

MINUTES

City Council of the City of Jeffersonville
Monday, September 9, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Jeffersonville, GA

MEMBERS:

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

GUESTS:

Oscar Basley, Chief of Police
Roy Bland, Dublin Asphalt
Pope Langstaff, City Attorney
Peter Schoenauer, PE, Tidewater Engineering
Robert Smith, Middle Georgia Regional Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shannon Hart called the September 9, City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

ROLL CALL

Mayor Hart then called the roll and noted that all members were present.

GUESTS

Variance requests

Ms. Charlene Kipe of Jeffersonville Planning and Zoning informed Council that the engineering firm planning the forthcoming Family Dollar retail store requested two variances. Planning and Zoning ordinances call for three parking spaces for every 200 square feet, and the engineering firm requested a variance for 31 parking spaces, including handicapped parking and loading spaces. Ordinances prescribing side setback call for a 25 foot setback, and Tidewater Engineering was requesting a variance for a 12 foot setback in one corner. Councilman Jordan expressed concern with the water and sewer service to the area. Mr. Schoenauer replied that he had spoken with the City's water contractor Sidney Lattimore and he had shown him where the store planned to tie on the gravity fed sewer line. Mr. Lattimore had relayed that there were some potential issues with the sewer system in that area, but he did not have a problem with the store tying into the line. Mr. Schoenauer noted that there would be no DOT permitting required for the water meter, and that he was working with DOT to acquire a permit for the driveway. Councilman Jordan clarified that his concerns were for possible damage to the water and sewer system during construction. Mr. Schoenauer assured Council that any damage to utilities would be repaired. Councilman Lempke noted that the gravity on the sewer line in that location was not optimal, and asked if the store would require a lift station. Mr. Schoenauer said that he had run the numbers, and the store would have no problem reaching the gravity line. Councilman Bryant inquired if the city attorney had looked over the documents. Mr. Langstaff remarked that he had not, and asked if the adjacent property owner had been notified of the variance requests. Ms. Kipe replied that the owner was aware of the development, but had not been informed of the variance requests. Councilman Bryant motioned to accept the variance requests from Tidewater Engineering, seconded by Councilman Stone. The vote was six for the motion, and Councilperson Hollings against.

Milled asphalt

Mayor Hart notified Council that Mr. Bland had stopped by City Hall earlier that day. He informed the Mayor that his company sells milled asphalt by the truckload, usually 22-24 tons. The cost for a truckload is \$600.00. Councilman Jordan noted that he had asked Mr. Bland to stop by after seeing his presentation to the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 12, 2013 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Bryant motioned to accept the minutes of the August 12th City Council Meeting into the record, seconded by Councilman Stone. The motion passed with six votes, Councilman Young abstained due to his absence at the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR AUGUST 2013

For the month of August, water clerk Shakela Durham-Height reported that the General Fund account at CB&T, account ending 281, began the month with \$44,803.49. There was one deposit of \$11,829.64 and 15 withdrawals of \$38,562.64, and it ended the month with \$18,070.49. At Bank of Dudley, account ending 831, the General Fund began August with \$32,869.24. There were four deposits of \$66,666.73 and 42 withdrawals of \$74,872.96, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$24,663.01. The two accounts, when added together, leave a total of \$42,733.50.

The account for Water Fund at CB&T, account ending 299, began the month with \$16,115.53. There were no deposits and 10 withdrawals of \$15,507.47, and it ended the month with \$608.06. At Bank of Dudley, account ending 849, the Water Fund began August with \$12,234.19. There were 23 deposits of \$35,985.68 and 16 withdrawals of \$21,803.68, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$26,416.19. The two accounts, when added together, leave a total of \$27,024.25.

The account for Recorder's Court at CB&T, account ending 356, began the month with \$5,536.16. There were no deposits or withdrawals, and it ended the month with \$5,536.16. At Bank of Dudley, account ending 052, Recorder's Court began August with \$5,200.00. There was one deposit of \$531.00 and six withdrawals of \$999.57, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$4,731.43. The two accounts, when added together, leave a total of \$10,311.66.

For the check registry supplemental, checks were written off the General Fund totaling \$68,038.67. Checks written off the Recorder's Court totaled \$638.25. Checks written off the Water Department totaled \$23,789.40. Total checks written in August were \$92,466.32. For the month of August, the General Fund received revenue of \$16,798.03. For the month of August, Recorder's Court received revenue of \$917.00. The City spent a total of \$75.00 on plumbing contractors for the month of August.

Mayor Hart reported that there had been one check written off the GEFA account during the month of August, to Elmo A. Richardson for \$3,064.61. She noted that the Department of Transportation required the City to use all of its contributed funds, \$50,000.00, and the City had done so. The only funding remaining for the Watson Road project would be coming from the Department of Community Affairs, and should be arriving soon.

Councilman Jordan requested that information on the City's CD's be presented in future financial reports.

Councilperson Hollings motioned to accept the financial reports, seconded by Councilperson Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification and Recreation: Councilman Bryant asked Mayor Hart if he should contact Commissioner Bryant to get prisoners to help clean up the City park. Mayor Hart welcomed the idea.

Budget and Finance: Councilman Stone had nothing further to report.

Building and Grounds: Councilman Jordan had nothing to report.

Fire Protection: Councilman Daniel Young had nothing to report. Councilperson Williams inquired about repairs to the fire truck. Mayor Hart replied that McNeal Firetruck estimated the repairs would be \$2,456.25. In response to queries about the repair specifics, Mayor Hart noted that the repairs would consist of an impellor shaft, bearings, oil seal, SS pin, and a Darley slinger and primer. Councilman Bryant remarked that the fire truck had not been checked in about ten years. Councilman Lempke was concerned that the people operating the truck were not trained for it. Councilman Bryant motioned to accept the bid to repair the fire truck from McNeal Firetruck, seconded by Councilperson Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

Industrial Development: Councilperson Williams had nothing to report.

Planning and Zoning: Councilman Stone noted that Council had already covered all the Planning and Zoning concerns.

Public Safety: Mayor Hart noted in Council's packets the Public Safety report; there has been an increase in number of calls and citations. She also noted that Robert Smith of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) needed to address Council about pre-disaster mitigation plan.

Mr. Smith informed Council that the MGRC had worked with the Twiggs County EMA to create a pre-disaster plan. The plan would cover the Cities of Jeffersonville and Danville and Twiggs County. The plan is required by both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for cities and counties to receive funding after a disaster. The plan assessed the resources that cities and counties had to respond to disasters.

Councilperson Hollings motioned to accept the pre-disaster mitigation plan developed by the MGRC, seconded by Councilman Stone. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Bryant inquired when the next safety meeting would occur. Councilman Lempke noted that he was waiting on invoices from Chief Basley so that he could get grant money for the City from the Local Government Risk Management Service.

Rural Development: Councilperson Williams reported that she had nothing to bring before Council at this time.

Streets and Bridges: Councilman Bryant noted the quotes in the Councilmember's packets. The quotes were for industrial mower, hedge trimmers and push mowers. Mayor Hart inquired if the missing push mower had been located, and Councilman Bryant replied that he believed that mower had been gone for a year. Councilman Lempke noted that the City used to have a hedge trimmer, but that it had "walked off" as well. Mayor Hart inquired if anyone had checked with Robins Air Force Base for any surplus mowing equipment. Councilman Jordan replied that those requests had to come from the Police Department, and that he had relayed the information but no action had been taken. Councilman Bryant remarked that he would speak with Major Jamie McDaniel at the Twiggs Co. Sheriff's Department about the issue. Councilman Lempke opined that Council might wait to make a decision on the mowers until reliable personnel could be hired. Councilman Bryant noted that the mowers need to be purchased before next spring. Councilman Jordan reminded Council that the City was paying repair costs on the current mowers every month. Councilman Young asked if the City could sell the older lawnmower that no longer works. There followed discussion about what amount the City would receive for the mower.

Councilperson Williams informed Council that a non-profit group was requesting permission to host an Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. She noted that in the past, the walk went from Railroad St. to Magnolia St. to MLK Boulevard. She stated that she would get the final route from the group before the October 12th event. Councilman Bryant motioned to approve the Awareness Walk, seconded by Councilperson Hollings. Councilperson Williams added that the walk would begin at 8:00 am. A vote was taken on the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilman Jordan clarified that the asphalt mentioned earlier was not hot asphalt, but recycled and ground-up. He explained that this was the reason for such a low price, and that the City would be able to stockpile it and use it as needed. Councilman Lempke questioned whether the crushed asphalt would work any better than crush-and-run.

Water and Sewer: Mayor Hart noted that the lease agreement with GMA for the software upgrade to City utility and property tax systems required a vote by Council. Councilman Bryant motioned to accept the 4-year GMA lease agreement, seconded by Councilman Lempke. The motion passed with six votes, Councilman Jordan abstaining.

Councilperson Hollings wished to revisit the crushed asphalt. Councilman Jordan noted that the City would not have to buy an entire truckload, but that it could purchase the asphalt by the bucketful if necessary. There was general agreement to try two tons of the milled asphalt, to be transported in the City's trailer and stored at the old wastewater treatment plant.

Councilman Lempke noted that well#1 was being reinstalled and should be working shortly. He reported that the City was trying to find a used pump to replace the damaged unit at the Solomon Drive lift station, which he felt would be less expensive in the long run. Councilman Jordan reminded Council that the EPD would fine the City if the remaining pump at Solomon Drive

went out and sewage spilled into the creek. He also noted that there was a leak on Solomon Drive across from the Butler residence. Chief Basley explained to Council that the leak was at 332 Solomon Drive, in front of Ms. Easley's house. Mayor Hart clarified that the broken line was a 2" service line that had been ruptured by a tree root, and that Mr. Warren had repaired it.

Councilman Jordan expressed concerns that all of the residential meters had not been changed to the new radio-read meters. He informed Council that he had checked behind the contractors, and he expected them to perform the work the City was paying them for.

Welfare and Sanitation: Councilman Richard Stone stated that he did not have anything at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nuisance dogs

Councilman Jordan noted that a resident who walks to and from work has been harassed by nuisance dogs. Mayor Hart replied that the homeowners had been notified in writing that the animals must be kept on their property. She also observed that the police could not write a citation without witnessing the loose animals. Chief Basley informed Council that his department had been unable to speak with the dogs' owner, as no one answers the door. Councilman Jordan mentioned that there was a dog case from the same area set before the Municipal Court Judge that was awaiting resolution. Councilman Young suggested speaking with Twiggs County to see what steps the County has taken to control its nuisance dogs.

B. SPLOST update

Mr. Langstaff informed Council that the County was required to meet with the City prior to adding a SPLOST on the ballot. He noted that the meeting had occurred at 4:00 p.m. that day. Mr. Langstaff stated that the County was not required to come to an agreement with the City to add a SPLOST, but that if such an agreement was not reached, the County was limited as to what it could spend the funds on. He then briefly explained the different ways a SPLOST could play out based on different levels of projects. He requested a list of projects from Council to add to the SPLOST. After discussion of different topics, Council decided to add the following: water production and treatment improvements, general obligation debt, paving and repair of city streets, and renovation of City buildings. General obligation debt was estimated at over \$2 million, and street improvements were estimated at \$100,000, renovation of City buildings was estimated at \$250,000, and water improvements were estimated at \$70,000. Councilperson Hollings

motioned to have the City attorney bring the discussed items to his meeting with the County attorney, seconded by Councilman Young. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Jordan made a motion to have the City clerk research financing options for the purchase of the previously discussed commercial mowers at Jack's Saw Shop, seconded by Councilman Young. The motion was then amended to include financing for all three of the quotes presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hart noted that on September 19th at 6:00 P.M. the City would have its first workshop to update the City Code and Charter. Councilperson Williams requested copies of the current Code and Charter for review.

There being no further New Business, Councilman Young moved to go into Closed Session for personnel discussion with Councilperson Hollings seconding. The motion carried unanimously, and Council went into Closed Executive Session.

RECONVENE SEPTEMBER 9, CITY COUNCIL MEETING

After Closed Executive Session, Councilperson Williams moved and Councilman Stone seconded that Council reconvene: all in favor.

Councilperson Hollings moved that Mr. Larry Wilmore be reinstated at his job position, seconded by Councilperson Williams. The vote was Councilpersons Hollings, Jordan, and Williams for the motion, Councilmen Lempke, Stone, and Young against, and Councilman Bryant abstaining. The vote being tied, Mayor Hart broke the tie by voting against the motion, and the motion failed to pass.

Councilperson Williams motioned that the City advertise for the part-time municipal clerk position, seconded by Councilman Jordan. The motion passed with five votes, Councilmen Young and Lempke voting nay.

Councilperson Williams motioned to delay the use of part-time help at City Hall. After discussion, the motion was seconded by Councilperson Hollings. The motion did not carry, with Councilperson Williams voting for and six voting against.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Jordan moved to adjourn the September 9, 2013 Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Lempke: all in favor.

After no further business, the September 9th meeting of the Jeffersonville City Council adjourned at 8:35 p.m.