

MINUTES

City Council of the City of Jeffersonville
Monday, January 13, 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:

Washington Sinclair
Denise Brookins-Middle Georgia Regional Commission
Oscar Basley, Chief of Police
Pope Langstaff, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shannon Hart called the January 13 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 Councilman Bryant was absent.

GUESTS

MLK Sidewalks

Mr. Washington Sinclair complained that the City clerk had required a topic to address Council. He stated that he should not have to provide a topic. Councilperson Hollings informed Mr. Sinclair is was part of the City clerk's job to require a topic from all speakers. At this time Councilman Bryant arrived. Mr. Sinclair then informed Council he had spoken with Representative Epps and Senator Lucas who informed him that to extend MLK Boulevard, Council would need to hand the matter over to them; the sidewalks along MLK were solely the responsibility of the City. Councilman Jordan mentioned he would speak with the Senator and Representative and see what could be done.

2014 CDBG

Denise Brookins reminded Council of their interest in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for water infrastructure. She noted both the money spent on infrastructure and the fires in the area have made the City's CDBG a prime candidate. She again noted that projects providing a City-wide impact were more likely to receive funding. The next step in the process was to collect proposals from area engineers, and informed Council that an advertisement had been placed in the paper and requests had been sent to ten engineering firms. A Low-Middle Income (LMI) survey would be the next step, and she would require assistance from Council with the surveying. She would have to receive a minimum of 250 survey responses. She noted the process also required a Resolution to be passed. Councilman Bryant asked about adding the MLK Sidewalks to the CDBG. Ms. Brookins replied that adding sidewalks would make the CDBG less likely to be awarded unless the City could provide proof of accidents caused by their lack. She mentioned the City would have a better chance pursuing private funding. She mentioned other government funding sources for sidewalks, but noted that these sources did not have a budget in place at this time.

Councilman Bryant motioned to approve the Resolution to submit the CDBG for the purpose of improving water infrastructure. Councilperson Hollings seconded the motion. Councilman Jordan verified that each of the projects listed would receive the funding listed, and Ms. Brookins replied that they would.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2013 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Stone motioned to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2013 City Council meeting into the record. Councilman Young seconded the motion. The motion passed with six votes, Councilman Jordan opposed due to the back and forth of the redistricting votes.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2013 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilperson Hollings motioned to accept the minutes from the December 17, 2013 City Council meeting into the record. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed with four votes, Councilpersons Lempke and Williams abstained due to their absence from the meeting. Councilman Bryant opposed.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 23, 2013 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Lempke motioned to accept the minutes from the December 23, 2013 City Council meeting into the record. Councilman Young seconded the motion. The motion passed with five votes, Councilperson Williams abstained due to her absence from the meeting. Councilman Bryant opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 2013

The General Fund account ending 9831, began the month with \$59,541.84. There were credits of \$57,995.75 and debits of \$61,793.91, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$55,743.68.

The Water Fund account ending 9849, began the month with \$23,251.22. There were credits of \$38,552.29 and debits of \$41,943.92, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$19,859.59.

The account for Recorder's Court ending 0052, began the month with \$11,876.55. There were credits of \$2,472.50 and debits of \$47.81, leaving the account with an ending balance of \$14,301.24.

For the check registry supplemental, checks were written off the General Fund totaling \$68,357.81. Checks written off the Recorder's Court totaled \$3,491.35. Checks written off the Water Department totaled \$19,752.84. Total checks written in December were \$91,602.00.

For the month of December, the General Fund received revenue of \$85,507.49 and Recorder's Court received revenue of \$1,592.50. The City spent a total of \$50.00 on plumbing contractors for the month of December.

Councilman Lempke motioned to accept the financial reports with necessary corrections, seconded by Councilperson Hollings. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Budget and Finance: Councilman Stone said that he had nothing to report at this time.

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

Fire Protection: Councilman Young had nothing to report at this time.

Industrial Development: Councilperson Williams had nothing to report at this time.

Planning and Zoning: Councilman Stone had nothing to report at this time.

Public Safety: Councilman Jordan informed Council that Chief Basley had requested that the Police Department join a network of police agencies that would assist each member in conducting road blocks. The only associated costs would be the loaning of officers to other agencies when those agencies conducted their road blocks. Councilman Young motioned that the Police Department join the network, seconded by Councilman Jordan. The motion passed unanimously. Chief Basley mentioned he had another topic for closed session. Councilman Jordan asked what shape the Department's vehicles were in. Chief Basley replied that the mileage was high on the vehicles, but he was more concerned about getting spotlights for the cars. Councilman Jordan asked if a request had been put in, and Chief Basley replied that it had not been. Mayor Hart remarked that the public safety grants could be used to offset the costs of some items. Chief Basley remarked that the Department also required a Taser, reminding Council about an altercation that had taken place in December. Councilperson Hollings asked if Chief Basley had a price for the spotlights, and Sargent Yates replied it would be about \$250 per car installed. Councilman Jordan requested a list of what items were needed for the Police Department as soon as possible. Councilman Stone asked if the reserve officer had started yet. Chief Basley replied that his full-time job would not allow him to participate in the program. Councilman Bryant asked about the open part-time position. Chief Basley responded that he still had one application on file, and he had heard no response from the last advertisement. Councilman Bryant remarked the City should provide Officer Knott with a vehicle that was large enough for him. Discussion followed about the purchasing and use of vehicles. Chief Basley informed that he had contacted Matt Williams at the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) regarding financing. Councilperson Hollings requested a copy of the financing figures when they come in. Councilman Jordan reminded Council the City had liquidated two vehicles from the Police Department that had not been replaced.

Rural Development: Councilperson Williams reported she had nothing to bring before Council at this time. Councilman Jordan asked about the garlic drying business on Bullard Road. Councilman Young replied that the building had been conditionally zoned commercial. The owner, Mr. Earl Waller lives outside the City and has been growing mushrooms, garlic, and

onions for two years. Councilperson Hollings asked whether the business was operating in the City. Councilman Young mentioned he had sent Sargent Yates to inspect the business and concluded that it was not yet in operation. Councilman Jordan noted that if the business is not operable, Mr. Waller should take his sign down.

Streets and Bridges: Councilman Bryant did not have anything to report at this time. Councilman Young replied that Francis Steele on Magnolia Street had complained that her neighbor was driving over the right-of-way where water and wastewater pipes were located, and water was now pooling on her property. Mr. Campos agreed to look at the location tomorrow.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Lempke noted that there was a major water leak on Hwy 96 and Richard Drive, but that it had been repaired. Councilman Jordan asked for clarification on the sewer issue at Everett Circle. Waterworks Director Tony Campos stated that there was a backup in the sewer line, and Watson Plumbing had been called out to clean the line. He noted that a tree had grown over the sewer line and the roots had blocked the flow. The tree has since been taken down and the line has been repaired.

Mayor Hart informed Council that the Water Audit for Jeffersonville would take place in 2014. Councilman Young inquired about the accessibility of some of the City's manholes. Mr. Campos replied that he could clear a path around the manholes, but without large machinery it would be very time consuming. Councilman Jordan asked about the water keys used to turn water meters on and off. Mr. Campos replied that he needed heavier duty rebar for the water keys, noting that the ones he has sometimes bend and warp when turning on meters.

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

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2014 Budget

City Clerk Christopher Nelson presented two budgets to Council. He noted that the main difference was the millage rate. One budget had a millage rate of 9.6% and the other was at 10%. The two budgets were different in the areas of Public Safety and Public Works. Mr. Nelson informed Council that the City must hold a Budget hearing so that the public can give their input. The hearing must be advertised at least a week in advance. The City must also advertise when the budget will be voted on. Mr. Nelson assured Council that the budget can be amended at any time with an ordinance or resolution. Concerns were raised about the budgeted amount for the public library. Councilman Lempke motioned that the City present the 9.6% millage rate budget for public review, seconded by Councilman Jordan. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Employee training

Mayor Hart noted the training schedule included in Council packets. Training consisted of Basic Wastewater training for Tony Campos, Court Clerk certification for Joann Jordan, and the Clerk's Conference for Christopher Nelson. Mr. Nelson also requested to attend a four-day Economic Development Academy. Ms. Brookins remarked that the class was a great way to learn about grant opportunities, and network with other local governments. Councilman Bryant suggested that Council attend the Economic Development class. Councilman Jordan motioned that all employees and Council be allowed to attend the requested classes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bryant and passed unanimously.

Councilman Jordan noted that Representative Epps and Senator Lucas had recently come to the County Courthouse to discuss local concerns. He stated that a letter had been sent to the City about the event, and wanted to know why he had not been informed. Mayor Hart and Mr. Nelson replied that this letter had not come through their respective offices. Councilperson Williams noted that she had heard the County Clerk was to have contacted the City about the meeting.

There being no further new business, Councilman Bryant moved to go into Closed Executive Session for personnel discussion with Councilman Stone seconding. The motion carried unanimously and Council went into Closed Executive Session.

RECONVENE JANUARY 13 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

Councilperson Williams motioned that Officer Knott be promoted to Sargent with a \$1.00/hour raise and Sargent Yates be promoted to Lieutenant with a \$1.00/hour raise. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stone, and passed unanimously.

Councilman Young asked for verification that any employee called in on their off hours would be paid a minimum of two hours. Councilperson Hollings requested Mr. Campos search the fire station for "Water on Road" caution signs, and mentioned that Chief Basley would assist him with the search. Mayor Hart noted Council needed to schedule at date to perform the year-end performance evaluations for each full-time employee. Councilman Young requested a meeting with the Fire Protection Committee to discuss personnel, clean up, and funding. Mr. Nelson requested Council set a date to hold the Budget Hearing. Council decided to hold both the

Budget hearing and employee evaluations on January 23, with evaluations beginning at 5:00 p.m., and the hearing beginning at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bryant moved to adjourn the January 13, 2013 Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Jordan: all in favor.

After no further business, the January 13 meeting of the Jeffersonville City Council adjourned at 7:30 p.m.