

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The City of Jesup Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber. Mayor David Earl 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, Bobby Townsend	Present
City Attorney, Mike Conner	Present
City Manager, Mike Deal	Present
Police Chief, Glenn Takaki	Present

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Takaki.

Commissioner Darden made motion seconded by Commissioner Harris to approve the minutes of the special called meeting dated February 12, 2016, and the regular meeting dated February 16, 2016.

All Council voted yes on the special called meeting.

Commissioner House abstained on the regular meeting. All remaining Council voted yes.

Mayor Keith tabled discussion on the 2016 LMIG Contract until the next regular meeting.

City Engineer Shuman recommended Council award bid for water line extension on U. S. Highway 84, from Poplar Street to Zaxby's, and from Hinson Mosley Road to Camden Street, to Griffin Utility Construction at \$109,805.00.

Commissioner Townsend made motion seconded by Commissioner House to award bid for the water line extension on U. S. Highway 84, from Poplar Street to Zaxby's, and from Hinson Mosley Road to Camden Street, to Griffin Utility Construction at \$109,805.00.

All Council voted yes.

Bids were as follows:

Seaboard Construction	\$180,132.69
Underground Excavating	\$172,645.00
Griffin Utility Construction	\$109,805.00

A Public Hearing was held on Freddy Swenson's request to rezone 1300 South Palm Street from R-1 to R-3 to broaden his customer base.

Mayor Keith asked Mr. Swenson what is his desired use for the property. Mr. Swenson stated he has people interested in using the property for a funeral home.

Commissioner Harris asked Building Inspector Don Herrin what is the difference between R-1 and R-3 zoning.

Building Inspector Herrin stated R-1 allows for single family residences, and R-3 allows for home businesses and funeral homes.

Joe Tyre and Dan Clary, residents in the neighborhood, spoke against the rezoning.

Larry Armstrong noted a funeral home used to be located near his house, and asked if the City can put one in his community, why can't it be put in another.

City Manager Deal told Mr. Armstrong the reason a funeral home was approved to be placed near his house many years ago was that property was already zoned R-3, and the City had no way to stop it.

Commissioner House stated when you change the zoning from R-1 to R3, you open the door to putting a potential commercial entity in a residential neighborhood, which would not be the right thing to do.

Mayor Keith reminded Council the Planning and Zoning Board voted to not rezone this property on February 9, 2016.

Commissioner Harvey stated this property is located in his district, and he will go with the wishes of his constituents on his vote.

Commissioner House made motion seconded by Commissioner Townsend to uphold the Planning and Zoning Board's decision to deny Freddy Swenson's request to rezone 1300 South Palm Street from R-1 to R-3.

Commissioner Darden voted no. All remaining Council voted yes.

City Attorney Conner stated the City Code has a maximum fine of \$100 for violations to solid waste disposal, which Commissioner Harris feels is not an adequate deterrent.

Commissioner Harvey recommended Council give the City Judge more latitude to set the fine after hearing each case instead of increasing it to a \$500 minimum.

Commissioner Harris made motion seconded by Commissioner Darden to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of an Ordinance to amend the minimum fine for violations to solid waste disposal at \$500.

Commissioner Harvey voted no. All remaining Council voted yes.

Mayor Keith stated Wayne County Board of Commissioners has advertised they will host the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, and asked Council did they still want to have a meeting after that meeting or not.

Commissioner Townsend asked City Attorney Conner was the County's meeting indeed a public hearing.

City Attorney Conner stated after talking with Senator Isakson's office, the County having a public hearing is doubtful.

Council instructed City Clerk Jackson to proceed with advertising the City will hold a public hearing on March 16, 2016.

City Attorney Conner notified Council the Corps has extended the deadline for comments to April 5, 2016. He noted the Corps has received 270 negative public comments as of last week.

Mayor Keith stated a defensive fund has been set up at Harris and Company to make donations to help with legal fees and scientific study.

City Attorney Conner read a list of names of high-powered people who have agreed to help with this process without any cost to the City because they believe in the cause.

Commissioner Townsend stated he thinks with a lot of people's help, this project can be stopped. He also urged the public to attend the meetings on March 16, 2016.

Commissioner House urged the public to buy a local newspaper and send the sample letter inside to the Corps.

City Manager Deal stated the City has been working on getting Railroad Crossings upgraded for several years, and both railroad companies will start this month. On March 11, 2016, CSX Railroad will begin work on the crossings at Cherry Street, Magnolia Street and Pine Street. Also, Norfolk Southern will begin work on crossings at Palm Street, Hickory Street and Fourth Street.

Commissioner Darden stated he read an article about South Carolina passing a law where coal ash could not be brought in from any other area, and wondered if Wayne County has considered that.

City Attorney Conner stated the County is currently getting someone to look at their contract.

Meeting Adjourned,

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Rose Marcus-Jackson  
City Clerk-Treasurer