



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 13 , 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The Jackson City Council met virtually, in accordance with City of Jackson Resolution No. 2021-17 and guidelines designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, in regular session and was called to order by Mayor Derek J. Dobies at 6:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION:

The Council joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was given by Third Ward Councilmember Jeromy Alexander in which he invoked the spirit of peace to the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Derek Dobies attended remotely from Jackson, MI; Vice Mayor Arlene Robinson attended remotely from Jackson, MI; Councilmember Jeromy Alexander attended remotely from Jackson, MI; Councilmember Laura Dwyer Schlecte attended remotely from Jackson, MI; Councilmember Karen Bunnell attended remotely from Jackson, MI; and Councilmember Will Forgrave attended remotely from Jackson, MI. Councilmember Freddie Dancy joined the meeting at 6:49 p.m. and attended remotely from Jackson, MI.

Also present: City Manager Jonathan Greene, City Assessor Jason Yoakam, City Attorney Matthew Hagerty, City Clerk Andrea Muray, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion John Willis, Director of Parks and Recreation Kelli Hoover, Director of Neighborhood and Economic Operations Shane LaPorte, Director of Public Works Mike Osborn, Director of Police and Fire Services Elmer Hitt, Downtown Development Authority Director Cory Mays, City Engineer Jon Dowling, and Public Information Officer Aaron Dimick.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to adopt the agenda. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS: none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

City Clerk Andrea Muray read into the record citizen comments submitted and the meeting continued.

**** Councilmember Dancy joined the meeting****

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATION FROM CITY STAFF AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:

A. March Board of Review Minutes

B. Legal Opinion – Ethical Standards of Conduct

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to accept and place on file items 8A and 8B. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2021

Approve the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of March 23, 2021.

B. A Proclamation Declaring the Month of April Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Jackson

C. Reappointments to the Downtown Development Authority

Approval of the Mayor's recommendation to reappoint Jacqueline Austin and Bart Hawley to the Downtown Development Authority for a four year term, expiring 4/13/25.

D. Resolution to decertify streets with MDOT

Approve a resolution to decertify the Beverly Park Place driveways with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the resolution.

E. Special event application for the Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect Banner Hanging to honor Child Abuse Prevention Month

Approve a request from the Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect to hang a banner in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month during the month of April in Austin Blair ("Greenwood") Park in the City of Jackson.

F. Special event application for the Family Service & Children's Aid of Jackson County 5K Run for Fun

Approve a request from Family Service & Children's Aid of Jackson County to host their 5K Run for Fun on Saturday, April 24, 2021 on the streets of Jackson.

G. Special event application for the Jackson Downtown Development Authority's Sidewalk Sales

Approve a request from the Jackson Downtown Development Authority to host downtown Sidewalk Sale events May 7-9, June 4-6, July 2-4, August 6-8, September 3-5, October 1-3, November 5-7, and December 3-5, from 9am to 9pm on the sidewalks of downtown Jackson.

H. Special event application for the First United Methodist Church Back to School Blast and Community Resource Fair

Approve a request from the First United Methodist Church to host their Back to School Blast and Community Resource Fair on Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Horace Blackman Park, Hayes Court, and on Michigan Avenue in downtown Jackson.

I. Special event application for the annual Cascades Memorial Day Fireworks celebration

Approve a request from the Jackson County Parks Department to conduct their annual Memorial Day Fireworks celebration on Saturday, May 29, 2021 at the Sparks Foundation County Park.

J. Special event application for the annual Cascades 4th of July Fireworks Celebration

Approve a request from the Jackson County Parks Department to conduct their annual 4th of July Fireworks celebration on Saturday, July 3, 2021 at the Sparks Foundation County Park.

K. Special event application for the annual Cascades Labor Day Fireworks Celebration

Approve a request from the Jackson County Parks Department to conduct their annual Labor Day Fireworks celebration on Saturday, September 4, 2021 at the Sparks Foundation County Park.

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve the Consent Calendar after removing Item C for separate consideration. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to reappoint Bart Hawley to the Downtown Development Authority for a four year term expiring on April 13, 2025. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bunnell, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to reappoint Jacqueline Austin to the Downtown Development Authority for a four year term expiring April 13, 2025. Councilmember Schlecte disclosed her familial relationship to the appointee and recused herself from the vote. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Bunnell, and Forgrave (5). Nays: Councilmember Alexander (1). Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve the sale of City Owned Property located at 906 W. Washington Ave (parcel ID #3-061800000), for \$80,000

Recommendation: *Approve the sale of City owned property located at 906 W. Washington Avenue (parcel ID #3-061800000), for \$80,000. Authorize the City Manager to sign all documents associated with the Property Transfer and to make minor modifications as needed to complete the sale.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve the sale of City-owned property located at 906 W. Washington Avenue for \$80,000, and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents associated with the property transfer and make minor modifications as needed to complete the sale. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

- B. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Waive Fees**
Recommendation: *Consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to waive fees for business licenses for the May 2021-April 2022 renewal cycle.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Bunnell to approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to waive fees for business licenses for the May 2021-April 2022 renewal cycle. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

- C. Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding - Pearl Loop of the North Branch Water Transmission Main**
Recommendation: *Approve a resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Pearl Loop of the North Branch Water Transmission Main and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to approve the resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Pearl Loop of the North Branch Water Transmission Main and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

- D. Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding - Hupp/Morrell Water Transmission Connector**
Recommendation: *Approve a resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Hupp/Morrell Water Transmission Connector and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to approve the resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Hupp/Morrell Water Transmission Connector and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

- E. Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding - Myrtle Pump Station**
Recommendation: *Approve a resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Myrtle Pump Station and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to approve the resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Myrtle Pump Station and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

F. Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding – Napoleon –M50 Transmission Main

Recommendation: *Approve a resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Napoleon - M-50 Transmission Main and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve the resolution of support for the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the Napoleon – M50 Transmission Main and authorize the City Clerk to execute the resolution. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

G. Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance

Recommendation: *Approve the first reading and advance to second reading and final adoption at the May 11, 2021 Jackson City Council Meeting, an Ordinance amending Section 8-25 through 8-40 of Article 2, Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Michigan to create a Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance that encourages neighbors to actively engage in city affairs, and provide for access to information to help neighborhoods understand local issues and opportunities.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Dancy, seconded for discussion by Mayor Dobies to approve the first reading and advance to a second reading/final adoption at the May 11, 2021 Jackson City Council Meeting, an ordinance amending Section 8-25 through 8-40 of Article 2, Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinance to create a Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance that encourages neighbors to actively engage in City affairs and provide for access to information to help neighborhoods understand local issues and opportunities.

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to postpone the item to the next meeting on April 27, 2021. Councilmember Alexander amended his motion to postpone until the May 11, 2021 meeting. Vote - Yeas: Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Bunnell (5). Nays: Mayor Dobies and Councilmember Forgrave (2). Motion carried.

CITY COUNCILMEMBER'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave all offered comments.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

City Manager Jonathan Greene offered comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business being offered, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Forgrave, seconded by Councilmember Bunnell. Vote was done by voice with all in favor. Mayor Dobies adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.