

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The City of Jesup Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chamber. Mayor 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
Interim City Manager, Rose Marcus	Present
Police Chief, Perry Morgan	Present

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Morgan.

Commissioner Darden made motion seconded by Commissioner Todd to approve the minutes of the regular meeting dated June 1, 2021, the work session dated June 15, 2021 and the special called meeting dated June 29, 2021.

All Council voted yes.

Fire Chief Josh Huffman updated Council about the City's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating. He noted the three (3) additional Firefighters in the 2021-22 budget should keep our rating at a 4. Other items that could help lower the rating to a 3 for businesses would be a training facility and a ladder truck. The City of Jesup and Wayne County will form a committee to work toward lowering the ISO rating. Mayor Keith asked for 2 Commissioners to be on the committee with Chief Huffman. Commissioners Harris and House volunteered to be on the committee.

Commissioner Darden made motion seconded by Commissioner Harris to allow Wayne County to use Cracker Williams for one 30-day period in October 2021 for early voting for the City election.

All Council voted yes.

Mr. Frank Ross spoke to Council about the process of hiring a City Manager. He stated that he read in the newspaper that Rose Marcus was appointed Interim City Manager and wondered why Council did not go ahead and make the position permanent. Mayor Keith stated Council will advertise the position and anyone can apply.

Water Department Supervisor Anthony Crawford asked for Council's permission to bid (2) new ATVs for his department. This is a budgeted item.

Commissioner Todd made motion seconded by Commissioner Harris to allow Water Department Supervisor Crawford to bid (2) new ATVs.

Commissioner Armstrong voted no. All remaining Council voted yes.

Water Department Supervisor Crawford asked for Council's permission to bid a new well house. This is a budgeted item in the amount of \$125,000. Commissioner Harvey asked why the cost was so high and Supervisor Crawford explained this was based on construction costs of \$100 per square foot and an estimated \$15,000 for electrical work.

Commissioner House made motion seconded by Commissioner Todd to allow Water Department Supervisor Crawford to bid a new well house.

Commissioners Harvey and Armstrong voted no. All remaining Council voted yes.

Ms. Kathy Anderson, of Harrison Real Estate, representing property owners Diane McCrary, Judy Harris, Patrick McCrary Robert Harrison, Jr, and Ian Buchli, requested to rezone Map J30, Parcel 84 and Map J30, Parcel 58 from R-2 to C-3. Mr. Larry Tillman, an adjoining property owner, requested a 20' buffer and a privacy fence between his residence and the commercial property.

Commissioner Todd made motion seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to rezone Map J30, Parcel 84 and Map J30, Parcel 58, from R-2 to C-3.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Harris stated when Council found out former City Manager Deal was retiring, Mayor Keith appointed Commissioners Armstrong, Harris and Harvey to do several things, which included finding a Company to assist in hiring a new City Manager. He noted there is no one on this Board has regularly hired a CEO for \$21M Company, which is basically what the City of Jesup is. He stated they wanted to go through the process to make it fair for everyone and also to find the best possible City Manager for the City of Jesup. The committee recommends hiring The Mercer Group Associates. Mr. Alan Reddish, who is originally from Jesup and has over 35 years experience in local government, owns the Company. He and Senior Associate, Lisa Ward, will be working with the City of Jesup. Commissioner Harris noted he had sent the proposal and the time line on finding a City Manager to Council. Commissioner House asked what is the cost associated with the consulting firm? City Attorney Conner stated the cost is \$16,500, and up to \$3,600 in expenses. Costs will be paid out of contingency.

Commissioner Harris made motion seconded by Commissioner Harvey to hire Mercer Group Associates recommended by Commissioners Harris, Armstrong and Harvey, to be paid out of contingency.

Commissioner Darden voted no. All remaining Council voted yes.

Interim City Manager Marcus reported to Council that she had her first Department Head meeting last Thursday and another one this morning. She passed out minutes from last Thursday's meeting and noted that she would email them to Council along with minutes from this morning's meeting. Each Department discussed how they would prepare for Hurricane Elsa.

Mayor Keith asked Council to make sure they are getting emails from the Emergency Management Group so they can stay informed about the weather.

Commissioner Armstrong thanked Sheron Daniel for getting everyone to the meeting tonight. She also asked for the grass to be cut on Railroad Avenue and stated that the City is working diligently to contact property owners about dilapidated houses.

Commissioner Darden stated that trash was not picked up in his neighborhood last week. He also reported there needs to be repairs on North Second St. and West Walnut Lane next to Bennett Union Baptist Church. He stated signs need to be placed at the new Enmark where cars are turning in and out from North Second Street and that property beside the old Wayneline on North First Street needs to be cleaned up. He also reported trees on North Fourth Street need to be trimmed.

Meeting Adjourned,

Harriett Clary
Assistant City Clerk/Treasurer