

MINUTES
Regular Called City Council Meeting
July 10, 2023

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on July 10, 2023, with the following members present to wit:

Anderson M. Land, Jr.....Mayor
Marcus Barber..... Council Member Dist. 1
Ronald Sample..... Council Member Dist. 2
DeMarcus Holmes..... Council Member Dist. 3
David Shultz..... Council Member Dist. 4
Rashad Lewis..... Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member At-Large Dist. 5

Denise Kelley..... City Manager / Finance Director
Karen Pumphrey..... City Secretary

Mayor Anderson land called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and Mr. Ben Hancock gave the opening prayer. All Council Members were present to wit.

Mayor Land asked for questions or comments on departmental reports. None were made.

Mayor Land asked for Public Comments. The following were made –

1. Mr. Bo Limbrick – Spoke to council and residents regarding personal issues and wanted to be left alone.
2. Mr. Brent Meaux spoke to council and residents giving a clear correct overview regarding the pavilion at the basketball court, as created and planned by the City’s Downtown Revitalizing Committee Program. How it is designed to be used and how it will serve the community in many ways. It is not just a covered basketball area.
3. Mrs. Debby Barns – Spoke to council regarding her mother’s picture not being on the city council room wall and that she served a brief time on city council in the past.

Motion by Council Member Rashad Lewis to approve the following set of minutes from the Regular Called City Council Meeting, June 13, 2023. Second by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Rashad Lewis to approve the City of Jasper’s 2nd Quarter Investment Report. Second by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member David Shultz to approve the request to join the Texas Communities Group, LLC who will help work with our delinquent tax properties to get them back on the tax role and to approve the contract and work statement. Second by Council Member Rashad Lewis. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Ronald Sample to approve the appointment of Mayor Land to the S.R.M.P.A. Board of Directors. Second by Council Member Marcus Barber. Discussion. Council Member David Shultz asked to amend the motion. Mayor Land stated no and asked Council for a vote. Those voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Marcus Barber and Ronald Sample. Those voting opposed to the motion were Council Members DeMarcus Holmes, David Shultz, and Rashad Lewis. Mayor Land stated we have a vote of two for and three opposed. The motion fails to pass.

Mayor Land addressed agenda Item No. 5, his request for council to consider spending one million dollars, \$ 500,000.00 each for the months of August and September to help reduce the electrical rates for residential and commercial customers, providing the SRMPA funds are available. Motion by Council Member David Shultz to use the above stated funds to help reduce residents' property taxes rather than the electrical rate. Second by Council Member Rashad Lewis. Discussion. Council Member David Shultz amended his motion to approve tabling the agenda item for a council workshop meeting. Second by Council Member Rashad Lewis. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Land addressed agenda item # 6, his request for council not to approve spending SRMPA funds for each budget year unless the one million dollars stated above has been allocated for the reduction of the electrical rate providing the funds are available. Motion by Council Member David Shultz to leave it as it currently is City Council has control of the funds any time not just at the budget year and it can be used for the reduction of electrical rate services. Mayor Land stated you can not change the agenda item. We need a motion. Council Member David Shultz stated he made a motion not to change the way the council manages the spending of funds at any time. Second by Council Member Rashad Lewis. Discussion. Mayor Land asked for a vote. Those voting in favor of the motion not to change the way the city council manages the spending of funds at any time were Council Members Marcus Barber, DeMarcus Holmes, David Shultz, and Rashad Lewis. Council Member Ronald Sample voted opposed to the motion. Mayor Land stated we have a vote of four in favor of the motion and one opposed to the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Land addressed agenda item # 7, being two requests from Council Member Ronald Sample – First, not to build the proposed basketball pavilion by spending one million dollars of funds from SRMPA and to cancel the construction of the basketball pavilion and use that one million to go back to the utility customers of the City of Jasper to help reduce the utility rate and second, requesting a record of all funds received and spent from the SRMPA fund and get a balance of what we have left and consider not to spend any SRMPA funds until he has a chance to review those records. Motion by Council Member David Shultz to leave the pavilion approved as it was twice already and on the second request, access to those funds is in our council books and is public information so we do not have to vote on that item for him to have access to it. Mayor Land stated we will only make motions for agenda items as they are (worded) on the agenda and requested for a motion. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve. Second by Council Member David Shultz. Mayor Land asked for a vote. Those voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Marcus Barber and Ronald Sample. Those voting opposed to the motion were Council Members DeMarcus Holmes, David Shultz, and Rashad Lewis. Mayor Land stated we have a vote of two voting for the motion and three opposed to the motion. The motion fails to pass.

Motion by Council Member Rashad Lewis to approve the Food Festival scheduled for September 16th and the BBQ and Chili Cook-Offs scheduled for October 14th both being held in Sandy Creek Park west side, requesting \$ 5,000.00 per event from the HOT Funds. Second by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Discussion. Mayor Land asked if an application was submitted for these HOT funds. City Manager Denise Kelley stated no. Mayor Land gave a reading of the law regarding the funds process and stated at this time we do not have an application, so this request is not eligible to receive the HOT funds. Discussion. Council Member Rashad Lewis requested to amend his motion. Request denied by Mayor Land, and he stated the request could be placed on next month's agenda.

Police Chief Gerald Hall asked the council if they do or do not want signage ordered stating "NO GUNS" in the council room and or city hall. Discussion. No motion was made.


CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mayor Land announced at 6:42 p.m. council will convene in closed executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551 Section 551.074 Personnel Matters, re-evaluation of Judge Robert Jackson.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION – Mayor Land reconvened the open session at 6:55 p.m. and asked the council if they had a motion. Motion by Council Member David Shultz to approve the request from Judge Jackson for a cola raise and to make it retroactive to back when it took place. Second by Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Land adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.


Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:


Karen Pumphrey, City Secretary