



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM

City Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Keeney called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Present were Council Member Bill Burnett, Council Member Bob Fant, Council Member Angela Perea, Council Member Dan Cross and Council Member Katherine Hudson. Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Allen, Police Chief Chris Kelley, Fire Department Head Chance Wright, and City Attorney Justin Eichmann. Council Member John Wright and Building Official Clay Wilson were absent.

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve amending the agenda to address a potential Johnson Square PUD sign ordinance issue to be addressed right after the minutes are approved. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. November 9, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

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

2. November 18, 2021 Special City Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2021 Special Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

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

Mayor Keeney stated there was an amendment to the Johnson Square PUD that implemented sign standards approved by the Planning Commission on November 4, 2021. By code this must be approved by Ordinance by the City Council. That information did not get from the Planning Commission to legal and that legislation is not available this evening. After discussion, the one sign they have pending does not violate the City sign ordinance and waiting until January will be all right.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigation statistics were provided in the packets.

Community Policing: First meeting with Johnson businesses on November 8th went well. Discussed our Community Policing model and how that partnership can make our community a safer place. Plan for next meeting in Quarter 1 of 2022. JPD continues to conduct patrols of residential and business areas daily. In October, we focused on multiple citizen complaints with Directed Patrols of speeding on Johnson Mill Blvd in front of Johnson Square and speeding at Greathouse Springs/Johnson Mill.

Employment update: Due to the recent advertisement on Indeed.Com for the open Police Officer position, we have a viable candidate that is in the background investigation stage. Since report was written, the employment candidate withdrew, and the ad has been re-opened. Fleet update: 2021 Tahoes are in the process of being upfitted. One of the 2021 Tahoes has been deployed. 2021 Ford PIU was picked up from the dealer and will be upfitted. Training (Upcoming): December—All officers are registered for online Crisis Intervention Response for Law Enforcement. This will be the first installment of Crisis/Mental Health training that I am requiring all officers to attend. The next course will be a 9-hour training class, “Behavioral Health and Crisis Intervention Response for Law Enforcement,” offered in 2022.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Notes: Station alerting system being installed by Sharps - when a call comes in a tone & light will come on; especially important at night.

\$160-\$176K will be spent by the WA County Quorum Court to replace air packs for all departments in the county, making them interchangeable with each other.

On 12/6/2021, there was a cardiac arrest at Corporate Center building. Wright, Andrews, Brown, Campbell, Turnbull, and Womack got the guy back and will receive commendation for their efforts.

Currently in process of writing several grants for specific uses including a Tyson grant for \$165K to remodel the station for overnight and a grant for ION Amkus Spreaders with an estimated cost of \$13,000.00.

Have ordered 3 radios that have banks for chips for Springdale and Fayetteville, so communication is possible. 2 radios in vehicle plus a mobile. \$7,500 from Act 833. Need to purchase a Specialty Mannequin pack - \$725.00.

Training Notes: Captain Brown passed his Inspector 2 training, enrolled in Inspector 3 training. Promoted T. Kongmany to Lieutenant to expand chain of command and he will take over developing training. Captain Zoll is scheduled for Officer 1 training. Attending an EMS Conference – Guardians of the Heart. Will be attending Active shooter training about the Las Vegas shooting with Chief Kelley in Rogers.

5. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Mr. Wilson recovering from surgery, so Mayor Keeney gave his report.

Building Permits: 1 (remodel single home), Mechanical Permits: 11, Inspections: 105

Wilson completed MS4 inspections after rain events, held a TPR meeting, inspected all traffic light battery backups (all passed), multiple phone calls, meetings, and emails with developers. MS4 storm water zoom meeting. Called signal tech to replace a traffic light bulb at main and Johnson Mill Blvd. Met with Backus concrete to get an estimate on the repair of Main drive bridge repair. Start early next spring. Police Vehicle maintenance: 1 oil change, 1 motor mount on unit 1802, replaced the spotlight switch and light on unit 1802.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Planning Commission - Dan Cross said Wright's BBQ requested 3 variances all were rejected unanimously. PC has not approved a variance unless there is legal cause. Applaud PC sticking to their rules created and being very consistent.

7. PUBLIC WORKS

Guys trying to do as much fall clean up as they can do before bad winter weather hits. Limb pick up is now only 1 time per month on the first Monday. Equipment is in good shape. Department doing fine.

8. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

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

The Park Fund 1% sales tax on lodging and/or prepared food and beverage items approved by the voters in July goes into effect January 1, 2022. Letters were sent to all businesses in the City that provide these items for them to begin collecting the 1% tax. Included with the letter was a sample remittance form. This tax will be due at City Hall by the 20th of the month following collection. A separate checking account will be established to track these funds for clarity and auditing purposes. The first income the City will see will be due by February 20, 2022.

The final inspection of the Carley Road Sidewalk project was completed, and Diamond C Construction was paid \$11,447.79 from the Street Fund.

The final \$60,000.00 budgeted in the General Fund was transferred to the LOPFI Fund to cover the City's portion of uniform employee retirement funding through the beginning of next year.

Annual payment to the Council Members, Planning Commissioners and Uniform Employee Education and Certification Pay has been completed.

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9. CITY ATTORNEY

Been working on A&P issues, ordinances, and planning commission items. Looking at legislation regarding animals permitted in the City. Looking at ways of finding Airbnb's and VRBOs in the City providing short term rentals for less than 30 days. We need to find them as

we have numerous ones operating in the City without a business license and we need them to also be collecting the A&P tax. Other cities are working on this, too.

10. MAYOR

Mayor Keeney asked for a one time pay increase of \$324.85 which nets out to \$300.00 for all full-time employees. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea.

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

Richard Cromwell's term on the Planning Commissioner is ending 12/31/2021. Cromwell has agreed to continue his service and Mayor Keeney asked for the Council's approval of to affirm the reappointment of Richard Cromwell to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term beginning 1/1/2022 and ending 12/31/2025. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

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

A special thank you goes out to Angela – she spoke on behalf of the City in Jonesboro to the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. Notified today the City was awarded a \$225,000 matching park grant for the park project across the street. It will be so nice to get that park renovated.

Mayor Keeney thanked Council Member Bill for Burnett for 14 1/2 years of service to Council, the City of Johnson and community. He was an advocate for outside recreation and active in the creation of the trail system. Bill is an asset who is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

11. Kevin Gardner of Orion Waste Solutions - Annual CPI Rate Increase

Mr. Gardner said by contract, they are allowed come back annually for a CPI price increase. Waste Management has increased dump fees by 10%. There has been a stabilization of recycling contamination. After Gardner's presentation, Mayor Keeney ask for a motion to approve 2022 pricing increase as corrected/included in the packet. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Fant.

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

12. RESOLUTION 2021-08: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE YEAR 2022 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to present RESOLUTION 2021-08. Motion made by Council Member Perea, Seconded by Council Member Fant.

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

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve and adopt RESOLUTION 2021-08. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Perea.

Voting Yea: Council Member Burnett, Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross. RESOLUTION 2021-08 was adopted.

13. ORDINANCE 2021-12: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 2171 MAIN DRIVE IN FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72704 WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS.

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to read **ORDINANCE 2021-12** by title only waiving the second and third readings. Motion made by Council Member Perea, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

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

City Attorney Justin Eichmann read ORDINANCE 2021-12 by title only. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the reading and adopt ORDINANCE 2021-12. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Burnett, Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross. **ORDINANCE 2021-12 was adopted.**

14. Bill Burnett Resignation

Mayor Keeney again thanked Council Member Bill Burnett and asked for a motion to accept his resignation effective December 31, 2021. Motion made with gratitude and regret by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross. Council Member Burnett abstained.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

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

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Keeney, Mayor