

**CITY GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL  
JEFFERSONVILLE, GEORGIA  
January 14, 2013**

The regular meeting of Council was held this date at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The Invocation was given by Councilperson Victor Jordan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Mayor Shannon Hart, Presiding  
Councilperson Mack Bryant, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Councilperson, Virginia Hollings  
Councilperson, Victor Jordan  
Councilperson, Jeff Lempke  
Councilperson, Richard Stone  
Councilperson, Annie Williams  
Councilperson, Daniel Young

**PRESENTATIONS**

George Lavender spoke before Mayor and Council to discuss water utility issues. Mr. Lavender had an issue with water services, as the property (1094 E. Main St.) in question was his rental property. A delinquent balance was left on his property, which required responsibility of payment before services be furnished to the residence. He questioned why the arrears were being imposed on the new tenant, as he stated she was not responsible for the bill. Mr. Lavender was informed that in the past, policy had not been implemented, in which water service would not be turned on at residences with delinquencies. Additionally, as he could not produce proof of eviction for any of his recent former tenants, the city could not determine the validity of his story. Councilperson Stone made the motion that the delinquent water bill be reduced by the amount of deposit and late fees. Discussion followed. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Young, and carried with 4 council members voting yay. Councilpersons Williams and Hollings abstained. Councilperson Jordan voted nay.

Councilperson Jordan made the motion that in the future when water services are disconnected at rental properties, due to non-payment, the owner be notified by the water clerk. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Bryant, and carried unanimously with all seven council members voting in favor. Councilperson Lempke also made the motion that the deposit amount for utility services be increased from \$50 to \$100, seconded by Councilperson Williams. The motion carried with six council members voting yay. Councilperson Jordan voted nay.

Laura Mathis & Courtney Verdier of MGRC spoke before council to discuss Community Development Block Grants, which is administered on a federal level by HUD, and administered on a state level by the Department of Community Affairs. Funds are allocated throughout the state to communities with populations fewer than 50,000 to fund projects such as infrastructure programs, housing programs, etc. Details about the application process, fund matching, and competition requirements were explained.

Mayor Hart submitted the 'State of the City Address' for record.

### **MINUTES**

December 10, 2012: The minutes were approved upon motion by Councilperson Hollings, seconded by Councilperson Williams, and carried by six council members voting in favor. Councilperson Young abstained from voting, as he was not present December 10, 2012.

December 19, 2012: The minutes were approved upon motion by Councilperson Hollings, seconded by Councilperson Lempke, and carried unanimously with all seven council members voting in favor.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

City Clerk, Monkeea Stateson presented the financial reports for December 2012, as well as the bills paid for December. Details were explained. The motion to accept the financial reports for the December was made by Councilperson Bryant, seconded by Councilperson Stone, and carried unanimously with all seven council members voting in favor.

### **ORDINANCES**

Amendments to add enforcement to Chapter 5 Section 3 addressing derelict property and Chapter 5 Section 4 addressing E-911 compliance was accepted by motion from Councilperson Bryant, seconded by Councilperson Williams, and carried unanimously with all seven council members voting in favor.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Beautification and Recreation: Councilperson Bryant discussed the issue of the poles surrounding the perimeter of the city's park. The poles had been cut down, thus making the concern for capping and fencing of the poles. Councilperson Bryant stated how Mr. John Basley cut the poles down for a reasonable price, and mentioned that Mr. Basley would be willing to cap and fence the poles. Discussion followed. Mayor Hart suggested that Councilperson Bryant check into the pricing of the project.

Budget and Finance: No report.

Building and Grounds: Councilperson Bryant questioned what was going to be done with the Community Center, as the building had been infested with bats. Though the bats have been removed, the building has yet to be cleaned. Discussion followed. Councilperson Jordan stated that EPD should be contacted before proceeding any further. Mayor Hart stated that she would solicit bids, or pursue the issue however Councilperson Bryant saw fit.

Fire Protection: Councilperson Young discussed the fire on N. Main St. a few weeks ago. After investigation, it was determined that the city's water pressure is fine. During the time of the fire, the water tank was low due to consumer usage. The outcome resulted in the city having seemingly low water pressure. Councilperson Young also noted that after speaking to Fire Chief Morgan Slay, the old fire truck cannot be certified to fight fires. It truck is only useful for ceremonial functions. Discussion followed. Mayor Hart noted that the radios that were purchased with grant funds and city funds should remain with only active volunteer fire fighters.

Industrial Development: Councilperson Jordan made mention to the old gym on Bullard Rd., and suggested that a meeting be set up with the county to discuss potentially making the building a recreation center. Discussion followed. Laura Mathis of MGRC stated that the building had been transferred to the Development Authority. Mayor Hart stated that she would pursue the matter.

Planning and Zoning: No report.

Public Safety: Chief Basley was not present to discuss the Public Safety Report before mayor and council. Councilperson Jordan stated that before the city consider relinquishing public safety to Twiggs County, he would like to see a comparison of figures first. Mayor Hart stated that after looking over some of the City Police Summary reports, she was unsure if a Police Department is even needed. Discussion followed.

Rural Development: No report.

Streets and Bridges: Councilperson Bryant mentioned the influx of solicitors on the corner of Hwy 96 and Hwy 80 on Saturdays. He asked how these people are allowed to sell merchandise without a license. Discussion followed. Mayor Hart stated that the matter was an enforcement issue.

Water and Sewer: Councilperson Lempke presented Mr. Lattimore's report in regards to the water and waste water treatment plant. Councilperson Lempke was informed that the meter replacement project had started a week ago. Mr. Sidney Lattimore also spoke about additional details of the elevated tank, as it related to the fire on N. Main Street, as well as other water/waste water issues. Discussion followed. Councilperson Jordan directed the Mayor to the agenda item addressing procedure for off duty workers. He went on to state that contractors should not be utilizing city tools. Mayor Hart asked Ms. Laura Mathis about protocol for part-

time workers being on call. She stated that such employees should be placed on notice. Mr. Lattimore also stated that the standard calls for the base pay of 4 hours, plus 2 hours minimum for response time. No formal decision was made on either issue.

Welfare and Sanitation: Councilperson Hollings stated that the street light was still out on the corner of Soloman and Denis Drive.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

City Clerk, Monkeea Stateson discussed the matter of delinquent property tax sales with Mayor and Council, as to determine the time of year the city wanted to move forward with the delinquent sale process. Mayor Hart asked if council saw fit for the tax sale to occur during the autumn season. Council stated as having no problem with it, but that the matter would be re-addressed in a couple of months.

The next item listed was to seek approval for the purchase of two office computers for city hall, as the two existing computers are outdated and inefficient for the demand of office work. Councilperson Lempke made the motion that two computers be purchased: one being for the city clerk's office, and the other being for the water clerk's office. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Bryant, and unanimously carried by all seven council members voting in favor.

The next item listed was to seek clarification on travel regulations. As there has been confusion determining how an employee is reimbursed for mileage during training, a standard policy is needed. Discussion followed. Council agreed that the City of Jeffersonville would utilize the Ga. Statewide Travel Regulations as policy for travel.

The next item of business was to seek approval for the City Clerk to attend the Clerks' Conference training taking place in Athens, GA on February 10-12, 2013. Discussion followed. Council approved the expenditures necessary for training.

Councilperson Hollings made the motion to go into closed session, seconded by Councilperson Stone.

Councilperson Williams made the motion to come out of closed-session, seconded by Councilperson Hollings and carried by six council members voting in favor. Councilperson Lempke was away from the table at the time.

Councilperson Bryant made the motion to accept Mr. Francisco's resignation as City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hollings, and carried unanimously by all seven council members voting in favor.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilperson Jordan made the motion that all bids be sealed and opened only at council meetings, in the presence of Mayor and Council. The motion was seconded by Councilperson

Williams. Discussion followed. The motion carried by five council members voting in favor. Councilpersons Lempke and Young voted no.

Councilperson Bryant questioned the contract service agreement with T-Lee's Feed and Seed for the hay fields. Discussion followed, as no one was sure whether the contract was for one year or three years. The matter is pending investigation of 2012's minutes.

Councilperson Hollings made the motion that no advertisement be made for any city employee, without Mayor and Council being aware. The motion was seconded by Councilperson young, and unanimously carried by all seven members voting in favor.

Councilperson Williams asked whether any applications were submitted for the position of Police Officer. The city clerk stated that three were submitted by Chief Basley, but the applications were given back to him to obtain updated background consent forms that the county requires. The process will continue once the Chief gets the information needed for the three applications submitted.

Councilperson Young stated that the Chief was specifically told by Councilperson Jordan during a previous council meeting that someone should be here to take his place should he not be able to attend council meetings. Discussion followed. There was no formal decision made.

Councilperson asked again about the projected cost for the County Sheriff to take over public safety. Mayor Hart stated that she would give him estimates the next business day. Discussion followed. No formal decision was made.

There being no further business, Councilperson Williams made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Hollings. All rose in favor.

Monkeea Stateson, City Clerk