



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Johnson City Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Kelley stated that there were 7 assigned investigations, 3 open, 4 closed. 194 calls for service. The police department has received information from the community on areas of concern related to parking issues with neighborhoods as well as careless driving on Ball St. The department has conducted Directed Patrols in those areas and will continue to do so for the near term. An arrest was made for multiple residential burglaries on July 23, 2021. The offender was booked into the jail and the property was returned to the owners. The 2 new Tahoes will be outfitted with emergency lights/equipment and the graphics will be applied to the exteriors in August.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Keeney introduced Chance Wright, the new Department Head of the Fire Department. Total calls: 37 for the month of July: EMS: 21, Fire: 0, MVA: 3, False Alarm: 6, Service Call: 2, Burn Permits: 5, Training Manhours: 220. Ladder Truck 1 was outfitted with proper tools and equipment to achieve an ISO rating of a Quint Truck. This is beneficial to the department and to the City. The Ladder 1 truck has a 75' ladder along with ground ladders. A Quint has a higher-level pump on it which our ladder has; making it a ladder truck that can perform

rescues and fight fire. Our truck just needed some extra equipment moved from Engine 1 (the back up engine) to make it complete to qualify as a Quint for ISO. Applications have been received for 2 part time positions and 2 volunteers. Tyler Zoll has been promoted to Captain so there is a Captain on each shift for accountability. Updated to the new triage system requiring COVID-19 screening questions be asked and masks mandated on all calls. Central EMS is primary on medical calls unless the situation is life threatening to minimize department exposure. 725 feet of damaged hose will be donated to the Wichita Zoo. It has no value to the fire department, but can be used by the zoo. Unserviceable equipment has no value to the department and does not require the donation value threshold be met.

4. PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works guys are still mowing and are glad the rain has stopped. Maintaining the trails. There has been some graffiti that has been removed, and signs of some small fires started in the middle of the trail leaving little ash piles. This is thought to be happening in other places also. All equipment is in good shape. Signs and thermal plastic markings have been added on Ball Street to help with the additional bicyclists and walkers and to let motorists know of the blind corner where the trail accesses the road.

5. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 6 (4 new homes and 2 commercial) Mechanical Permits: 17 Inspections: 47 Finals: 1 (solar panels). Wilson completed MS4 inspections after rain events, attended planning commission meeting, held a TPR meeting inspected all traffic light battery backups (all passed), prepared PC packets and delivered them, multiple phone calls and emails with developers, reviewed multiple new construction house plans. Called in possible water leak to Springdale water. Went to Little Rock to pick up the new Tahoe's. Police vehicles: 1 oil change, 1 knock sensor, Rebuilt the rear differential in unit 1401 and sent unit 1501 to dealership for a/c work.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

State Turnback and Property Tax has been received, but Sales Tax has not. The Bond Issue and the A&P Tax on the Special Election Ballot each passed on July 13, 2021, and we have been busy executing the proper paperwork. The lawsuit settlement checks were cut totaling \$110,000.00 (\$75,00.00 to Casper Acquisitions and \$35,000.00 to Lamar Advertising) This case is now closed. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$386,623.89 were received. This is half of the total expected payout and the usage of the funds is very specifically defined. Premium Tax Billing Credit (formerly called SITT Tax) totaling \$41,899.18 was received by LOPFI on our behalf. These funds will be directly applied by LOPFI to the City's portion of our retirement payment until they are exhausted. \$11,327.27 was paid out of Act 833 to Precision Rescue for the battery powered cutters for the Fire Department. Quarterly RFA funding of \$12,008.93 was received August 3, 2021.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Update on information dealing with the Census and apportionment; Census data should be released on August 12. Apportionment will be kicked off with informational meetings and will have an impact on almost all of the state districts (Senate and House seats) particularly in Northwest Arkansas. This is also important to turnback as that is based on population. City Attorney Eichmann congratulated the City on the election results. Working on the Bond issue and A&P taxes that will become effective January 1, 2022.

9. MAYOR

The City is slated to receive up to \$730,000.00 in ARPA funds. This money has very exclusive uses. There is no lost revenue to replace so that is null, storm water infrastructure is vague; if we can show adequate water quality improvement there may be some possibilities. Looking at ways the City can benefit. May behoove us to work with another city to get the most bang for our buck. May help keep rates in the city less than otherwise if we can partner with other cities to improve water treatment and delivery. In the Special Election, all items passed. Submitted the completed grant for the park. The City is doing well. There has been change in the city due to covid – LT Halfhill came off vent today after 13 days. We wish him the best in regaining his health. The City has a new business opening - Hail Fellow Well Met should open by the end of the month. Pizzeria Ruby is amazing and doing incredible business. Johnson Square is almost completed. Work on Wilkerson is going to greatly enhance our city and Mayor Keeney is excited about the future of Johnson. Regional storm water management is a major issue and maybe we can get some help.

Dan Cross discussed the process for selecting the model we are using for the management of the Fire Department. Chance was our top choice. The Committee has a development plan for continued growth to put him on the path to become the full-fledged chief. The City is pleased with the process. Thanks to Chance for stepping into a new position effective yesterday. Cross reiterated the Council’s support. Chance has been approved for 2 national fire academy classes at the end of August and will begin the process of moving the Fire Department forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

10. **ORDINANCE 2021-09: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A 20” UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 5158 TURNHOUSE CIRCLE WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Keeney asked that a change be made in the ordinance that anywhere it read 20” (20 inches) it be changed to 20’ (20 feet). Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Fant. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve reading Ordinance 2021-09 by title only waiving the second and third readings. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Wright. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross. City Attorney Justin Eichmann read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Keeney

asked for a motion to approve the reading of Ordinance 2021-09 by title only waiving the second and third readings. 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. **ORDINANCE 2021-09 was approved.**

11. **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING A STEP-PAY PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND AMENDING THE CURRENT 2021 BUDGET TO CONFORM THERETO.** Mayor Keeney read the resolution and asked for a motion to approve. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Wright. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross. **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04 was approved.**

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Fant. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Keeney, Mayor