

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The City of Jesup Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Cracker Williams Community Center. Mayor Pro-Tem Harris called the meeting to order. Roll call was as follows:

Mayor, David Earl Keith	Absent
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
City Manager, Mike Deal	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 Todd made motion seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve the minutes of the regular meeting dated May 4, 2021.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Harris noted Council had already discussed the proposed 2021-22 budget in the called work session prior to the regular meeting.

Fire Chief Josh Huffman asked for permission to re-bid the tool body truck. He informed Council he received only one bid which was more than the previously budgeted amount. He noted that truck has been sold. Commissioner Armstrong asked how long it would take for a truck to be delivered. Fire Chief Huffman stated he was given an estimated delivery date of October thru December 2021.

Commissioner Todd made motion seconded by Commissioner House to give Fire Chief Huffman permission to re-bid the tool body truck, to be purchased out of the 2021-22 budget.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Darden made motion seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to annex IDA property.

All Council voted yes.

John Rogers, resident of East Plum Street, read the following letter to Council:

Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners:

I am approaching you with an ongoing problem that I have presented a few times in the past, and which has not been fully resolved.

My neighbor at 774 E. Plum Street has been there just a little over 10 years. I have been living at 785 E. Plum Street since 1988, directly opposite my neighbor.

My neighbor has not taken proper care of her property. She does keep dogs on the property. There is the constant odor of feces coming from her property towards my property and that of other neighbors. On days when there is no air movement, the odor affects the neighbors on all the surrounding properties. On other days, the odor affects the neighbor in the direction of the wind or breeze.

I have asked for your help in the past and some help has been rendered, but the smell is still there. I talked to the County Department of Health and was informed by them that they could not help me because I lived in the city of Jesup. May I ask, what city office or department do I need to talk to?

I had a visit from Chief Perry Morgan to let me know that he is aware of the problem. A few days after his visit, an officer visited my neighbor's house.

On Monday, May 31st, two people were doing some raking and mowing. These actions were taken on the area of the property visible from the street (i.e., the sidewalk being cleaned off by raking and sweeping and the area mowed).

I do thank Chief Morgan for his attention to my problem and trying to resolve it. However, I believe the situation has only been partially taken care of and I may be before you again if it is not properly resolved.

I am sure there is more than just the odor coming from her property. As the odor is airborne, it is very possible that some infectious spores may be also. With the recent panic about Covid being an example, how can this situation not also be a health hazard?

You have said you will do something. Yet nothing has fully resolved the issue.

Please help do away with this ongoing problem. It cannot be healthy for the lady, the dogs, or the neighbors.

Thank you, I am looking forward to no odor from that property.

John A. Rogers

City Attorney Conner stated the lady has been fined several times, but she simply pays the fines.

City Attorney Conner stated if the Building Inspector finds the building to be unfit, the City could begin the process.

Will Murphy, with Atlas Technical Consultants,, recommended Council award bid on Streetscape in amount of \$1,798,550, and Streetscape lighting of \$513,925.87, for a grand total of \$2,312,475.87. Federal Grant funds of \$781,503.49 will be used, leaving the City responsible for \$1,530,572.38. Amount

allocated in the 2021-22 budget is \$1.3M; therefore, an additional \$231,000 needs to be added to proposed budget.

City Manager Deal noted it is in the City's best interest to proceed with this project. Commissioner Todd asked could the City plant trees or get new sidewalks downtown instead of spending \$2.3M. City Manager Deal stated you could, but you wouldn't be able to use the \$781,503.49 earmark money from DOT. Commissioner Harris asked what funds would be used for the additional \$231,000. City Manager Deal suggested using SPLOST funds.

Commissioner House made motion Commissioner Harris to approve \$2.3M for Streetscape & Streetscape lighting projects.

Commissioners House, Darden and Harris voted yes. Commissioners Todd, Harvey and Armstrong voted no. Mayor Keith was absent.

Police Chief Morgan reported an instructor from Georgia Public Safety will provide anti-harassment and prohibited work place behavior training on Tuesday, July 20 and 21 to all City employees. He noted the proposed anti-harassment policy will be added to the Employee Handbook.

City Attorney Conner applauded Police Chief Morgan on his hard work with the Ordinance.

Commissioner Todd made motion seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve an Ordinance establishing anti-harassment and prohibited work place behavior policies.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Armstrong made motion seconded by Commissioner Harvey to dispense with the 2nd reading of the Anti-Harassment Ordinance.

All Council voted yes.

City Attorney Conner reminded Council they discussed blighted properties at the planning retreat. He noted Council may impose escalation on property taxes for blighted properties. (Ex. 7 mil increase)

Commissioner Harris asked what is the difference between the blighted tax and the Derelict Tax Property Ordinances.

City Attorney Conner stated the City has to update the Derelict Tax Ordinance to provide for the blighted tax ordinance. He noted he also made additional updates based upon current statute.

Commissioner Armstrong made motion seconded by Commissioner Darden to approve an Ordinance to impose a tax on blighted property.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Darden made motion seconded by Commissioner Todd to dispense with the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to impose a tax on blighted property.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Harris suggested County Administrator Ed Jeffords come before City Council to discuss the proposed rental agreement to use Cracker Williams Park annex building for early voting.

Commissioner Todd stated the Dollar General Store fence is falling down and needs to be fixed. He asked if the City could write the owner of the store a letter. City Attorney Conner suggested getting Building Inspector Don Herrin involved to review the site plans to see if the fence must be maintained.

Commissioner Darden thanked City Manager Deal for installing milling on N. Fourth Street.

Commissioner Armstrong asked about the status on the Cracker Williams Park swimming pool. City Manager Deal stated they are waiting on a cost estimate.

Commissioner Darden made motion seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to adjourn into Executive Session for personnel and legal.

All Council voted yes.

Upon returning, Mayor Pro-Tem Harris reported no action was taken in Executive Session.

Meeting Adjourned,

Rose Marcus
City Clerk/Treasurer