



JOHNSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 08, 2021 at 6:00 PM

JOHNSON CITY HALL

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the May 11, 2021 Council Meeting minutes. 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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Keeney introduced new Police Chief Chris Kelley. Chief Kelley said he was glad to be here. All officers out of FTO and on active patrol now. The Ford Interceptor approved last month has been ordered.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Keeney gave the Fire Department report because Todd Andrews is on shift at Springdale. 25 total calls, 1 was a lady who drove through standing water on Wilkerson and had to be rescued. The department completed the hydrant maintenance on the west side of I-49. Fire Fighter Timothy Smyser obtained his National Registry Emergency Medical Technician.

4. PUBLIC WORKS

The department has been constantly mowing, did an extra limb pick up after storm. They have been maintaining equipment and patching the road when there is time.

5. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Permits: 5 (4 new homes) Mechanical Permits: 2 Inspections: 19 Finals: 2 (1 remodel, 1 commercial) 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 and attended a stormwater compliance meeting. Called in several possible water leaks to Springdale water. Wrote a code violation and turned it over to the P.D. to issue a citation. Vehicle maintenance.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Dan Cross said the Planning Commission approved vacating a utility easement and new cell tower - monopole.

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

Because this is the earliest date in any given month City Council is held, State Turnback, Property Tax and Sales Tax have not yet been received. The May bump in Property Tax was received May 12, 2021. The General Fund received \$143,573.76 and the Street Fund received \$15,792.05. The Municipal League has announced there will be no July price adjustment for MHBF which keeps our costs stable. \$113,000 has not been paid for the sign lawsuit settlement. Mr. Kieklak says it is in process. City Attorney Justin Eichmann said it is normal to work out the language and division of funds on their side.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Most of Arkansas' new laws goes into effect at the end of the month and a number of those will affect City policy - waiting on update from the ARML. An update to our policy handbook will most likely be required. He will keep us posted as we go forward.

9. MAYOR

Mayor Keeney asked the council to amend the budget to include \$113,000 for the settlement of the sign lawsuit. City Clerk Allen asked that it be added to an extraordinary expense line item titled Settlement/Lawsuit for complete transparency. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

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

City Attorney Eichmann, Jennifer Allen, and Mayor Keeney along with the bond counsel have continued getting everything ready for the special election. Working with Hawkins-Weir to create a visual of the University of Arkansas Extension overview getting information ready to go on the website and for mailers that will go out 3 weeks before and 1 week before the election. July 13 is the election date, with early voting July 6-12 early at the Washington County Courthouse.

Arkansas Parks and Tourism has grants available for park updates. A plan for the City Park across the street has been developed with Sarah Geurtz of EDA to replace the broken play

structure and revamp the whole park. This will be revisited with the resolution coming up later tonight.

A blanket Freedom of Information Act request came in for salaries and positions, another on the court side for warrants for the year 2020 was delivered statewide.

Looking forward to having the Special Election done. What we consider phase A includes Wilkerson and the complete intersection at Main Drive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 10. RESOLUTION 2021-2:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JOHNSON TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM FOR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSON. Mayor Keeney said this is a matching grant up to \$250,000. City can match the grant funds with cost of labor, use of equipment, EDA design fees, all called in kind matching or spending funds. This is a tedious application process and there has already been one site visit. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to pay the bills. 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

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 adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Chris Keeney, Mayor