



## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

**Johnson City Hall**

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### **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 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.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **1. September 14, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Hudson.

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

##### **2. September 28, 2021 Special City Council Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021 Special Council Meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea.

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

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

##### **3. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Statistics were provided in the packet. Department updates: Gearing up for Trunk or Treat. Inaugural business meeting with businesses in the City talk about community policing and what it means to the community will be held in November. Still trying to hire for the open position. The Department has a new Nextdoor account – it will only be used for emergency information; revamping Facebook page to include job availability. Chief Kelley asked for the Council's approval to pursue a grant for E-Cite and Washington County Sherriff dispatch CAD Interface - applying to enhance the technology for the citation platforms. E-Cite has been in AR for 8 years and eliminates paper citations. Seamlessly gets information about a person on driver's license scan and goes directly to the tickets and to the court. Grant is for \$60,000 for hardware and all set up materials. Recurring cost is internet connectivity of \$400 per month; paper is \$70. Same platform connects to the Washington County dispatch locator for officers in case of need emergency or whatever. \$7,000 to have it installed upfront and \$800 annual software update cost. Majority of other depts are already tied into the CAD. If grant approved, initial

outlay is up to the city and grant reimburses. If the grant does not come through, would we not want to pursue it anyway? Budget and Finance can make that call. Came to Council because there are continuing costs involved and Chief is requesting permission to chase the grant. Mayor Keeney asked if there was anyone opposed to pursuing the grant. There were none.

#### **4. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

General Notes: Added 3 New Volunteers, Installed Q2 Siren on Engine 2, Installed Lights on Ladder 1, and repaired gasket which was causing Anti-Freeze leak. Received our new uniform shirts. Had a water leak at the department twice and had to have a new water line installed. Conducted 13 pre-plan Inspections, scheduled walk through of Willow Creek Hospital with Fayetteville and Tontitown departments and worked on Hydrant Maintenance.

Training Notes: 470 hours of total training. Conducted 24 hours of New Hire Training with 3 new volunteers and newest Full Time Firefighter. Hosted CPR Re-certification at JFD for FD and PD. Captain Zoll and Dept. Head Wright attended Instructor 1 for a 40-hour class in Farmington. Scheduled training includes Officer 1 class for Captain Zoll and Inspector 2 & 3 classes for Captain Brown. All apparatus and training are OSHA compliant which was an important initial goal when Wright took over.

#### **5. BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Building Permits: 4 (2 homes, 1 new commercial Building and 1 commercial build out. Mechanical Permits: 16, Inspections: 34, Finals: 1 (new home), New Business inspections: 1 (Johnson Market) 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. I called a plumber for water leak at the fire department. Performed vehicle maintenance for the PD.

#### **6. PUBLIC WORKS**

Department has been mowing, cleaning up, took down 4 dead trees from the right-of-way, getting ready for winter, hoping it is not a bad one like last year. All healthy and doing well.

#### **7. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Dan Cross brought up a developer who want to add 6 town homes and commercial at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Wilkerson. Wants to widen 1st street that is runs one way to the east, for 1/2 a block of 2-way traffic on a narrow one-way street. Asked for Council opinion on this scenario. The topic was discussed by members of the Council with a number of concerns expressed and agreeing the City process needs to be followed.

#### **8. CITY CLERK/TREASURER**

State Turnback and Property Tax has been received, but Sales Tax has not. November is when we receive our property tax bump for personal property tax paid in October. Per Resolution 2021-5, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) checking account was opened to track this money separately for auditing purpose. \$1,013.94 was received for this account on 10/4/2021 and the current balance of this account is \$387,637.63. Two large commercial building permits have been issued. The new medical building at Johnson Square is valued at \$5,904,000.00 and the Blue Chip Ice building is valued at \$1,151,244.00. The water line leak at the Fire Department totaled over 500,000 gallons and cost \$6,300.00, but we were able to get the water bill reduced from \$3,612.63 to \$1,659.15 by asking for a leak repair waiver.

## **9. CITY ATTORNEY**

Opioid settlement: City of Johnson party to national class action suit against distributors and Johnson & Johnson - settlement has been reached and vetted. Mayor received a notification of how to do this . Council must approve the settlement. Eichmann is reviewing.

Trail connection - trying to get title to property that runs north south between Main Drive and the trail; runs between Sara and the Meadowview Apartments. Deed gap property, unclaimed. City has maintained it for a long time. The process of securing the property for the City has been done and the heirs were contacted and were willing to provide it as a trail connection, waiting for signatures. Generous donation. Hopefully by next month the McKim Trail Connection will be all taken care of.

## **10. MAYOR**

Working on 2022 budget. Asked for volunteers to be on the Budget and Finance Committee. John Wright, Bob Fant and Angela Perea volunteered.

ARPA money \$387,000+: There has been discussion with the cities of Springdale and Lowell about going into a mutual project. Limited use of the money, approximately \$700K total expected. Mayor Keeney asked for approval of the Council to pledge up to \$500K, have City Attorney Eichmann work up an agreement to pledge \$350 and go up to \$500K if the rest of the money is received. Council OK with working up the agreement before making a motion to proceed. Mayor Keeney will get with Heath Ward of Springdale Water. Securing our water situation is important.

Letter from AR Parks and Heritage Commission stated the City has been selected to go to the final round for the \$250,000 matching park grant with a perfect score. Angela Perea will be going on the City's behalf to present our project.

The refresh on the City website is complete but there is some minor adjusting to do.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **11. RESOLUTION NO. 2021-06: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATE OF PROPERTY TAX FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS FOR THE YEAR 2021 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2022**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-06.

Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

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

### **12. RESOLUTION 2021-7: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HAWKINS-WEIR ENGINEERS, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-07.

Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Cross.

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

Voting Yea: Council Member Burnett, 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 the meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Burnett, Seconded by Council Member Wright.

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

Meeting adj 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC

City Clerk/Treasurer

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Chris Keeney, Mayor