

City Council Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2020
Jacksonville, Alabama

The City Council of the City of Jacksonville, Alabama, met for the Regular Council Meeting on June 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Court Room at the Public Safety Complex, 911 Public Safety Drive, Jacksonville, Alabama. Council President Sandra Fox Sudduth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, 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.

COVID-19 MEETING RULES. City Clerk Brenda Sandoval read the COVID-19 meeting rules.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the Minutes from the June 8, 2020 Called Work Session, Regular Work Session and Regular Council Meeting. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

City Administrator noted there were additions to the Agenda as follows:

Consent Agenda:

Add:

Item 13: Other Personnel Items

3. Resignation

- a. Christopher Stephen Curvin, Police Officer, effective July 7, 2020.***

A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the Agenda as amended. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. The Council President asked for comments concerning current Agenda items. There were none.

RESOLUTION APPROVING A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA AND SOUTHERN LIGHT, LLC. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway,

Council Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2020

Page 1 of 5

bs/pws

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between the City of Jacksonville and Southern Light, LLC. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

CONSIDER ACTION TO ADOPT THE 2020 GENERAL FUND AND WATER WORKS, GAS AND SEWER BOARD JOB DESCRIPTIONS. A motion was made by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Galloway, to adopt the General Fund and Water Works, Gas and Sewer Board job descriptions. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

ABOLISH THE LIST OF GENERAL FUND AND WATER WORKS, GAS AND SEWER BOARD JOB DESCRIPTIONS. A motion was made by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Taylor, to abolish the list of General Fund and Water Works, Gas and Sewer Board job descriptions, per the attached. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

STAFF COMMITTEE REPORT AND PLACEMENT OF TWO (2) STREET LIGHTS ON BEAR BOULEVARD, SW. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to receive the Staff Committee Report and approve the placement of two (2) street lights on Bear Boulevard, SW, on an existing pole in front of the Jacksonville Water Works, Gas and Sewer Board Shop and on an existing pole in front of Transportation Repair, LLC (Bus Barn). Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

THE 2020 PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM WITH ENERTECH. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to authorize the Mayor, on behalf of the Water Works, Gas and Sewer Board, to sign the 2020 Public Awareness Program with Enertech, per the attached. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS.

A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the following:

OTHER PERSONNEL ITEMS.

1. EMPLOYMENT.

- a. Amber Rayborn Stitt, Receptionist/Cashier at PARD, Range 7, effective July 8, 2020 and upon compliance with Ordinance No. 273, due to the promotion of Belinda Johnson

Council Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2020

Page 2 of 5

bs/pws

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2. PROMOTION.

- a. Mathew Cleveland, Equipment Operator II, Range 11, effective June 24, 2020, due to abolishment of Equipment Operator III position. (Mr. Cleveland is currently Equipment Operator I-A).

3. RESIGNATION

- a. Christopher Stephen Curvin, Police Officer, effective July 7, 2020.

BOARDS/COMMITTEES

1. REAPPOINTMENT

- a. Kelly Ryan, Planning Commission, with term to expire May, 2026.

2. RESIGNATION

- b. Elizabeth Engley, Jacksonville City Library Board, effective immediately.

Upon vote of the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL ITEMS. The Council President asked for comments concerning general items. There were ten (10).

- Jennifer Luck, 703 11th Ave NE: Expressed her concern about having the monument removed and explained the history of why the monument was erected. Stated that she had a petition signed by nearly 1300 people in support of having the monument removed. Wants it relocated to a more suitable place, "where it can be preserved and contextualized as a historical object should be." Also stated that they had received a letter from a citizen offering a plot in the cemetery for the monument and offering to pay the \$25,000.00 fine. She presented packets to the Council that included her speech and all of the things she has recommended.
- Dan Barnwell, 1017 Ladiga St. SE: Expressed concern for removing the statue. Believes that the group who wants the statue removed hates courage and loves hate, and if the statue is removed, they will still hate Jacksonville because of its heritage. In his opinion, the statue represents the courage of the people, his family, and his town.
- Thomas Cole, 1005 Magnolia Ln. NE: He is a descendant of the Nisbets, founder of the town. Nobody in Jacksonville defends slavery and wanted it noted that only 10% of the citizens in that time had the money to even own slaves. The City of Jacksonville has a lot of history and if it is obliterated then we will not only lose our history but also the revenue it brings in from the visitors who come in to see it. Requested that the Council stand their ground and not cave into violence and vandalism.
- Mathew Graham, 410 Church Ave NE: Stated he loves the City, loves the people in the city and loves the energy in the city, but the City has so much room to grow. There is a portion of the City that hurt when they drive by the statue. Would like to see it

Council Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2020

Page 3 of 5

bs/pws

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- relocated to a better place to acknowledge the history so everyone can learn from it.
- Peter Leavitt, “Peter the Patriot”, P.O. Box 1245: Expressed his opinions dressed as Major John Pelham. This is not about the color of skin but about erasing history to cause segregation in America. Pledge of Allegiance states one nation under God, in divisible with liberty and justice for all. But today we have division. Does not agree in the removal of the history.
 - Marita Watson, 1008 Magnolia Ln NE, Jacksonville School Board: Would like to ask the Council to revisit the sidewalk project on George Douthit from Walmart to the school and on to James Hopkins. She is concerned of the safety of the students walking back and forth to school.
 - Melissa Webster, P.O. Box 512: Friday football games, nachos, cheerleaders.... sense of community... why? Because we are all on the same team! March 16th... tornado devastated Jacksonville but Jacksonville Strong brought us together. All helped.... why? Because we are all on the same team! Jacksonville brochure prides the City with its history. But in the core of the City, there should be something that can represent all of the citizens. People is what matters, not material thing. We can be united again... People are asking peacefully and respectfully to move something that offends some of our people.
 - Layne Matze-Nelson, 802 14th Ave NE: Wanted to point out that the focus of the protest group is not to remove the symbols or to erase history. Its purpose is to make systemic changes to meet the needs of all the people. Read a list of demands that will radicalize the community and enflame revolution. Feels that it is the responsibility of the Council to meet the needs of all the people.
 - Brenda Lindblom, 307 Mt. St. NE: Wanted to address the removal of the statue. Civil War was about slavery – bottom line. Would like to see it moved to a better location. It glorifies slavery, so she speaks strongly to its removal.
 - Quinton Kirk, 35 CR 643, Piedmont: Explained that the reason the monument was placed in the center of the square was due to the courthouse being there. Majority of people did not own a slave and they did not have a choice when it came to fighting, they were to fight or go to jail. Asking this town to leave the history alone.

COUNCIL MEMBER REMARKS. The Council President asked for comments. There was none.

MAYOR’S REPORT.

- **Public Library:** Will be reopening soon. At this time, you can call and order your books and a Library employee will bring them to your car.
- **Friday, July 3, 2020:** City Offices Closed in observance of July 4th, Independence Day.
- **Jax Fest:** Will be held on July 3, 2020 at Jacksonville High School. Gates will open at 5:00 p.m. and the Fireworks will start at 9:00 p.m. Will be somewhat different this year with social distancing. There will not be a kid zone this year and it is encouraged to watch

Council Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2020

Page 4 of 5

bs/pws

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from your car, especially if you are worried about a crowd.

- **Jacksonville State University:** Orientations start on July 7, 2020. Fall Student Athletes return July 18, 2020, 5 home games scheduled. Commencement – July 31, 2020 and August 1, 2020 (9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. daily).
- **Board of Education:** High School Graduation to be held on July 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. at the JSU Stadium. School starts August 11, 2020.
- Mayor wanted to state that he appreciated all that came out tonight and for all the comments and information that was shared.

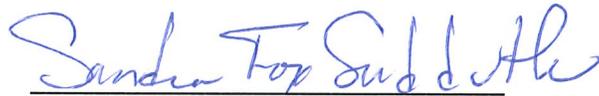
OTHER BUSINESS. The Council President asked if there was any other business. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Taylor to adjourn the meeting. The Council President announced the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

ATTEST:



Brenda Sandoval
City Clerk



Sandra Fox Sudduth
Council President

