

MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 5, 2011, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

Emilia Feldman Clerk of Council

Ron Garver called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Council members present: Ron Garver, Sheila Nelson, Randy Otis, Cory Coburn, Steve Johnston, Doug Eakins and Jim King. Also attending were Mayor, Darlene Steele, Public Service Director, Harold Walker, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jack McDowell, Finance Director, Jack Herrel and Clerk of Council, Emilia Feldman

Prayer by Jack Herrel

Pledge of Allegiance led by Sheila Nelson

Motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of item C, a supplemental appropriation by Mr. Otis and seconded by Mrs. Nelson

Roll Call-All Yeas

Motion to adopt the minutes of the November 7, 2011 Council meeting by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. Otis

Roll Call-All Yeas

Recognition of Guests:

Steve Cilli- Mr. Cilli brought in a petition with over 120 signatures of residents who did not want the water/sewer rates to increase 10%. Mr. Cilli was not just concerned about his water bill but many others in town that this will affect. He also commented on the poor quality of the back streets of West Jeff. He noted that Main St. looked great but areas like Parkdale and Kirkwood Dr. need to be repaired.

Mr. Garver and Mr. Walker explained that the water/sewer department is self sufficient, meaning it is not taken out of the general fund. It is paid for by the user fees pay for the upkeep of the plant, lines etc. However, with more restrictive limits from the EPA we have to put more money into our plants to be in compliance. We are also on a designated scenic water way which has more stringent permits on our water. Rates raised 4 years ago, and before that, it was 14 years before that. When going to the EPA for help, they believe our rates are too low. We need to show that we can pay our part if they were to help. When it comes to the streets both Mr. Walker and Mr. Garver agreed that the streets needed to be repaired. However, we do not have the pressure to fix the streets like we do with the water. The EPA will fine the Village up to \$10,000.00 a day if we do not comply with our limits and repairs. Mr. Walker also noted that our current sewer plant will need attention. He noted that a normal flow would be 600,000 gallons. Today (12/5/11) 4.6 million gallons went through and we will violate our permit. West Jefferson's population has not grown. We have more money we need to put into our water/sewer system and less users to pay for it.

Melinda and Josh Peters

Mr. and Mrs. Peters are residents of Kirkwood Dr. They have had multiple sewer backups in the last several years due to clogged sewer mains. They would like the Paul Davis Emergency Services bill paid and preventative measures taken in writing so this will not happen again. Back

in 2006 when there were two backups within weeks of each other, she said that Mayor Phillips wrote her a check to cover the clean up. Mr. Otis questioned why this has not been addressed. Mr. Walker will get a camera down in the lines when ground gets drier to see what keeps clogging the pipes. It is suspected that tree roots are the problem. Mr. McDowell added that grease build up may be causing the problem. A public Service meeting will be scheduled for the 19th of December and a decision will be made by next council meeting. This particular sewer line will also be put on a maintenance plan for regular clearing.

1. Old Business

A. Second Reading of Ordinance 11-68, establishing new water and sewer user rates for Village residents

Motion by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. Otis

Roll Call – All Yeas

B. Second Reading of Ordinance 11-069, establishing water and sewer tapping fees and deposits for street replacement after such hookups and repealing ordinance 06-031 passed June 19, 2006

Motion by Mrs. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Coburn

Roll Call – All Yeas

2. New Business: (next available number 11-072)

A. Resolution 11-072 authorizing the Mayor and Parks & Recreation Director to enter into an agreement with Todd Elfrink to install new barn ceiling, siding and roof on the old shelter house building at Converse Park.

Discussion: Mr. Johnston suggested tabling this legislation. Our Building Inspector said that the other wood in the shelter house may need to be replaced before steel goes over it. The building does need repair but it is not necessary for the roof and side to match. Mr. Johnston questioned whether there was a need to spend that much money at this time.

Motion to table by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. Coburn

Roll Call 6-1

Yeas- Garver, King, Coburn, Nelson, Eakins and Johnston

Nays- Otis

Resolution 11-072 is tabled

B. Resolution 11-073 a resolution authorizing Jack H. McDowell, Director of Parks & Recreation, to update the Village Swimming Pool to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Discussion: Mr. McDowell talked about how the ADA has required us to put a handicap accessible pool entry in. We need two accesses. Mr. McDowell is applying for a grant but we have to pass this legislation to submit with our grant application. The deadline for the grant is January 1, 2012.

Motion by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. Coburn

Roll Call – All Yeas

C. **Ordinance 11-074** authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the general fund account 1000-10-100-0000 (Police Personal Services).

Discussion- Mr. Herrel explained that we didn't have enough budgeted in the police salaries because the police have 10 more days than all the other departments due to working holidays. This will be in next year's budget.

Motion by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. Eakins

Roll Call – All Yeas

D. **Motion to pay \$1000.00** towards the Electric Bill for Christmas in the Park

Motion by Mr. Garver and seconded by Mr. King

Yeas- Garver, Otis, Nelson, King, Eakins, Johnston

Abstention- Mr. Coburn due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Coburn is Vice President of the West Jefferson Community Association.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Will be meeting 2:00pm on Friday

Police: None

Employee Benefits: Good meeting regarding combining the Police Department and Village Employee Handbook. Met with Mr. Evans of Evans and Associates who actually wrote the manual. They will have a second meeting. Better hiring procedures were discussed as well as supervisor training, as well as harassment training for employees.

Public Service: Meeting December 12 at 5:00pm

Development: None

Parks and Recreation: Packets and notes of last meeting. The committee wants to be talk with the WJYAA to discuss insurance matters. Mrs. Nelson was also concerned about not having Battelle's plan of landscaping brought from Planning and Zoning to Council. The Planning and Zoning Commission has not been giving the minutes to Miss Feldman in a timely matter.

Special Events: The Christmas Parade will be on December 10th, need volunteers for council float.

Director of Finance Report: Mr. Herrel gave out a memo highlighting the October reports.

Director of Public Service Report: None

Director of Parks and Recreation Report: Mr. McDowell has been working on grants for the pool, the shelter house project and will have legislation regarding trees for the parks at the next meeting.

Mayor's Report and Recognition: None.

Recognition of Clerk and Council: None

Additional Business: None

Motion to pay the bills by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. Eakins
By Acclimation of Council

Motion to approve “Then and Now” Certificates over \$3,000.00 by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. Coburn
By Acclimation of Council

Motion to adjourn: 9:07 P.M. By Mr. Coburn and seconded by Mr. Eakins
By Acclimation of Council

Clerk of Council

President of Council