

**City Council
Regular Work Session Minutes
Jacksonville, Alabama
May 11, 2020**

The Council of the City of Jacksonville, Alabama, met on May 11, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom Meeting for a Regular Work Session. Council President Sandra Sudduth called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following Council Members were present: Jerry Parris, Terry Wilson, Tony Taylor, and Coty Galloway. Mayor Johnny L. Smith, City Administrator Albertha Grant, City Attorney Richard Rhea and City Clerk Brenda Sandoval were present.

MINUTES. No changes to the minutes.

FIRE TRUCK FINANCING. Finance Accountant Laura Copeland explained to the Council Members the proposals that were received for the financing of the fire truck. She recommended going with USDA, with BB&T and Farmers and Merchants as possible other options. There is a possibility that USDA will not loan the city the funds due to the fire truck already being ordered. With USDA you can start the process and stop at any time and if the loan is received, you can pay off early without any penalties. BB&T offers two options to choose from and penalties will be charged if paying off early. There is also a \$10,000 cost with possible additional costs. Farmers and Merchants is local and offers no penalties for paying off early but will hold the title to the fire truck for collateral. The Mayor and Laura Copeland recommend going with USDA and if that proves unsuccessful, going with Farmers and Merchants. Laura Copeland noted that if USDA loans the City the monies, they will obligate the money but not release any funds until the fire truck is in our possession. Council agreed with the recommendations and will go forward first with USDA.

2020 "BACK TO SCHOOL" SALES TAX HOLIDAY. Mayor Smith explained that he thought due to the COVID-19 circumstances, the Council may want to discuss the sales tax holiday. The City's revenue is already impacted by COVID-19 and this would affect it also. Mayor Smith also thinks that the citizens are the ones that will need the help the most. The Council agrees that the City should continue to participate in this sales tax holiday to help those who may need the assistance the most. This is on the Agenda tonight for vote.

OTHER BUSINESS.

- Council Member Galloway asked the Mayor about operations starting today with the soft opening and our Parks and Recreation Department. Mayor Smith explained that the fitness room, walking track, and parks (excluding the playgrounds) will be open starting tomorrow. They are not expecting a lot of traffic so maintaining social distancing should not be a problem and they will be wiping down each machine after each use. They will be open Monday through Thursday, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will remain closed on Sunday.
- Mayor Smith asked the Council how they wanted to proceed with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The Council expressed that they would like to

go back to the Public Safety Complex. Council President Sudduth asked if we would still be under Level III of the Pandemic Policy. Mayor Smith stated that he felt that we should be able to fall back to Level II by that time. The only difference in Level III and II is where the meetings are held and the extra \$2.00 an hour for the First Responders. If he moves the City back to Level II but the Council wants the First Responders to continue receiving the extra pay, the Council can vote on that at the meeting.

- Mayor Smith read a letter he received from a citizen. The citizen expressed what an exceptional job Police Chief Wood is doing.
- Mayor Smith also wanted to address the City Pool. Governor Ivey did allow for the opening of pools but at this time the City Pool will remain closed. Also, we are looking into the Day Camps that many citizens may need as they return to work. The City is looking into any liability and making sure everything is safe before making that decision.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

ATTEST:



Brenda Sandoval
City Clerk



Sandra Fox Sudduth
Council President

