Hudson, Seconded by Council Member Fant. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross, Council Member Bova.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion made by Council Member Perea, Seconded by Council Member Fant.

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 Bova.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Keeney, Mayor