

The City Council for the City of Junction City, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon and in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

PRESENT: Mayor, Beverly Ficek; Council President, Ken Wells (joined from 7:15 p.m. to 7:29 p.m.); Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, John Gambie, and Karen Leach; City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Carrie Connelly; Police Chief, Bob Morris; Public Works Director, Gary Kaping; Finance Director, Mike Crocker; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ficek opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and took roll call.

Councilor Thomas noted that it was Flag Day, and she and the Council expressed appreciation to all Veterans.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2022

MOTION: Councilor Washburne made a motion to approve the May 10, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

4. Public Comment on Items not Listed on the Agenda

A. Follow-up from Staff on Previous Comments. None.

B. New Comments from Public.

Melissa Candland, 1026 Prairie Meadows, Junction City, asked that the Council amend the code to allow chickens in the City limits. She thought chickens should be allowed, due to food shortages and skyrocketing prices. Mayor Ficek responded that this would go to one of the Council Committees for discussion. Administrator Knope added that it would go to the Finance and Judiciary Committee, and he or the Police Department would reach out to her a week before the meeting so she could attend and present her case.

Jack Sumner, 1061 Quince Drive, Junction City, stated that if people were going to complain, they should complain about unmaintained vehicles and trailers and other safety hazards in town and not chickens. Attorney Connelly confirmed that there was a provision in the code enacted by the Council that prohibited maintaining livestock, bees, or poultry within the City and enforcement was complaint driven.

George Candland, 1026 Prairie Meadows, Junction City, said that Guaranty had an advertisement that said, "Eggs are cheaper in the country" and asked if that was a false doctrine if chickens were not allowed in Junction City.

Mayor Ficek said that Agenda Item 5 Public Hearing on the FY 2022-23 Budget would be moved to later in the meeting.

5. Lane County Deadly Force Plan

Tabled to a future meeting.

6. State Shared Revenue Resolution

Director Crocker presented the state required resolution for the City to receive State Shared Revenue.

A. Resolution No. 2 – A Resolution Declaring the City of Junction City's Election to Receive State Shared Revenue.

MOTION: Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

7. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Compensation Schedules

Director Crocker presented the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Compensation Schedule resolution.

A. Resolution No. 3 – A Resolution to Approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Compensation Schedules for Management and Non-Represented Positions and Temporary and Seasonal Positions.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Councilors Thomas, Washburne, Ceniga, and Leach voting in favor and Councilor Gambee voting against.

8. Junction City Historical Society Grant Request

The Council reviewed the grant request from the Junction City Historical Society.

MOTION: Councilor Gambee made a motion to approve the Junction City Historical Society Grant Conditions and Agreement, direct the Mayor to sign the document and initiate a payment in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ceniga and passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Councilors Thomas, Ceniga, Gambee, and Leach voting in favor and Councilor Washburne voting against.

Council President Wells joined the meeting virtually.

9. Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget

Mayor Ficek declared an actual conflict of interest because her daughter worked for the City and she recused herself. Councilor Ceniga declared an actual conflict of interest because her brother in law worked for Public Works and she recused herself.

Council President Wells took over as chair of the meeting. Attorney Connelly noted that Councilor Wells was the Council President, his participation created a quorum in the absence of the Mayor, and he was the authorized individual to lead this agenda item.

A. Public Hearing

Council President Wells opened the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget.

Staff Report

Director Crocker stated that this public hearing was for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget. The Council packet included Attachment A Summary of Changes, Attachment B Budget Hearing Notices, and Attachment C Budget approved by the Budget Committee. The two changes to the budget by the Budget Committee were: 1. Adding School Resource Officer (SRO) for \$121,100, with a reimbursement from the School District for this position of \$66,000 and 2. Adding \$500 in appropriations in the Special Police Programs Fund. The adoption of the budget by Council authorized the assessment of taxes at the City's permanent rate of \$6.0445 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Public Testimony

Nick Highfill, 1144 Juniper Street, Junction City, asked what the situation was with the School Resource Officer. Chief Morris responded that the position was being added; the School District was contributing a good portion, with the City picking up the remainder. The School District had a security guard over the last two or three years but wanted to bring back the SRO who was a police officer.

Cathy Campbell, 554 Kalmia Street, Junction City, asked where the Chamber funding request was in the budget. Director Crocker responded it was in Attachment C, page 2, line 48.

Questions or Comments from the Council

None.

Council President Wells closed the public hearing.

B. Resolution No. 1 – A Resolution Adopting the Budget; Making Appropriations; Imposing the Taxes; and Categorizing the Taxes for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023.

MOTION: Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1 Adopting the FY 2022-23 approved budget, making appropriations as shown on Schedule A of Resolution No. 1, imposing a tax rate of \$6.0445 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the permanent rate tax levy, and categorizing taxes by tax levy. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by a vote of 5 to 0, with Councilors Thomas, Washburne, Gambee, Leach, and Wells voting in favor and none voting against.

Council President Wells thanked everyone for their work on the budget. He noted that the Budget Committee and Council had spent a lot of time on this, and he believed this budget was very positive.

Council President Wells turned the meeting back over to Mayor Ficek and left the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

10. Chamber of Commerce Funding Request

The Council reviewed the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce request.

MOTION: Councilor Leach made a motion to approve the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce's request and direct staff to issue a payment to the Chamber in the amount of \$4,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ceniga and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

11. Dump Truck Purchase

Director Kaping presented the request to purchase a used Dump Truck for the Projects Crew. This purchase fell under Public Contracting Rules E-15. The Public Works Committee reviewed on June 6, 2022 and recommended approval.

MOTION: Councilor Washburne made a motion to approve the purchase of a dump truck from J and M Sandblasting LLC in the amount not to exceed \$78,900 and authorize the Public Works Director to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Leach and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

12. 150th Celebration Street Closure Request and Review

Administrator Knope and Director Kaping reviewed that the Junction City Sesquicentennial Advisory Committee had been planning a celebration for the City's 150th birthday. Plans included holding various events September 15 – 18, 2022 and having a Street Fair on Saturday, September 17th. Street closure for the Street Fair was being requested on 6th Street from east of Nyssa Street to Ivy Street. Staff noted that the event flyer had been included in the Council packet, and staff wanted to make sure the Council was comfortable with what the City involvement would be: September 15th included City offices open house, September 17 – Street Fair; and September 18th – City BBQ at Laurel Park.

The Council discussed and the consensus was they were comfortable with City involvement as listed on the flyer but did not want to add any additional City responsibility.

MOTION: Councilor Ceniga made a motion to approve the street closure request on 6th from just east of Nyssa to Ivy for the 150th Celebration on September 17, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Washburne and passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

13. New Building Height Discussion

Mayor Ficek noted that the new City Hall modular building would be short in height, compared to adjacent buildings, and she asked for Council feedback on the possibility of raising the building higher off the ground.

Council discussion followed and concerns were expressed that raising the building higher would increase the number of steps, cause the ADA ramp to have to be extended further out, and would cost many thousands of dollars with needing to have engineer drawings and with construction costs. The consensus of the Council was to leave the building at the current height.

Jack Sumner asked if the Community Garden would be put back in. Councilor Washburne, chair of the Community Services Committee, responded that the Committee had discussed concerns with liability issues and difficulties in finding volunteers to take care of the garden. He added that he could bring this back to Committee for further discussion, if desired.

14. Council Agenda Forecaster

Administrator Knope presented the forecaster and noted that the Forensic Audit and Property Line Adjustment at 175 W. 7th would be on the July 12th meeting.

Mayor Ficek stated that she would like to look at a plan to provide a facility for homeless individuals, per the state rules that would be coming into effect. Administrator Knope stated that staff was working on that topic, and Attorney Connelly might speak to that in her staff comments.

15. Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee. (May 26, 2022). Councilor Gambia reported:

- Reviewed 2 months of reports and had a good discussion on the police force tackling the growing challenges. He was impressed with the police force and welcomed everyone to attend future Committee meetings.

Public Works Committee. (June 6, 2022). Councilor Washburne reported:

- Discussed the Deal Street RFP.

Community Services Committee. (June 7, 2022). Councilor Washburne reported:

- Had hired 13.5 lifeguards for the pool. Yoga classes for beginners would be begin at the Community Center on June 23rd from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Community Development Committee. (June 1, 2022). Councilor Ceniga reported:

- Discussed Welcome to Junction City signs and narrowed down to 4 or 5; would need to decide where to put them.
- Discussed City approved street trees, the City's 150th Celebration, and maybe finding another plan for the downtown streetlights.

16. Staff Reports

Director Kaping reported: Deal Street RFP went out for bid and would close on July 8th. Public Works had replaced several of the downtown streetlights and had ran out of replacement lights. He would need to find out if Council wanted him to order more backup lights or let those phase out and look for something different.

Cathy Campbell recommended that the City look for something different. She noted that the streetlight in front of Habitat for Humanity had been hit many times.

Chief Morris reported: The department had three police officer vacancies and had three applicants in backgrounds.

Director Crocker reported: Would be busy processing items from this meeting and would be filing the taxes with Lane County.

Attorney Connelly reported: In response to the Mayor's comment on addressing homelessness, Attorney Connelly shared that the City would have until July 1, 2023 to address the requirements from House Bill (HB) 3115. By that date, the City would have to have updated its code to make sure there were no provisions that disproportionately impacted homeless individuals. She had provided a review of these things, along with a discussion on parking to the Council a few months ago and would be bringing back discussion on the code amendments and policy choices for the Council at a future meeting.

Recorder Vodrup reported: Election packets had been prepared and were available at City Hall and on the City's website. The Mayor's position and three City Councilor positions would be on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.

Administrator Knope reported: He would be stepping in as staff lead for the Finance and Judiciary Committee for awhile, so Director Crocker could focus on some projects. Lifeguard positions had been filled and the pool would open no later than June 27th. The Community Center still had two Summer Camp staff positions open. Had received 20 applications for kids to attend Summer Camp.

17. Previous Month's Expenditures.

Councilor Thomas asked questions on expenditures and staff provided responses.

18. Councilor Comments/Questions

Councilor Leach stated that she had attended two police neighborhood meetings which were very important to citizens, and Deputy Chief Markell had done a great job presenting information and answering questions. She noted that the City Code prohibited chickens and after a complaint was given, police officers were merely following local law with enforcement.

She expressed her appreciation to staff and the Council and to Councilor Wells for his work in leading the Budget Committee.

Councilor Gambia expressed appreciation to staff for the wonderful job representing the interests of the City and City employees, which was balanced by the Council who represented the citizens in town. He continued that there would be challenges in the future, such as street, sewer, and water projects, as well as police staffing needs, that would put pressure on the City’s budget. He was glad they adopted the budget and he was proud of the way staff managed funds. He supported the bucket system and noted that even with future challenges, he and the constituents he represented were in favor of continuing to have each department stay within their buckets.

Councilor Ceniga stated that everyone did a great job and they worked together to make progress. She thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and encouraged citizens to attend future Council and Committee meetings.

Councilor Washburne thanked the public for attending the meeting and thanked staff for their hard work. He thanked Director Kaping for his work on the purchase of the dump truck and thought they made a great investment.

Councilor Thomas thanked the public for attending the meeting. She noted that she was there to represent the people; sometimes she had to vote differently than she felt, but it was not about her but about the citizens. She had attended the police sector meetings, and Deputy Chief Markell had done a great job.

19. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Ficek stated that she had the honor of going to Territorial Elementary and presenting a “If I Were Mayor” statewide contest Honorable Mention certificate to local Grades 4 – 5 poster winner Barrett Rohl. She added that this was one of the fun things that she got to do as Mayor.

Mayor Ficek invited people to attend the Junction City Sesquicentennial Advisory Committee on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. She noted that they had received questions on if politicians could have booths at the Street Fair event, and the decision was made that there would be no politics at the event.

Mayor Ficek said that it would be great if they could do an alley clean-up for the 150th birthday celebration. She thought maybe a contest could be held per block for the cleanest alley and to do things to spruce up the City for the celebration. She seconded what Councilors had said about the City’s tremendous staff.

20. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Beverly A. Ficek, Mayor