

MINUTES

City Council of the City of Jeffersonville
Monday, March 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Jeffersonville, GA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Shannon Hart
Councilperson Mack Bryant
Councilperson Virginia Hollings
Councilperson Victor Jordan
Councilperson Jeff Lempke
Councilperson Richard Stone
Councilperson Annie Williams
Councilperson Daniel Young

GUESTS:

Javoris Burnette, Former Jeffersonville Police Officer
Oscar T. Cobb, Citizen
Otha Height, Citizen
Pope Langstaff, Attorney, City of Jeffersonville

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shannon Hart called the March 11 City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The opening prayer was given by Councilperson Victor Jordan, and Mayor Shannon Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Hart then called the roll and indicated everyone present.

ADDRESSING COUNCIL

The first guest, John Bernard, did not appear as scheduled to discuss buying the riding lawn mower from the city located at the original water treatment plant. Councilperson Mack Bryant made a motion to advertise for bid to sell the Kubota riding lawnmower. Councilperson Daniel Young seconded the motion. After a short discussion on a minimum bid of either \$500 or \$1,000, it was determined that the City should advertise for bids with no minimum bid. After no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Javoris Burnette, a former police officer, said he has not been paid for his comp time amounting to 151 hours. He noted he had his time cards and pay slips to prove he had worked those extra hours. Mayor Hart noted that this was investigated as far back as they could go and found nothing on Mr. Burnette's paystubs that indicated a collection of comp time hours. Mr. Burnette said this comp time accumulated between 2010 and April of 2011. Mr. Burnette gave Mr. Langstaff, the City Attorney, his documentation on the hours he had worked and been paid for. With the Council's approval, Mr. Langstaff agreed to research this matter.

Mr. Height discussed the need for residential street clearing on Wall Street. The Council discussed Wall Street being overgrown and agreed that City maintenance workers must continue the project until Wall Street is clear and safe for vehicle traffic.

Oscar T. Cobb spoke about his property tax bill. Mr. Cobb explained that he had paid for 2011 on October 3, 2011, but his payment had not been posted. He noted he has not yet paid for his 2012 property tax bill. Mayor Hart explained that Mr. Cobb has multiple accounts, and that she would be happy to investigate the matter further with Harris World Computer.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11 AND FEBRUARY 28 2013 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes for the February 11 City Council meeting were unanimously approved with amendments on a motion by Councilperson Mack Bryant and seconded by Councilperson Richard Stone. The minutes for 28 Feb were approved on a motion by Councilperson Virginia Hollings and seconded by Councilperson Mack Bryant. Councilperson Annie Williams abstained because she was absent during that meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Hart reported that progress on the Water Fund Budget is being made by Paul Glick, who began the process with the former City Clerk Stateson. It will take another couple of months before the water enterprise budget is complete and ready for review and adoption.

The General Fund Budget is complete and was presented to the Council at a prior meeting. Financial reports were accepted into the record on a motion by Councilperson Mack Bryant and seconded by Councilperson Richard Stone.

A motion made by Councilperson Victor Jordan and seconded by Councilperson Mack Bryant passed unanimously for the city clerk to present the general fund financial report and the water clerk to present the monthly water enterprise financial report to council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification and Recreation: Councilperson Mack Bryant discussed with the Council of having a “small” football league. Academy Sports is a possible sponsor. Councilperson Bryant stressed liability concerns and that there must be waivers for recreation participants to avoid liability.

Budget and Finance: Councilperson Richard Stone discussed the GEFA Loan and the \$143,761 transfer from GEFA into the City’s Sunrise Bank account. There was discussion of whether the checks for the GEFA money require more than just the Mayor’s signature. Councilperson Victor Jordan felt there should be two signatures. Mayor Hart suggested Councilperson Jordan call GEFA Director, Arlene Durrah, for confirmation of GEFA regulations. Councilperson Jordan agreed to call Ms. Durrah. Mayor Hart will disseminate the GEFA loan bank statement and GEFA Excel spread sheet.

Building and Grounds: No report.

Fire Protection: Councilperson Daniel Young reports that a volunteer who had to leave the fire fighting team still has a key to the fire station. Councilperson Jordan suggests sending the Chief of Police to retrieve the key.

Industrial Development: No report.

Planning and Zoning: No report.

Public Safety: Chief Oscar Basley reports that the department needs two additional police officers. He noted that two certified officers have applied, and mentioned that he is still restricted to light duty. Councilperson Mack Bryant moved and Councilperson Annie Williams 2nd and carried that Mayor and Council interview the two applicants at 6:00 p.m. on March 14, 2013. Brief discussion on a motion to add three police officers and two police cars received no second.

Councilperson Victor Jordan moved and Councilperson Annie Williams seconded that the Police Department should have its own post office box. Councilperson Jordan said this avoids disagreement over whether the Chief or the Police Department receives particular notices. The motion was approved with Councilpersons Lempke and Young opposed.

Inventory for the Police Department was also discussed, specifically inventory in the Evidence Room. Council asked City Attorney to find out what must be done with items that are no longer associated with active, viable cases. Mr. Langstaff will probe further for an answer. A motion was made by Councilperson Jordan, Richard Stone seconded and passed unanimously that all departments should update their inventory annually. It was agreed that inventory should indicate where particular items are located and should also include vehicles.

Rural Development: No report.

Streets and Bridges: Councilperson Mack Bryant brought up the discussion of who would be liable for damage when others worked on City streets. The contractor for projects is required to carry liability insurance. There was also discussion of whether the City owed money to contractor Broderick Stanley who had done some backhoe work for the Town and Garden Country Club on March 3. Mayor Hart stated that there had been a request for persons with backhoes, and that none of the other persons charged anything for the in-kind work. After four months, Mr. Stanley submitted an invoice in July with no explanation of the method for arriving at the bill total. Town and Country or Development Authority funds may have been available in March, but by July, funds availability exhausted. Mayor Hart noted that she wrote to Mr. Stanley addressing the matter, but has not heard anything from him.

Water and Sewer: Consultant Sidney Lattimore presented a report. He noted that there are aerators at the new water treatment plant that need recabling. The recent rains have challenged the influent system, and he said that during the heavy rain, the City's large water/sewer system handled the large capacity; otherwise, the City might have been noncompliant. Mr. Lattimore also stated that he needs help to do checks daily and maintain the system. City employees Larry Wilmore and Chris Harris are well positioned to assume daily maintenance checks and report any anomalies for further inspection. There was a short discussion by Council on the expense of adding staff. Back flow preventers are being installed as new water meters go in. The City's storm drainage system needs clearing of culverts and drainage ditches to prevent unnecessary flooding. Assistance in this effort available through service agreement with county probationers.

Welfare and Sanitation: The question was raised as to whether Advance Disposal should be able to pick up garbage in the City from commercial sites without paying for a business or some other type license. Georgia Municipal Association representative Pam Helton told the Mayor that if Advance Disposal has a license with the State and County, that a City license is unnecessary. The City Attorney Mr. Langstaff will look into this. The point was made that the City's current residential hauler, Evans Disposal, has a city business license.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Gift of Life Day is scheduled by the American Red Cross to be held at City Hall on March 25 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- B. Councilperson Jeff Lempke made a motion and Councilperson Richard Stone seconded to select Chris Nelson as City Clerk. The motion carried 4-2, with one abstention. The motion also adds a second and third choice to be hired if Mr. Nelson does not accept the position; these candidates are Mr. Chris Bowen, third candidate, Mr. Skip Disbennet. The approvals for candidates are for a period of six months.

Councilperson Victor Jordan made a motion to go into Closed Session for Personnel matters with Councilperson Mack Bryant seconding. The motion carried unanimously, and Council went into Closed Executive Session.

RECONVENE MARCH 11 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

After Closed Executive Session, Councilperson Virginia Hollings moved and Councilperson Jeff Lempke seconded that the Council reconvene: All in favor.

Compensation for the City Clerk was approved to begin at \$30,000 annually, with a first evaluation at 90 days, then a second evaluation at six months on a motion by Councilperson Hollings and seconded by Councilperson Stone.

- C. Councilperson Virginia Hollings moved and Councilperson Mack Bryant seconded a motion to adopt the 2012 budget. Motion approved. Councilperson Victor Jordan moved and Councilperson Mack Bryant seconded a motion to adopt the 2013 budget. Motion approved. City budgets were adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. The lease for the hayfield with Tommy Smith dba T Lee's Feed and Seed to pay \$5 per each 4 x 5 rolled bale with irrigated potential of \$1200 per cutting was approved for three years.
- B. After a lengthy discussion, Councilperson Victor Jordan moved and Councilperson Mack Bryant seconded a motion to accept the bid by Sam Hall for two manhole repairs for \$1,850 each and modify 12 curb inlets on North Railroad Street for \$1,450. The measure was not approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Victor Jordan moved to adjourn the March 11 Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Richard Stone: All in favor.

The March 11 meeting of the Jeffersonville City Council adjourned at 8:25 p.m.