

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2018

The Jackson, Tennessee, City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the George A. Smith Meeting Room at City Hall with Mayor Jerry Gist and Councilmembers Charles “Pepper” Bray; Ernest Brooks II; Harvey Buchanan; David Cisco; Johnny Dodd; Vicky Foote; Ross Priddy; Charles Rahm; and Randy Wallace present. Also present was Anita Brooks, recorder of the minutes.

Councilmember Vicky Foote gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the March 6, 2018, meeting were approved and signed.

Mayor Gist extended an invitation for public comment to anyone present who wished to express comments related to any new business item on the meeting agenda.

Mayor Gist presented proclamations for Equal Pay Day; Sexual Assault Awareness Month; Child Abuse Prevention Month; and National Public Safety Telecommunicator’s Week.

Dr. Eric Jones, Superintendent of the Jackson-Madison County School System, gave an overview of the state of Jackson-Madison County Schools, presented a 10 years’ capital plan for school building constructions and improvements, and requested financial support from the City of Jackson to help build a new Madison Academic High School on the University of Memphis Lambuth campus. Councilmember Dodd commended Dr. Jones for his leadership and stated that he would like for the City Council to consider Dr. Jones’ request. Councilmember Dodd then made a motion

authorizing Mayor Gist to appoint a five-member committee comprised of City Council members to meet with Dr. Jones to determine specifically what he is asking the City to do financially in regards to the capital needs of the Jackson-Madison County School System. Councilmember Buchanan seconded the motion and the motion carried 7-1, with Councilmember Wallace voting nay. (Councilmember Brooks was not present to vote on this business matter and was absent for the duration of the meeting.) The committee will bring a recommendation back to the City Council regarding the request.

Lori Nunnery, executive director of the Jackson-Madison County Convention and Visitors' Bureau, stated that there has been tremendous tourism growth in Jackson-Madison County over the last five years, peaking in 2015 with approximately 12 and a half percent growth of the Hotel/Motel Tax. Ms. Nunnery further stated that they anticipate having a three to four percent growth in tourism in 2018 and 2019. Ms. Nunnery also gave a presentation on the Convention and Visitors' Bureau's marketing campaign to generate revenue for Jackson-Madison County. Councilmember Rahm who serves as the City's liaison to the Community Economic Development Commission expressed appreciation to Ms. Nunnery and her staff for their efforts in making Jackson, Tennessee, a destination place.

Mayor Gist announced that if there were no objections from the City Council, representatives from the Jackson Arts Council will give a presentation. There being no objections from the City Council, Monte Jones, Jackson Arts Council Vice President-Board Operations, and Melinda Hearn Reid, executive director of the Jackson Arts Council, came forward and expressed their appreciation to the Mayor and City Council for the City's financial investments in the Arts. Mr. Jones recognized Arts supporters, members of the Jackson Arts Council Board of Directors and members of the Arts

coalition who were in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Reid reported that in 2017, ten recipients received grant funding totaling over \$11,000 from the Arts Build Communities (ABC) Grant and seven recipients received grant funding totaling over \$12,000 from the JAC grant. Ms. Reid stated that the Jackson Arts Council was 1 of 20 statewide partners that was selected by the Tennessee Arts Commission out of Nashville to partner up with the Arts Commission and Americans for the Arts to participate in a huge economic impact study that measures the impact of Arts and Cultural groups, local jobs, income pay to local residents, and revenue generated to local and State governments. Ms. Reid also stated that they are happy to announce that here locally, the Arts support 190 full-time equivalent jobs, 4.7 million dollars in economic activity and 3.1 million dollars in household income.

On the motion of Councilmember Buchanan, seconded by Councilmember Cisco, an Ordinance to close and abandon a street stub running northwest from Mimosa Drive to Stanfill Lane was unanimously approved on second reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

On the motion of Councilmember Cisco, seconded by Councilmember Dodd, unanimous approval was given to purchase property owned by the estate of John T. Murphy located at 517-520 Airways Boulevard for \$220,000. The property will be used to relocate the Parks Maintenance Operations Department.

City Attorney Lewis Cobb presented the following City Charter revisions from the Charter Review Committee and advised that the City Council can either accept, reject or amend any of the proposed revisions:

1. Section 3. Elections - Revision to Eligibility for election for Mayor and Council regarding age and length of residency. The Charter

Review Committee recommends that candidates for Mayor of the City of Jackson, Tennessee, must have resided within the City of Jackson, Tennessee, for (1) one year prior to the election and must be at least 30 years old on Election Day. The Charter Review Committee also recommends that candidates for City Council must have resided within the City of Jackson, Tennessee, for (1) one year prior to the election, must have resided within the district they seek to represent for at least (90) days prior to their candidacy, and must be at least 25 years old on Election Day.

2. Section 4. Second paragraph of Section 4 in the City Charter regarding \$100.00 qualifying fee. The Charter Review Committee recommends that the second paragraph of Section 4 be deleted in its entirety from the City Charter.
3. Section 9. Rewording of language regarding fidelity Bond. The Charter Review Committee recommends that the language in Section 9 in the City Charter be changed to the following: *The City shall procure for the Mayor and Treasurer of the City Council a "blanket" fidelity bond in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the faithful performance of their duties.*
4. Section 61. Regarding early payment of property taxes. The Charter Review Committee recommends that the language in the first paragraph of Section 61 in the City Charter be changed to the following: *All taxes levied by said municipality shall be due and payable from October 1st to December 31st of each year for which*

the taxes are assessed or levied, and shall bear penalty and interest at a rate set forth by ordinance, from and after January 1st thereafter. The said municipality shall be approved to accept payment any time after it has loaded the tax base approved by and received from the Madison County Assessor's Office.

Mr. Cobb stated that he presented the suggestions that were made by Council members relative to the proposed revision to eligibility for election for Mayor and Council, regarding age and length of residency, to the Charter Review Committee. Mr. Cobb further stated that the Charter Review Committee met, considered the suggestions and decided to let their proposed recommendation stay as presented.

Councilmember Cisco made a motion to amend the Charter Review Committee's recommendation regarding the minimum age requirement for candidates for City Council on Election Day by changing the minimum age requirement to 18 years old for candidates for City Council. Councilmember Dodd seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-3, with Councilmembers Bray, Buchanan, Cisco, Dodd and Priddy voting yea and Councilmembers Foote, Rahm and Wallace voting nay. Councilmember Cisco then made a motion to amend the Charter Review Committee's recommendation regarding the length of residency in a district for candidates for City Council prior to the Election Day by changing it to a one-year residency requirement in a council district for candidates for City Council prior to the Election Day. Councilmember Rahm seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-2, with Councilmembers Bray, Buchanan, Cisco, Dodd, Rahm and Wallace voting yea and Councilmembers Foote and Priddy voting nay.

Councilmember Buchanan made a motion to change the City Charter's current threshold for an election to fill a vacancy on the council from 75% of councilmembers

whether in attendance or not to a 2/3 majority vote of the council members who are present and voting. Councilmember Dodd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

On the motion of Councilmember Dodd, seconded by Councilmember Rahm, the Charter revisions were unanimously approved as amended.

On the motion of Councilmember Foote, seconded by Councilmember Buchanan, unanimous approval was given to submit the Charter changes to the state legislature for approval.

Tony Black, executive director of Recreation and Parks, presented an updated One Jackson Recreation and Parks Master Plan to the City Council and answered questions. On the motion of Councilmember Rahm, seconded by Councilmember Foote, unanimous approval was given to accept the One Jackson Recreation and Parks Master Plan as presented.

On the motion of Councilmember Buchanan, seconded by Councilmember Foote, unanimous approval was given to a contract with Lu, Inc. in the amount of \$95,792.00 for guardrails, lowest and best bid received.

On the motion of Councilmember Dodd, seconded by Councilmember Foote, unanimous approval was given to a contract with Midsouth Solutions for leather gear for the Jackson Police Department, best bid received, based upon unit pricing.

On the motion of Councilmember Rahm, seconded by Councilmember Bray, unanimous approval was given to a contract with Mann's Wrecker Service for towing services, based upon unit pricing, lowest bid received.

On the motion of Councilmember Buchanan, seconded by Councilmember Cisco, unanimous approval was given to apply for the Edward Bryne JAG Grant. Total amount to be awarded is \$53,031 to be split with the county. No match required.

On the motion of Councilmember Rahm, seconded by Councilmember Wallace, unanimous approval was given to apply for the STOP Grant to allow the City to continue to have a Domestic Violence Investigator. The grant requires the investigator to be POST certified. The total of the grant is \$80,000 with a 25% match from the City. The grant will cover \$60,000 and the City will cover \$20,000. The contract is for a 5-year period with a maximum award amount of \$300,000.

On the motion of Councilmember Dodd, seconded by Councilmember Rahm, unanimous approval was given to the re-appointment of Pat Mingledorff to the Jackson Parks and Recreation Board.

On the motion of Councilmember Cisco, seconded by Councilmember Dodd, unanimous approval was given to the re-appointment of James Ross to the Jackson-Madison County Airport Authority Board.

On the motion of Councilmember Buchanan, seconded by Councilmember Rahm, unanimous approval was given to the re-appointment of Martha White to the Environmental Codes and Appeals Board.

On the motion of Councilmember Dodd, seconded by Councilmember Wallace, unanimous approval was given to the re-appointment of Duane Cherry to the Jackson Transit Authority Board.

On the motion of Councilmember Cisco, seconded by Councilmember Foote, unanimous approval was given to the re-appointments of Herb Slack and Rowland Fisher to the Jackson-Madison County Historical Zoning Commission.

On the motion of Councilmember Buchanan, seconded by Councilmember Rahm, unanimous approval was given to the following budget amendment requests:

CAPITAL		Current	Amendment	Amended
FUND:		Budget	Request	Budget
<i>Expenses:</i>				
315-44720-900	Parks Maintenance	40,699	220,000	260,699
<i>Revenue:</i>				
315-37900	From Fund Balance	4,538,947.19	220,000	4,758,947.19

Budget amendment for Parks Maintenance for the purchase of land known as Murphy Tractor Company for the use of Parks Maintenance new facility in the amount of \$220,000. This will require a draw on fund balance.

On the motion of Councilmember Bray, seconded by Councilmember Dodd, unanimous approval was given to the payment of invoices over \$10,000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

JERRY GIST, MAYOR