

**City Council  
Regular Work Session Minutes  
Jacksonville, Alabama  
July 13, 2020**

The Council of the City of Jacksonville, Alabama, met on July 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Court Room of the Public Safety Complex, 911 Public Safety Drive SW, Jacksonville, Alabama for a Regular Work Session. Council President Sandra Fox Sudduth called the meeting to order at 6:01 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.

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

**MINUTES.** No changes to the minutes.

**SCHOOL SAFETY DOG – CHIEF MARCUS WOOD.** Chief Wood explained to the Council the importance of having a School Safety Dog and how it will not only be an asset for the School, but also for the City in general. The dog will be another tool to help keep the school and city safe. The Jacksonville City School Board has agreed to pay half of the onetime cost of the dog, while the Police Department will be handling all upkeep, food, and vet bills. The dog will be housed with our School Resource Officer. The Jacksonville School Superintendent stated they feel this is a preventative measure that goes along with their mental health program. The dogs are highly trained specifically for schools and will be used when needed around the City and JSU. This is on the Agenda for vote tonight.

**FACE MASKS.** Council President introduced RMC Hospital Administrator, Louis Bass to discuss a letter sent out asking the City to require face masks. Mr. Bass explained the numbers of COVID-19 positive cases in Calhoun County continue to climb and right now the only “vaccines” we have are social distancing, masks, and hand washing/sanitizing. The letter was sent on behalf of the county wide EMA requesting the City of Jacksonville put forth a city-wide mask ordinance. Council Members discussed the importance of being safe but was also concerned with how it would be enforced. Council President will take on getting a committee together to work on a possible ordinance and the Council will revisit once it is ready.

**COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE – MARK WILLIAMS.** Mark Williams explained to the Council that Phase I of the project is complete and the cost did come in lower than originally quoted. The contractor emphasized how much the PARD employees helped with certain aspects of the project which in turn minimized the cost of the project. Mark Williams also noted that the facility went from 4 windows to one window. Now we are at Phase II and once started this Phase will take about two weeks to complete.

**PUBLIC SAFETY POND – MARK STEPHENS.** Mark Stephens wanted to remind the Council the original proposal from Building and Earth for the PSC Pond was good through June 16, 2020. The cost of this proposal was \$9,200.00. Mark Stephens wanted the Council to

let him know if they wanted to move forward with this or keep it on hold. The Council agreed they wanted to move forward. Mark Stephens will touch base with Building and Earth and have a proposal ready to be on the July 27, 2020 Agenda.

### **OTHER BUSINESS.**

- **JSU Update:** President Killingsworth gave an update on what is going on at JSU. The University is preparing for normal in class instruction. On campus, face masks are required and will continue to be once the students return. Summer enrollment attendance is up almost 10% and they are up about 100 students in the fall. All students returning to campus will be tested before they will be permitted on campus. JSU is preparing for fall athletics but is aware that once fall gets here things could change. Housing numbers are looking consistent with last year. The move in process this year will be a gradual 3-day process, August 14-16, 2020. All classes will end by Thanksgiving break, allowing students to take final exams from home and not return to campus until after the New Year.
- **Census:** Andy Green explained to the Council that he would like to get some effort to get citizens to complete the Census as we are only at 58% complete. He would like to see some events that will draw citizens to come and fill out the census with help of volunteers. At an event that Andy Green participated in, in Weaver, they were able to complete 40 households, which adds up to around ½ a million dollars in our county. Three of the main reasons people do not fill out the Census: time, they don't understand, or they have an uneducated view of the Census. At this time, October 31, 2020 is the last day to complete. Mrs. Grant informed Andy Green and the Council that PARD is hosting some movie nights and have coordinated with the Census to have volunteers there to help anyone who may need to do it. Anyone who does will be put into a drawing to win a gift card.
- **Bid 20-06, Meter Reading:** Michael Rinker explained to the Council that Bid 20-06, Meter Reading is on the Agenda tonight for voting. Michael explained that for the past 30 years they have used handheld, but the company is now retiring these and will not be making a newer version. Michael stated that they are now ready to move forward with the Automatic Metter Readers. These will cut down on human error, customer will have better information available to them, and they are tower reading meters that will be able to pinpoint where any problems may be. They are using part of the 2008 Bond issued for a future water source to fund this project. These new meters will have a 10-year full replacement warranty with an expectation of a 20-year life cycle. These meters, considered "Smart Meters", are customer friendly and will catch data every 15 minutes.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Sandoval". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Sandoval  
City Clerk



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Fox Sudduth". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Sandra Fox Sudduth  
Council President