

**CITY OF JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

APPROVED 12-14-15

REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 23, 2015; VOL. 65; NO. 24

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Janesville held at City Hall on November 23, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Council President Marklein at 6:00 PM. Council President Marklein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilmembers Bobzien, Deupree, Farrell, Gruber, Liebert, Marklein, Tidwell. Absent: none.

Public comments on items on the Agenda not requiring a public hearing and on matters which can be affected by Council action. Ty Bollerud, 419 S. Walnut St., spoke about the General Motors plant and speed balling. Norm Aulabaugh, 2541 S. Tollefson Rd, Orfordville, Daniel Fary, W7466 County Rd J, Fort Atkinson, Mark Fuller, 320 E. Holmes St., and Janet LaBrie, 320 E. Holmes St., spoke in favor of the resolution to place an advisory referendum on the ballot to amend the US Constitution (NB #3).

City Manager Update. City Manager Freitag introduced Randy Banker, the new Fire Chief; updated the Council on the following items: limited occupancy permits have been issued to IPM Foods and AM Castle; two new police officers started on November 9, 2015; the Police and Fire Commission interviewed and approved 7 Firefighter-Paramedic candidates for the JFD hiring pool; the Recreation Division received a Silver Star Award at the annual Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association conference; the Janesville Noon Lions donated funds for a park bench at the Riverside Park splash pad; the Milton Ave and Milton Ave nightside bus routes have been permanently altered to add a stop at Festival Foods; and upcoming City Events.

Showcase Janesville: House of Mercy Homeless Center. Joe Locher, Operations Coordinator, House of Mercy, explained their programs and their impact on the community.

Regular City Council meeting minutes of November 9, 2015

Financial Statements for the Month of October, 2015

Action on a proposed resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant request to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for funding through their 2016 Brownfields Program. (File Resolution No. 2015-1258)

Council President Marklein stated that all items on the Consent Agenda would be approved if there were no objections. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

Council President Marklein moved Old Business item #4 to next on the agenda.

4. A proposed resolution vacating a portion of the frontage road located between STH 26 and Ryan Rd south of Interstate 39/90 received its second reading and public hearing. The public hearing was opened. No one spoke. The public hearing was closed. Councilmember Liebert moved to adopt said resolution, seconded by Councilmember Gruber and passed unanimously. (File Resolution No. 2015-1242)

1. Continued public hearing and adoption of the 2016 proposed FY 2016 City and Library budgets. The public hearing was opened. Andreah Briarmoon, 339 S. Locust St., requested that the Council lay off 25% of the City staff to cut the budget. Al Lembrich, 541 Miller Ave., spoke against the ARISE Coordinator position. Chris Ramos, 1094 Laramie Ln., asked that the Council continue to fund the JAVCB with 52% of the room tax collected. John Beckford, representing Forward Janesville, asked the Council to set aside money for an ARISE Coordinator that Forward Janesville would try to match with private funds to employ individuals as necessary to move the ARISE project forward. Dave Marchant, 4255 Saratoga Dr., and Tim Weber, 1615 Newport Ave., spoke in favor of the Forward Janesville proposal for the ARISE Coordinator funds. Jeff Hazekamp, 452 S. Garfield Ave., spoke in favor of the Forward Janesville proposal for the ARISE Coordinator funds. Mick Gilbertson, 3400 Edgewood Dr. Edgerton, spoke in favor of the ARISE Coordinator position. Brett Frazier, Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin, requested the Council increase funding to the Humane Society to the 2015 level of \$125,000. The public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Liebert moved to cut \$97,220 by deleting the ARISE Coordinator position; seconded by Councilmember Gruber. Councilmember Gruber offered a friendly amendment to put \$50,000 into a special fund for purposes of providing specialized services for the ARISE project that need to be matched by the Forward Foundation. The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker. The motion passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Farrell, Gruber, Liebert, Tidwell. Nay: Marklein.

Councilmember Liebert moved to add \$10,000 to the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin contract, seconded by Councilmember Gruber. Councilmember Gruber moved to amend the motion to remove the \$2,520 for City Council cell phone allowance and reduce professional development fees for the City Council to \$2,800 and reclassified as business expense fees. The amendment was seconded by Councilmember Marklein. The amendment failed by the following vote: Aye: Gruber, Marklein; Nay: Bobzien, Deupree, Farrell, Liebert, Tidwell. The original motion passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Gruber, Liebert, Tidwell. Nay: Farrell, Marklein.

Councilmember Deupree moved to reduce professional development for Councilmembers to \$3,500, seconded by Councilmember Marklein and passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Gruber, Marklein. Nay: Farrell, Liebert, Tidwell.

Councilmember Bobzien moved to eliminate \$29,892 by deleting the part-time Emergency Management Program manager position, seconded by Councilmember Liebert and passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Liebert, Tidwell. Nay: Farrell, Gruber, Marklein.

Councilmember Marklein moved to eliminate \$2,520 by deleting the cell phone allowance for Councilmembers, seconded by Councilmember Gruber and failed by the following vote: Aye: Deupree, Gruber, Marklein. Nay: Bobzien, Farrell, Liebert, Tidwell.

Councilmember Marklein moved to restore the subsidy to the golf courses in the amount of \$7,500, seconded by Councilmember Farrell and failed by the following vote: Aye: Deupree, Farrell, Marklein. Nay: Bobzien, Gruber, Liebert, Tidwell.

Councilmember Gruber moved to adopt administrative accounting changes proposed by the Finance Director and give him the authority to make the changes necessary, seconded by Councilmember Tidwell and passed unanimously.

Councilmember Marklein moved to approve FY2016 budget based on changes made by Council

through November 23, 2015, seconded by Councilmember Tidwell and passed unanimously.

Councilmember Marklein moved to pass the 2016 Section 8 Rent Assistance budget, seconded by Councilmember Tidwell and passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Farrell, Gruber, Marklein, Tidwell. Nay: none. Abstain: Liebert.

Councilmember Marklein moved to approve the 2016 Hedberg Public Library budget, seconded by Councilmember Deupree and passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Farrell, Gruber, Marklein, Tidwell. Nay: none. Abstain: Liebert.

Council President Marklein moved New Business item #3 next on the agenda.

- NB #3. Action on a proposed resolution authorizing an April 5, 2016 advisory referendum to propose an amendment to the United States of America's Constitution to define both a person as a human being and declare that money is not free speech. Councilmember Tidwell moved to approve the resolution with the amendment to remove the phrase stating "The Common Council supports a Constitutional amendment that defines a person as a human being and declare money is not speech," seconded by Councilmember Bobzien. Councilmember Gruber offered a friendly amendment to change the question to "Shall the Citizens of Janesville support the following resolution?" The amendment was accepted by the maker and the seconder. The resolution, as amended, passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Farrell, Gruber, Liebert, Tidwell. Nay: Marklein. (File Resolution No. 2015-1256)
2. A proposed ordinance authorizing various user fee changes as part of the 2016 City budget received its second reading and public hearing. The public hearing was opened. Andreah Briarmoon, 339 S. Locust St., spoke against the ordinance change. The public hearing was closed. Councilmember Gruber moved to adopt said ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Liebert and passed unanimously. (File Ordinance No. 2015-624)
 3. A proposed resolution declaring the City's intent to order the installation of sidewalk at various locations in 2016 and charging the abutting property owners benefitting from the improvements received its second reading and public hearing. The public hearing was opened. No one spoke. The public hearing was closed. Councilmember Farrell moved to adopt said resolution, seconded by Councilmember Tidwell and passed by the following vote: Aye: Bobzien, Deupree, Farrell, Gruber, Liebert, Tidwell. Nay: Marklein. (File Resolution No. 2015-1248)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Action to authorize the City Manager to file a simplified water rate increase with the Public Service Commission. Councilmember Gruber moved to authorize the filing, seconded by Councilmember Liebert and passed unanimously.
2. Action on a proposed resolution to opt out of implements of husbandry length and weight limits for agricultural implements and agricultural commercial vehicles. Councilmember Gruber moved to adopt said resolution, seconded by Councilmember Tidwell and passed unanimously. (File Resolution No. 2015-1245)
4. A proposed ordinance repealing and recreating Chapter 15.08 of the Code of General Ordinance creating certain regulations for the razing of buildings in the City of Janesville with penalties for violations thereof as set forth in JGO 15.80 was introduced and scheduled for public hearing on December 14, 2015. (File Ordinance No. 2015-625)

5. Council President Marklein scheduled a Special City Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7:15 a.m. to set the tax rate. All Councilmembers waived notice.
6. Matters not on the agenda. City Manager Freitag asked Council to plan on a listening session on February 11, 2016 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Kennedy School and April 28, 2016 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Craig High School. Requested two councilmember volunteers to speak to Senior Center on March 9, 2016 at 10:00 am. Councilmember Deupree and Councilmember Gruber volunteered. Councilmember Gruber requested a timeline for the TIF overlay for downtown. Congratulated staff on the response to the snowfall from this previous weekend. Councilmember Liebert asked if there had been a public notice for the City Manager evaluation coming up in December. Councilmember Marklein advised items will be distributed soon. Councilmember Farrell complimented City Manager for the paperless office initiative. Councilmember Marklein asked why we plowed the parking lots of closed golf courses. Councilmember Bobzien answered that people snow shoe and ski at the golf courses.
7. Motion to adjourn. Council President Marklein moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Liebert and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 10:09 PM.

These minutes are not official until approved by City Council.

David T. Godek
City Clerk-Treasurer