

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The City of Jesup Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Cracker Williams Community Center. Mayor David Earl Keith called the meeting to order. Roll call was as follows:

Mayor, David Earl Keith	Present
Commissioner, Shirlene Armstrong	Present
Commissioner, Don A. Darden	Present
Commissioner, Nick Harris	Present
Commissioner, Bill Harvey	Present
Commissioner, Ray House	Present
Commissioner, Stanley Todd	Present
City Attorney, Mike Conner	Present
City Manager, Mike Deal	Present
Police Chief, Mike Lane	Present

The Lord's Prayer was led by City Attorney Conner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Lane.

Commissioner Harvey attended the meeting virtually.

Commissioner House made motion seconded by Commissioner Todd to approve the minutes of the regular meeting dated July 7, 2020.

All Council voted yes.

Assistant Public Works Director Allen Boyd stated from his understanding, City Attorney Conner concluded the City was able to purchase a new garbage truck through Sourcewell. City Attorney Conner corrected Mr. Boyd by saying the City would have to accept sealed bids unless Council amends the Purchasing Ordinance. Also, he said State Law requires the City to enter into a contract with Sourcewell equivalent to an Intergovernmental agreement. He noted he was still waiting on a copy of Sourcewell's agreement so he could review it.

Commissioner Harris asked why couldn't the City just bid out a garbage truck like they have always done. Mr. Boyd stated if the City bids out the garbage truck, it will take 12 – 14 months to receive it because it has to be built. He noted if the City purchases the truck through Sourcewell, the City could receive it in
4 – 6 weeks.

Mayor Keith asked City Attorney Conner to draw up an Ordinance to amend the Purchasing Ordinance. City Attorney Conner stated he could have the Ordinance ready by the next meeting. Council tabled further discussion until the Worksession on August 18, at 5:00 p.m.

City Attorney Conner swore-in Josh Huffman as the new Fire Chief. Former Fire Chief Gene Lane retired on June 30, 2020, with 25 years of service.

City Manager Deal stated the City has applied for a CDBG, and DCA requires Council to review the list of Engineers in an open meeting. He recommended contracting with Hoffsteder & Associates as the design engineer.

Commissioner Harris made motion seconded by Commissioner Darden to contract with Hoffsteder & Associates on CDBG.

All Council voted yes.

City Manager Deal stated the requested 2019-20 Budget amendments were discussed in the last meeting. He noted this would clear up the final budget.

Commissioner Todd made motion seconded by Commissioner House to amend the 2019-20 Budget as follows:

- TSPLOST Fund - \$338,016.39
- SPLOST Fund - \$23,912.00
- Water/Sewer Fund - \$56,903.02

All Council voted yes.

Mayor Keith asked City Attorney Conner to explain the CARES Act Funding. City Attorney Conner stated the CARES Act funding is part of Federal money given to states to distribute to local governments. The City will enter an agreement with the State. There is a formula to determine how much money local governments could receive. The maximum amount the City of Jesup could be eligible for is \$515,154.

City Attorney Conner noted the Mayor is required to sign the CARES Act Terms and Conditions. The City would then receive 30% (\$154,546) of the funds in advance by direct deposit. City has to show how the money was spent or will be spent between March 1, 2020 – September 1, 2020.

City Attorney Conner explained the money has to be spent on COVID-19 related expenses. The money can't be used for items already in the budget, or to fill in for shortfall in revenues.

After expenses have been submitted and approved for the 30%, the City would be eligible to request the remaining 70% (\$360,608) on a reimbursement basis. All monies not allocated for COVID-19 related expenses would have to be returned to the State.

Commissioner Darden made motion seconded by Commissioner House to accept the CARES Act Terms and Conditions.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Harris stated he received a call from someone who visited several local businesses who weren't doing what they are supposed to be doing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As leaders, he noted Council should be doing more to address COVID-19 because it is not getting any better. He said he is concerned about restaurants not doing what the Governor has asked.

Mayor Keith stated Council could adopt a Resolution strongly encouraging citizens to wear masks in public.

He stated he talked with Joe Ierardi, the CEO of Wayne Memorial Hospital, about spikes in Wayne County. He reported that 46 patients in a local nursing home tested positive for COVID-19, and 658 total cases in Wayne County.

Commissioner Armstrong stated she received a text asking why it takes 8 – 10 days to get COVID-19 test results. Mayor Keith explained it costs over \$100,000 to get set up to do rapid testing. City Manager Deal noted the rapid testing is not as accurate. City Attorney Conner stated if someone has COVID-19 symptoms and feels sick, they need to be home self-quarantining.

Pastor Dale Moore stated somebody needs to figure out how to get some funding to get rapid testing done. Mayor Keith noted Wayne County doesn't have the manpower to provide rapid testing. You have to go to Pierce or Ware County.

Commissioner Harris stated he would like to see the community come together, practice 6-ft. social distancing and wear masks. Until that happens, COVID-19 will continue to spread. He offered to visit businesses that are not doing what they are supposed to do.

Mayor Keith stated he will get with Police Chief Lane, Building Inspector Don Herrin and City Manager Deal, and they will visit businesses. He also stated Deena Bennett, with the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, said if the City gets the laminated flyers to her, she could get the Chamber Ambassadors to help distribute them.

Commissioner Armstrong asked about doing a COVID-19 policy for the employees. City Manager Deal stated the policy could change. We were doing rapid tests on employees until we were told by the Health Department they are not dependable because they could show a false positive. He noted if employees are sick, they have sick leave.

City Attorney Conner stressed an employee with COVID-19 symptoms shouldn't be allowed to stay home as long as they want to stay home. Employees need to report to their supervisor, and supervisors need to report it to City Manager Deal.

Commissioner Harris asked how many City employees have tested positive for COVID-19. City Manager Deal stated 4 employees have tested positive.

Mayor Keith recommended City Attorney Conner create a Mask-Up Resolution. He also requested Council take a group photo in front of City Hall wearing masks for the newspaper to encourage citizens.

Commissioner Todd made motion seconded by Commissioner Harris to have City Attorney Conner draw up a Resolution to strongly encourage citizens to wear a mask.

All Council voted yes.

City Manager Deal reported there were a couple of drainage issues. He stated the estimated cost to fix South Palm Street issue was \$70,000, but the City did it for \$7,000. He said he feels really good about the job.

Commissioner Armstrong stated Broad Street needs to be repaved. City Manager Deal stated it is on the list, but the process takes about a year.

Commissioner Armstrong thanked Council for allowing Tyrone McGill to clean up Hickory Street Park, and reported that some old furniture needs to be picked up at the old Tasty Freeze. City Manager Deal stated the City could help the business.

Commissioner Darden stated a telephone pole has been knocked down at Fourth Street and Railroad St. for over a week. Mayor Keith asked Assistant Public Works Director Allen Boyd to check on getting the pole removed.

Commissioner Darden reported overgrowth at Garbutt Road Park needs to be cut. Assistant Public Works Director Boyd stated they should get it taken care of tomorrow.

Commissioner Harris commended two residents on South Macon Street, Eddie Marcus and Ricky Pasley, for continuously keeping City right-of-way cut on both sides of the street from the Wayne County Jail to Peachtree Street. Council thanked them for doing a great job.

Commissioner Todd suggested putting a mic on every table to make it easier to hear during Council meetings. He thanked Police Chief Lane for improving the appearance of the Police Department. He also thanked Commissioner Harris for getting Council to look closer at COVID-19.

Mayor Keith inquired about adding slats to the chain link fence to hide the water well beside the Police Department. City Manager Deal stated he would get Police Chief Lane to handle that.

Meeting Adjourned,

Rose Marcus
City Clerk/Treasurer