



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2020

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Jackson City Council met in regular session, in compliance with the State of Michigan Executive Order No. 2020-15, and was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Derek J. Dobies.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION:**

The Council joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was given by Mayor Derek Dobies.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Mayor Derek Dobies, Councilmembers Arlene Robinson, Freddie Dancy, Jeromy Alexander, Laura Schlecte, and Will Forgrave.

Absent: none.

Also present: Interim City Manager Jonathan Greene, Assistant City Manager Shane LaPorte, City Attorney Matthew Hagerty, City Assessor Jason Yoakam, and City Clerk Andrea Muray.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies to adopt the agenda with the addition of Item 11D Discussion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward vacancy. Councilmember Schlecte offered a friendly amendment to add Item 11E Action Taken, or for Consideration, as a Result of the COVID-19 Crisis and the Declaration of Emergency Put in Place by the Mayor.

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to adopt the agenda with the additions of Items 11D - Ward 5 Vacancy, and 11E - COVID-19 Emergency. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: None. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:** none.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**RECESS AS A CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS A BOARD OF REVIEW**

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Robinson to recess as City Council and convene as a Board of Review. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: None. Motion carried.

- A. *Public Hearing on Special Assessment Roll No. 3416 for street resurfacing and roundabout construction on Fourth Street from Horton Road to Audubon Avenue.*

No correspondence was submitted to the City Clerk’s Office.

1. *Resolution confirming Roll No. 3416*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve the resolution. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Alexander, and Schlecte (4). Nays: Councilmembers Dancy and Forgrave (2). Motion carried.

**ADJOURN AS A BOARD OF REVIEW AND RECONVENE AS CITY COUNCIL.**

Motion was made by Councilmember Dancy, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to adjourn as a Board of Review and reconvene as City Council. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

City Clerk Andrea Muray read into the record the citizen comments that were submitted.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATION FROM CITY STAFF AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:**

- A. **Resignation of Fifth Ward City Councilmember:**  
*Accept and place on file the resignation of Fifth Ward City Councilmember Kelsey Heck.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Forgrave, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to accept and place on file the resignation of Fifth Ward Councilmember Kelsey Heck. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Schlecte, and Forgrave (5). Nays: Councilmember Alexander (1). Motion carried.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 31, 2020:**  
*Approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of March 31, 2020.*
- B. **Together We Can Make A Difference National Day of Prayer:**  
*Approve a request from Together We Can Make A Difference to host their National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2020 in Nixon Park.*
- C. **Men's March Against Violence:**  
*Approve a request from Save Our Youth Help Them Prosper to host their annual Men's March Against Violence on Saturday, June 13, 2020, through the streets of Jackson and at the CP Federal Square and Horace Blackman Park.*
- D. **Engineer's Report for Overhead Lighting Installation, Morrell Street - Orchard Place to Cooper Street:**  
*Receive the Engineer's Report for installation of overhead street lighting installation on Morrell Street from Orchard Place to Cooper Street, and establish April 28, 2019 at the City Council meeting as the time and place to hold a public hearing of necessity.*
- E. **Engineer's Report for Street Reconstruction and Water Main Replacement, Washington Avenue - Fourth Street to First Street:**  
*Receive the Engineer's Report for street reconstruction and water main replacement on Washington Avenue from Fourth Street to First Street and establish April 28, 2020 at the City Council meeting as the time and place to hold a public hearing of necessity.*
- F. **Engineer's Report for Street Reconstruction and Water Main Replacement, Third Street - Washington Avenue to Michigan Avenue:** *Receive the Engineer's Report for street reconstruction and water main replacement on Third Street from Washington Avenue to Michigan Avenue and establish April 28, 2020 at the City Council meeting as the time and place to hold a public hearing of necessity.*
- G. **Engineer's Report for Street Reconstruction and Water Main Replacement, Clinton Street - Homecrest Road to Blackstone Street:** *Receive the Engineer's Report for street reconstruction and water main replacement on Clinton Street from Homecrest Road to Blackstone Street and establish April 28, 2020 at the City Council meeting as the time and place to hold a public hearing of necessity.*
- H. **Engineer's Report for Overhead Lighting Installation, Adrian Street - Morrell Street to Merriman Street and Merriman Street - Adrian Street to MLK Equality Trail:**  
*Receive the Engineer's Report for installation of overhead street lighting installation on Adrian Street from Morrell Street to Merriman Street, and Merriman Street from Adrian Street to the MLK Equality Trail, and establish April 28, 2020 at the City Council meeting as the time and place to hold a public hearing of necessity.*

I. **Approve a Revocable License for OGMA Brewing Company for the Installation of Equipment and Door in the Public Alley behind the building at 129 E. Michigan Avenue:**

*Approve a Revocable License for OGMA Brewing Company for the installation of mechanical equipment and outward opening door with the public alley in behind the building at 129 E. Michigan Avenue and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate document(s).*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve the consent calendar with Item G being removed for separate consideration. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to Receive the Engineer’s Report for street reconstruction and water main replacement on Clinton Street from Homecrest Road to Blackstone Street and establish April 28, 2020 at the City Council meeting as the time and place to hold a public hearing of necessity. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: None. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 2020-03 - Definitions, Building Design Standards, and Accessory Structure Provisions. (Second/Final Reading):**

**Recommendation:** *Final adoption of Ordinance 2020-03 amending Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Jackson, Michigan to provide clarity regarding the definition of solar panels as outlined in Sec. 28-5, clarify the use of solar panels on one and two family dwelling units as outlined in Sec. 28-115, and permit the installation of solar panels on detached accessory structures as outlined in Sec. 28-120.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to approve final adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-03. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

B. **City Council Rules & Personnel Policy Committee Recommendation for Interim City Manager Compensation.**

**Recommendation:** *Consider the City Council Rules & Personnel Policy Committee’s recommendation for Interim City Manager compensation. (Delayed at the March 31, 2020 City Council meeting.)*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve the recommendation from the Rules & Personnel Committee for the Interim City Manager’s salary at \$140,000 with no

other changes to his current contract, and make the change retroactive to February 21, 2020. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Renewal of Spent Lime Removal Contract:**

*Approve the renewal of the contract for removal of spent lime at the Water Treatment Plant to T & L Contracting, Inc., Lansing, at the price of \$25.18 per cubic yard.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve the renewal of the contract. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**B. Noxious Weeds Ordinance Amendment to Include the Invasive Species as Defined by the State of Michigan. (First Reading)**

**Recommendation:** *Consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 26, Article III, Section 26-75, City Code, to include the invasive species as defined by the State of Michigan.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve and move to a second reading. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**C. Proposed Charter Amendment.**

**Recommendation:** *Discussion of proposed charter amendment and motion to send to the Rules and Personnel Policy Committee for review and possible recommendation to the Council.*

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded by Councilmember Robinson to refer the item to the Charter Review Committee, direct them to complete their previous work, work with the City Attorney to consider outside counsel, and prepare a package of potential charter changes for consideration to City Council for placement on the November General Election. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**D. Ward 5 Vacancy**

**Recommendation:** *Discussion of filling the vacant 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Council seat.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander to appoint Susan Murdie to the City Council. The motion died from lack of support.

Motion was made by Councilmember Forgrave, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to accept applications for the vacant 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Council seat through May 12, 2020 and schedule interviews for May 26, 2020.

Councilmember Forgrave amended the motion to accept applications for the vacant 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Council seat through the close of business on May 12, 2020. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Robinson. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Councilmembers Robinson, Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

E. **COVID-19 Emergency Action**

**Recommendation:** *Discussion of the actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte to suspend all car allowances for April and until the Shelter in Place Order has been lifted. The motion died from lack of support.

**CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS:**

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

**MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Interim City Manager Jonathan Greene offered comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business being offered, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Dancy, seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Vote was done by voice with all in favor. Mayor Dobies adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.