

MINUTES

City Council of the City of Jeffersonville
Monday, February 10, 2014, 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:

Denise Brookins-Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Velva Hicks-Twiggs County Band
Oscar Basley, Chief of Police
Pope Langstaff, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shannon Hart called the February 10 City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The opening prayer was given by Councilman Daniel Young, 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

Band Fundraiser

Ms. Velva Hicks requested that the Twiggs County High School Band be allowed to raise money through solicitation at the four-way stop. She requested the date of Saturday, February 15. Councilman Jordan verified that adults and not school children would be approaching vehicles. Councilperson Hollings requested that the band use the City's safety vests. Ms. Hicks was given Chief Basley's contact information to procure the vests. Ms. Hicks explained that the fundraiser was for a trip to Disney World as a reward for the band's accomplishments. Councilman Jordan motioned that the Twiggs County High School Band be allowed to perform a fundraiser on Saturday, February 15, seconded by Councilperson Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilperson Hollings motioned to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2014 City Council meeting into the record. Councilman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23 BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

Councilperson Hollings motioned to accept the minutes from the January 23, 2014 Budget Hearing into the record. Councilman Lempke seconded the motion. The motion passed with six votes, Councilperson Williams abstained due to her absence at that meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2014

The General Fund account ending 9831, began the month with \$55,743.68. There were credits of \$78,544.54 and debits of \$49,067.86, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$85,220.36.

The Water Fund account ending 9849, began the month with \$19,859.59. There were credits of \$44,512.69 and debits of \$40,972.55, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$23,399.73.

The Recorder's Court account ending 0052, began the month with \$14,301.24. There were credits of \$1,873.50 and debits of \$3,813.00, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$12,361.74.

For the check registry supplemental, checks were written off the General Fund totaling \$40,690.41. Checks written off the Recorder's Court totaled \$1,565.81. Checks written off the Water Department totaled \$24,747.69. Total checks written in November were \$67,003.91.

For the month of January, the General Fund received revenue of \$44,745.78, and Recorder's court received revenue of \$1,488.50. Total plumbing expense for November totaled \$320.00.

Councilman Bryant motioned to accept the financial reports, seconded by Councilman Young. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilperson Hollings questioned whether the Minutes from the January 23 Budget Hearing were valid since they did not appear on the agenda. Mr. Langstaff replied that Council can handle items that do not appear on the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification and Recreation: Councilman Bryant had nothing to report at this time.

Budget and Finance: Councilman Stone reminded Council that with spring approaching it would be a good idea to look into lawn equipment. Mayor Hart notified Council that the City was a member of the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) network which distributes surplus federal property, and the City should look at what DOAS had to offer.

Building and Grounds: Councilman Jordan had nothing to report at this time.

Fire Protection: Councilman Young had reminded Council that he would be meeting with the volunteer Fire Department to work out some issues. Councilman Stone inquired about raising the pay for the volunteer firefighters. Councilman Jordan asked about the ambulance service that may be moving to the City. Councilman Young replied that he informed Twiggs County Commission Chairman Ken Fowler that the City would be happy to assist the County with locating an ambulance service.

Industrial Development: Councilman Jordan requested terms for the City's Development Authority board members. Mayor Hart replied that she would try to get the information for him.

Planning and Zoning: Councilman Stone reported that the City had an offer to purchase the City's surplus property near Spring Valley. Mr. Langstaff briefed Council about the requirements for selling land. Mayor Hart indicated that advertising the property would be a good idea.

Public Safety: Lieutenant (Lt.) Melvin Yates presented the Public Safety report. He noted that the Police Department needed equipment. Lt. Yates had a quote from DGG Taser for three Tasers. He also noted that the department needed a part-time officer, and that an advertisement should be placed on GLGA. Lt. Yates stressed that the department needed new vehicles and he had found some 2013 Dodge Chargers for \$21,175. This would be a savings of about \$2,900 from the State of Georgia contract. He added that for about \$5,300, the cars could be fully equipped. Lt. Yates also requested that Chief Basley's vehicle have lights installed and graphics applied. The department would also require ammunition for March qualifying and for patrol duty. He also asked for ID badges, window tinting for the department, and a mobile radio for Chief's vehicle. He noted that his vehicle spotlight had been installed that day, and the spotlight for Chief's vehicle was ready. Councilman Lempke noted that the Police Department had to operate within the approved budget and should look at grant opportunities. Lt. Yates replied that the department would probably be unable to receive grants in the near future, but that the City could adopt State violations as local ordinances, so that the revenue would not leave the City.

Councilman Lempke mentioned that the safety policies he has in place in Marshallville could translate to Jeffersonville. Councilperson Hollings reminded that items like bulletproof vests should not wait on grant opportunities. Discussion followed about the City adopting the Uniform Rules of the Road. Councilman Jordan asked if there was a maximum mileage for police vehicles. Mr. Langstaff replied that there may be some public safety regulations regarding that, but he was not aware of them. Mayor Hart asked if there were any repairs on the department's vehicles and Lt. Yates replied that there were not. Councilperson Hollings inquired if the Dodge Chargers would be any larger than the current vehicles, and Lt. Yates responded that they had more leg room. Councilman Jordan stated he wanted the two vehicles purchased under Georgia Municipal Association's financing.

Councilman Bryant motioned to provide the Police Department with bulletproof vests at \$800.00 per vest, seconded by Councilperson Hollings. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Jordan motioned to purchase the three Tasers for the Police Department for \$4,357.98, seconded by Councilman Bryant. The motion passed unanimously.

Lt. Yates noted that the Police Department would require ammunition for duty and qualifying. Mayor Hart noted that Council approval would not be needed for purchases under \$500. Councilman Lempke asked that the department purchase the ammunition well before qualifying, so as not to be rushed like last year. He also requested that the reflective rain jackets receipts be kept for grant reimbursement.

Councilman Bryant asked about hiring the part-time police officer applicant. Councilman Stone suggested setting up an interview time. Mayor Hart reminded Council that members should not vote on hiring close relatives. Councilman Jordan noted that he had recused himself the last time this applicant came before Council and would do so again. Councilman Stone reiterated that Council should find a time to interview the applicant.

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

Streets and Bridges: Councilman Bryant questioned two bills for repair work performed on Richard Drive. Councilman Lempke replied that one was Doyle Stone's bill, and the other was Robert Warren. Councilperson Hollings inquired about digging being done on East Main. Mr. Nelson replied that a sewer tap was being performed in the area. Councilman Lempke noted that Mr. Warren thought there was a previous tap, and was trying to locate it. Councilperson Hollings noted that the road had been dug up. Mr. Nelson stated that he had been gathering quotes to replace many of the faded street and stop signs. He advised that the lowest price was from RedBud Signs for around \$1,100. Councilman Lempke suggested using Middle Georgia Signs and Georgia Correctional Industries.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Lempke reported that a flow meter at the wastewater plant was malfunctioning, but that it should still be under warranty. He also wanted to know if there was an alternate water fee for temporary usage. Mayor Hart replied that there was not.

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

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2014 Budget

Mr. Nelson noted that the 2014 Budget would need to be sent to the appropriate State agencies, and that all of the required notices and hearings had been performed. Councilman Young motioned and Councilman Lempke seconded to approve the advertised 2014 budget. The motioned passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Trash fees

Mr. Nelson informed Council that the City's contract with Evans Disposal included a clause that allows Evans to raise its collection rate by 5% each November, and that they had done so. The charge per bin had been \$6.59 and had increased to \$6.92. He noted that the City acted as a flow-through entity between Evans Disposal and the citizens of Jeffersonville, and that the City billing should reflect the cost that it was billed. Councilman Jordan questioned whether Evans Disposal had the right to raise its fees. Mr. Langstaff advised that Council should vote on whether to approve the increased fees to the residents. Councilman Lempke motioned to increase the cost to trash customers to meet the new Evans Disposal rate, provided the contract allowed for such an increase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stone. Councilman Jordan suggested checking the contract again, remembering that the representative from Evans Disposal had promised no increase for two to three years. Councilman Lempke asked to look at the contract. The motion was voted on and did not carry with Councilpersons Bryant, Hollings, Jordan, and Williams voting against. Councilperson Hollings asked what would happen since the motion failed, and Mr. Nelson replied that the Water Department would be losing about \$280 per month until the rates were changed.

B. 2014-2015 City Insurance

Mr. Nelson directed Council to the proposed policy from McNeal Agency included in their packets. He explained that Mr. Powell could not be there due to a medical procedure

and summarized the proposed policy. Due to the claims against the City for the previous year, the policy premium had increased to \$20,046.00. Councilman Stone questioned if the Earl Waller claim was still open, and Mr. Nelson replied that it was. Councilman Lempke suggested getting quotes from other companies, and Mayor Hart noted that the City's insurance would expire soon and quotes may not be obtained in time. Mr. Nelson noted that the 2014 premium was still much less than the 2011 premium of \$27,000.00. Councilman Jordan questioned the veracity of the listed property. Councilperson Williams noted that Mr. Campos should have a Georgia driver's license and Mr. Nelson replied that he would check with Mr. Campos on that. Mr. Nelson requested updates from Council on insured property that the City no longer possessed. Mayor Hart noted that Council would have to have a called meeting before the next scheduled meeting to ensure that the insurance did not run out.

C. CDBG Engineer Resolution

Denise Brookins from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission noted that two engineers had responded to the City's Request for Quotation: Elmo A. Richardson Consulting Engineers and Ocmulgee Engineers. Both firms had years of experience with CDBG's. The main difference was the prior experience with the City, which Richardson had. Ms. Brookins noted that there was no charge for the preliminary engineering, but Council would need to decide on what firm to use. Councilman Lempke motioned to accept the Richardson Engineering firm for the City's CDBG, seconded by Councilman Young. Councilperson Williams asked those present for the bid opening which firm was best suited. Councilman Bryant replied that Mr. Richardson would be the best. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further New Business, Councilman Jordan moved to go into closed session for the purpose of personnel, seconded by Councilman Young. The motion carried unanimously and Council went into Closed Executive Session.

RECONVENE FEBRUARY 10 COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Jordan motioned and Councilperson Williams seconded that Council reconvene: All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Stone moved to adjourn the February 10, 2013 Council Meeting, seconded by Councilperson Hollings: all in favor.

After no further business, the February 10 meeting of the Jeffersonville City Council adjourned at 7:48 p.m.