



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 09, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Johnson City Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 12, 2021 City Council Minutes

City Clerk Allen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Council Member Perea, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statistics were provided in the packet. Community Policing: Johnson PD participated in the annual Trunk or Treat event on October 31, 2021. Great turnout by the community and local businesses. Several hundred attended.

An initial meeting has been set for November 8 with Johnson businesses to discuss our Community Policing model and how that partnership can make our community a safer place. 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: New advertisement for the one open Police Officer position has been placed with the Indeed.Com. We have received several promising applications.

Fleet update: Both 2021 Tahoes are being upfitted by Clay Wilson and will be deployed shortly.

Social Media Update: JPD Facebook page has been revised. The new page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofJohnsonPolice>

Training: October - All officers attended duty firearm qualification and are in compliance.
November/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.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Notes: Currently staffed with 6 Volunteers, Trunk or Treat Success, Purchased New Life Safety rope for rescue ,Purchased New set of Irons – Forged Halligan, Specialized Axe. JFD is now an accredited American Heart Association CPR training facility one of only a few in the area. For this we need to purchase a Specialty Mannequin pack - \$725.00. Conducted 13 Annual Inspections to include Willow Creek Hospital, Conducting Hydrant Maintenance as scheduled, Attended NWA Metro Chief Meeting.

Attended Rural Fire Association Meeting – Air Pack Information: It looks like at this time WA Cty is going to spend ARPA money on buying all the Fire Departments the air packs needed. JFD should get 16 and he will know more in the next couple of months.

Training Notes: Conducted 42 hours of New Hire Training with 3 new volunteers and newest Full Time Firefighter. Developing New Training Program for Volunteers as well as a separate program for Full Time Fire Fighters. Captain Zoll scheduled for Officer 1. Captain Brown is currently in Inspector 2 and enrolled in Inspector 3.

4. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 5 (2homes, 1 new commercial building and 1 commercial build out);
Mechanical Permits: 21; Inspections: 24; Finals: 2 (commercial build outs); New Business inspections: 3 (Ozark Iron Gym, Story Law Firm and Edward Jones). I completed MS4 inspections after rain events, held a TPR meeting, inspected all traffic light battery backups (all passed), multiple phone calls and emails with developers, reviewed multiple new construction house plans and commercial plans. Called in possible water leaks to Springdale water. MS4 stormwater zoom meeting and Trunk or treat meeting. Attended my yearly plumbing class.
Code violations: Johnson Mine stormwater violation
Vehicle maintenance: Police vehicles: 1 oil change,1101 front end alignment, 1 axle seal on unit 1107 and warranty on alternator for Unit 1501

5. PUBLIC WORKS

Continued mowing; Picked up trash on side of the roads; Repaired a few potholes; Cleaned chat and sand on Wilkerson; Cut down and removed a tree on razorback greenway trail near the trailhead; and did other maintenance as needed.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Council Member Angela Perea went to Jacksonville on October 28 on behalf of the City and spoke about the park grant being offered by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. She presented a brief, but information filled presentation supporting our application to the Outdoor Recreation Grants Advisory Committee. It will be after the first of the year before we know if we will receive the \$250,000.00 matching grant or not.

Council Member Dan Cross spoke about the possible development at Wilkerson and 1st Street. For their development they need about 100 yards on 1st Street for a turning lane going the opposite direction of the one-way street to access the development. The neighbors in attendance did not seem to have an issue with it. After discussion on how to make an adjustment to the master street plan City Attorney Eichmann said a Resolution could be created to amend the MSP as it was approved by Resolution. Cross said this topic would be voted on at the December 2 Planning Commission meeting but there seemed to be support for it.

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

State Turnback has been received, but Sales Tax has not. We received our November Property Tax bump late this afternoon in the amounts of \$149,529.87 General and \$16,447.89 Street for a total of \$165,977.76.

All the Bond financing paperwork was signed by Mayor Keeney and me on October 26th and the Bond Sale officially closed on November 2, 2021. From this point forward, the \$0.01 sales tax levied in 2005 will be sent to Simmons Bank (our Bond Trustee) to cover any unforeseen shortfall for interest on the Bonds and then forwarded back to the City. No interest is due on the bonds until February 2022, but the withholding begins this month because the Bonds have been issued. And no shortfall is projected in any way, shape, or form; this is just a formality. Municipal Health Benefit Plan premiums will remain the same for 2022. And our deductible will remain \$500.00.

On November 4th, \$11,967.34 was received for RFA Funding from Washington County.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Was going to talk about the Bonds, but those have already been covered.

9. MAYOR

Mayor Keeney has been on a well-deserved vacation hunting elk in Colorado. He asked me to tell you that he has received numerous emails about the success of Trunk or Treat this year, recognizing the significant contribution of Clay Wilson and his family and the Police and Fire Departments. It really was a great night with more participation than ever.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

10. 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Budget and Finance Committee met on October 15 and approved this preliminary budget. Major changes for 2022 include a 6% cost of living adjustment across the board; Fire Department is switching to 48/96 coverage to have the City covered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; purchase a new command vehicle for the Fire Department. Putting the surplus carryover to work we have added some new line items for the Fire Department to provide clarity; LOPFI and taxes will increase due to the increase in wages; \$318,000 for continued engineering on Main Drive project; \$250,000 for the park (moving ahead on the project with or without the grant); \$193,000 for our portion of the engineering on 56th Street; \$300,000

for trail system expenses such as lighting and a possible restroom and \$100,000 transferred to the Street Department for road improvements. Any changes to what you see tonight will be brought to Budget and Finance and the Council's attention before coming up for discussion and voting in December.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

City Clerk Allen asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

City Clerk Allen asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Council Member Cross, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Cross.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Keeney, Mayor