



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Daniel Mahoney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION:

Council joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was given by Vice Mayor Arlene Robinson.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Daniel Mahoney, Vice Mayor Arlene Robinson, Second Ward Councilmember Freddie Dancy, Third Ward Councilmember Angelita Gunn, Fourth Ward Councilmember Laura Dwyer Schlecte, and Sixth Ward Councilmember Will Forgrave.

Absent: Fifth Ward Councilmember Karen Bunnell.

Also present: City Manager Jonathan Greene, City Assessor Jason Yoakam, City Attorney Matthew Hagerty, City Clerk Andrea Muray, Director of Public Works Mike Osborne, Director of Police and Fire Services Elmer Hitt, City Engineer Jon Dowling, and Downtown Development Authority Director Cory Mays.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

A. Sara Tackett - JDL Update

PUBLIC HEARINGS: none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Citizen comments were heard and the meeting continued.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATION FROM CITY STAFF AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: none.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2022

Approve the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of April 5, 2022.

B. Receipt of Alley Vacation Petition

Receive a petition to vacate a public alley off of Milwaukee Street between Prospect and E. Addison Street. Refer to City Attorney to verify legality, the City Planning Commission to review and provide the Clerk's office with a recommendation, with item being presented to Council for consideration.

C. Funding Letters for Pension System

Receive the actuarial valuations as of June 30, 2021 for the Act 345 Policemen's & Firemen's Retirement Plan, the Employees Retirement System and the Policemen's and Firemen's Retirement System, and approve the actuarial funding necessary for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

D. Special Event Application for the Jackson High School Graduation Ceremony

Approve a request from Jackson High School to host their Graduation Ceremony on Friday, May 27, 2022 and use road closures on Wildwood Avenue near Jackson High School.

E. Special Event Application for the Jackson District Library Summer Reading Program Finale

Approve a request from the Jackson District Library to host their Summer Reading Program Finale on July 30, 2022 on the streets of downtown Jackson.

F. Special Event Application for the Jackson County Veteran's Council Memorial Day Procession and Ceremony

Approve a request from the Jackson County Veteran's Council to conduct their Memorial Day Procession and Ceremony on Monday, May 30, 2022 on the streets of downtown Jackson.

G. Special Event Application for the Amen 4 Youth, LLC Southside Summerfest Events

Approve a request from Amen for Youth, LLC to host their Southside Summerfest Events on May 21, June 11, July 23, and August 27 in Elnora Moorman Plaza and on High Street in Jackson.

H. Special Event Application for the 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 May 5, 2022 in Austin Blair Park.

I. Special Event Application for the "Together We Can Make a Difference" Garden Contest

Approve a request from the Together We Can Make a Difference to host their Garden Contest on May 21, 2022 in the City of Jackson.

J. Special Event Application for the World Vision Inc. Walk/Run

Approve a request from World Vision Inc. to host their Walk/Run on May 7, 2022 in/around the Sparks Foundation ("Cascades") Park.

K. Special Event Application for the Jackson Interfaith Shelter Summer Block Party

Approve a request from the Jackson Interfaith Shelter to host their Summer Block Party on August 6, 2022 on the streets of Jackson.

L. Special Event Application for the Jackson Civil War Muster

Approve a request from the Jackson Civil War Society to host their Civil War Muster on August 27 & 28, 2022 in/around the Sparks Foundation ("Cascades") Park.

M. Special Event Application for the Cascades Cycling Club's Ride of Silence

Approve a request from the Cascades Cycling Club to host their Ride of Silence on May 18, 2022 on the streets of Jackson.

N. Special Event Application for Spring Fling

Approve a request from the Jackson Downtown Development Authority to host their Spring Fling on Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 11am – 4pm in downtown Jackson.

Motion was made by Councilmember Dancy to approve the consent calendar. Councilmember Schlecte seconded the motion with the request to remove Item A for separate consideration. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Gunn, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to approve Item A - Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2022. Councilmember Schlecte stated that she would be abstaining from the vote. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, and Forgrave (5). Nays: none. Abstention: Councilmember Schlecte. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Changes to the Standard Lighting Contract for Streetlights with Consumers Energy for the addition of five new streetlights

Recommendation: *Approve the Resolution for Changes to the Standard Lighting Contract for five streetlights with Consumers Energy and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate documents.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Forgrave, seconded by Vice Mayor Robinson to approve the resolution for changes to the Standard Lighting Contract for five streetlights with Consumers Energy and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate documents. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

B. Resolution to Decertify a Street with MDOT

Recommendation: *Approve a resolution to decertify Cleveland Place with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the resolution.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve a resolution to decertify Cleveland Place with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the resolution. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

C. Recommendation for approval of the resolution to increase the Department of Public Works fee to \$80.00 per invoiced property to cover the costs incurred by the City to administer and enforce the Noxious Weed Ordinance of the Jackson Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Article III, Regulation of Grass, Noxious Weeds, Shrubbery, and Trees on Privately Owned Property

Recommendation: *Approval of the resolution to increase the Department of Public Works fee to \$80 per invoiced property to cover the costs incurred by the City to administer and enforce the Noxious Weed Ordinance of the Jackson Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Article III, Regulation of Grass, Noxious Weeds, Shrubbery, and Trees on Privately Owned Property.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Forgrave, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to approve the resolution to increase the Department of Public Works fee to \$80 per invoiced property to cover the costs incurred by the City to administer and enforce the Noxious Weed Ordinance of the Jackson Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Article III, Regulation of Grass, Noxious Weeds, Shrubbery, and Trees on Privately Owned Property. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Councilmembers Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (4). Nays: Vice Mayor Robinson and Councilmember Dancy (2). Motion carried.

D. Accounts Receivable Write-Off Request

Recommendation: *Approve the Accounts Receivable Write-Off Request.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Dancy, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to approve the accounts receivable write-off request. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

E. Amendment 1 to the 20-005 E. High Street Bridge Rehabilitation Engineering Contract

Recommendation: *Approval of Amendment 1 to the 20-005 E. High Street Bridge Rehabilitation Engineering contract with Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC) of Bloomfield Hills, MI, at a not-to-exceed cost of \$65,500.00, and authorization for the City Manager and City Engineer to sign the appropriate document.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve Amendment 1 to the 20-005 E. High Street Bridge Rehabilitation Engineering contract with Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC) of Bloomfield Hills, MI, at a not to exceed cost of \$65,500.00 and authorize the City Manager and City Engineer to sign the appropriate document. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

F. Contract Award for the Martin Luther King Equality Trail Lighting Improvement Project

Recommendation: *Approval of an award of the contract for the Martin Luther King Equality Trail Lighting Improvements project from Weatherwax Road to Prospect Street to Cochran Electric of Jackson, Michigan, at a cost of \$606,195.49 and authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate document(s) in accordance with the Purchasing Agent.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to award of the contract for the Martin Luther King Equality Trail Lighting Improvements project from Weatherwax Road to Prospect Street to Cochran Electric of Jackson, MI at a cost of \$606,195.49 and authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate document(s) in accordance with the Purchasing Agent. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

G. Professional Services Agreement for Assessing Services

Recommendation: *Approve Professional Services Agreement in the total amount of \$99,600 to Quality Assessing Services, LLC for assessment services starting May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Dancy, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve the professional services agreement in the total amount of \$99,600 to Quality Assessing Services, LLC for assessment services starting May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

H. Presentation of Revised Special Assessment Policy

Recommendation: *Review the proposed, revised Special Assessment Policy.*

No action was taken on the item.

I. Zoning Map Amendment - West Ganson Street

Recommendation: *Recommend approval to rezone 600 Steward Avenue and 506 W. Ganson Street from C-2 Community Commercial to R-3, Multiple Family Residential.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to approve the rezoning of 600 Steward Avenue and 506 W. Ganson Street from C-2 Community Commercial to R-3 Multiple Family Residential. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

J. Zoning Map Amendment – Greenwood Avenue

Recommendation: *Recommend approval to rezone 223 W. Wilkins, 227 W. Wilkins and 229 W. Wilkins from R-2 One and Two Family Residential to R-4, High Density Apartment and Office and rezone 222 W. Biddle, 702 Greenwood, 714 Greenwood and 718 Greenwood from C-2 Community Commercial to R-4, High Density Apartment and Office.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Gunn to approve the rezoning of 223 W. Wilkins, 227 W. Wilkins and 229 W. Wilkins from R-2 One and Two Family Residential to R-4 High Density Apartment and Office and rezone 222 W. Biddle, 702 Greenwood, 714 Greenwood and 718 Greenwood from C-2 Community Commercial to R-4 High Density Apartment and Office. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

K. Resolution Approving an Application to the Michigan Department of Transportation for a Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDE) Category F Grant for improvements to the intersections of Blackstone Street at Louis Glick Highway and Blackstone Street at Lansing Avenue

Recommendation: *Approve a resolution for application to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for a Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDE) Category F Grant, authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the resolution, and authorization for the City Engineer to file an application for improvements to the intersections of Blackstone Street with Louis Glick Highway and with Lansing Avenue.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve a resolution for application to the Michigan Department for Transportation Economic Development Fund Category F Grant, authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the resolution, and authorization for the City Engineer to file an application for improvement to the intersections of Blackstone Street with Louis Glick Highway and Lansing Avenue. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

L. Parking Lot Construction at Jackson Fire Department Station #1

Recommendation: *Approval of an award for a contract to repair the parking lot for the Jackson Fire Department's Central Station at 518 N. Jackson St, to the Isabella Corporation of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, for \$537,000; authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate document(s) in accordance with the Purchasing Agent.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Gunn to award a contract to repair the parking lot for the Jackson Fire Department's Central Station at 518 N. Jackson St, to the Isabella Corporation of Mt. Pleasant, MI for \$537,000 and authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the appropriate document(s) in accordance with the Purchasing Agent. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION:

- A. Conduct closed session to discuss specific pending litigation in the case of Bremiller v City of Jackson, et al., Jackson County Circuit Court Case No. 21-3295-NI, pursuant to MCL 15.268(e).**

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Gunn to move into closed session to discuss a specific pending litigation in the case of Bremiller v City of Jackson, Jackson County Circuit Court Case No. 21-3295-NI, pursuant to MCL 15.268€. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Robinson, seconded by Councilmember Gunn to come back from closed session. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve the settlement as recommended by the City Attorney in Jackson County Circuit Court Case No. 21-3295-NI and authorize legal counsel to effectuate the same. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, and Forgrave (6). Nays: none. Motion carried.

CITY COUNCILMEMBER'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Mahoney, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Gunn, Schlecte, 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 Dancy, seconded by Councilmember Gunn. Vote was done by voice with all in favor. Mayor Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.