

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Council Worksession
February 9, 2017
6:30pm

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Brad Cheney, Cyndie Hightower, Dave Beyerl, Walt Perry, Stan Neal, Mike Myers

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Bob Burns

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Cook, City Recorder; Jeff Buskirk, Public Works Director; Sgt. Parise, MCSO

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Hightower called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute.

II. WORKSESSION TOPICS

A. Visioning/Brainstorming

Mayor Hightower called upon Councilors to share their ideas. Councilor Neal indicated he had a wish list of things and ideas he thought would be nice to see in Jefferson, noting it was only a wish list and he was aware there would need to be further investigation and costs involved. He wondered what it would take to procure the land where the old Oberson service station was and put something attractive on it; sidewalks and bike paths on S Main; sidewalks, bike paths and lamp posts on N Main; the repair of Hwy 164 through Jefferson, complete with sidewalks, bike paths, etc; and a kind of plaza with a clock tower on N Main that could be used as a park with an area for a farmer's market. He hoped his ideas could be an introduction on some discussions, costs and agencies involved over time, noting he'd been thinking a lot about them.

Councilor Beyerl liked all of the ideas presented, noting that over the years previous Council's had tried working on some of them without luck. The old gas station in particular came with a long list of concerns regarding the site clean-up and liability to anybody taking ownership of it, but he too would love to see that corner cleaned up. In regards to the sidewalks down S. Main, he explained the City had gone after a grant for sidewalks, but it was a County road and not in the City's jurisdiction. In regards to Old Hwy 99, he noted that he and Councilor Perry had been harping at ODOT since the establishment of the MPO. He thought if they kept on them, someday it might happen. Councilor Neal indicated that he'd had a conversation with James LaBar, Mid-Valley Region Coordinator in the Governor's office, explaining if there were projects that involved State, County and City, that he was the person to bring in to coordinate with all the agencies. He agreed with Beyerl, that persistence was important and suggested each Councilor could take one of the projects they liked and do the research and investigation on it, then report back to Council with their findings, updates, etc. Mayor Hightower noted various bike clubs rode through town during the summer and brief discussion took place about the safety along the highway and S Main without designated paths and very little, if any, shoulder. Councilor Neal indicated if they could all agree on a project, perhaps at an upcoming meeting the

Mayor could assign them to each of them, indicating if assignments weren't made, it wouldn't get done.

Moving on, Councilor Myers indicated he had a few project ideas as well, noting the old gas station was also on his list, and felt it was one of the biggest priorities since it was the first thing people saw when driving into town. He was aware of the challenges presented with the owner being deceased, DEQ's involvement, the risk of liability and potential expenses, but he felt there were other communities that must have had similar challenges and suggested reaching out to COG and LOC about it because he couldn't believe Jefferson was that unique. His second item related to property between 5th and Columbia; a significant piece of property that now belonged to the County, was designated wetland, and where the bulk of the wild turkeys lived. He had read of two other communities that converted that type of land to a wetlands restoration park-like property and thought there was grant money in that arena that could assist with clearing it out, replanting native vegetation and put a footpath through. He thought they could create something pleasing and clear up an area that was a challenge for a lot of local residents, noting that he'd like to work on that project. Public Works Director, Jeff Buskirk, clarified that the state had it listed as wooded wetland.

Councilor Myers last item was to invite SEDCOR in (Strategic Economic Development Corp.), a non-profit with over 400 different members in the Willamette valley. He explained their focus was on communities and they identified what would be feasible in all areas for economic development. Their services were free and provided hands on information on how they could "sell" Jefferson, as well as ideas of what might be needed to make Jefferson more appealing to others coming in. He would like to invite them to a future worksession for more information. Councilor Beyerl commented that they could make the effort to get some projects going and fix up the town, but there was also the people in town that didn't want to see growth. He wasn't opposed to people moving to Jefferson at all, but others that aren't interested in seeing any growth might be. Councilor Neal volunteered to work with Mike Myers on the gas station abandonment project, as that was a big one for him as well. They agreed.

Councilor Perry saw some redundancy on some things, indicating the Landmarks Advisory Committee was one, and they had also touched on areas that both MWACT and the TAC (road type/transportation based committees) and been working on for almost 3 years, referring to the desire to have the highway through town brought up to standards. He noted it had been a huge personal investment and did not want to get hairs crossed when dealing with ODOT. Councilor Myers noted the Main St. and Hwy 99 project was right up Councilor Perry and Beyerl's alley, as they had both been working on it for some time. Councilor Beyerl agreed, noting they had decided a long time ago they weren't going to let it go, realizing things would not happen overnight, but they would keep harping. Councilor Neal suggested including James LaBar and inviting him to assist with ODOT involvement, to which the Mayor agreed and asked him to call and invite him. Councilor Myers suggested the City Recorder follow up on Councilor Neal's phone call with written correspondence.

No other Councilor brought forth project ideas.

B. Bridge Lighting Project/Solar Energy Application

Mayor Hightower indicated she had taken a summer intern with Pacific Power a few years ago, where she learned a lot about the local energy business. She had recently invited an architect to look at Jefferson to come up with ways of improving it, which was when he, her husband, Nathan Hightower, and others came up with the idea to brighten the City by lighting the bridge. She explained how Nathan had found a Department of Energy project opportunity called SunShot and had decided to put an application together for it. She would have him come up to further present the project, but read a brief description about the Bright Bridge Power project first, explaining how they would utilize the famous bridge for the mounting of 186 solar panels that were 300 watts each to provide power for lighting the entrance and exit to the Jefferson community, while also providing power for street lights. The approximate 56,000 watts of power would supplement the existing power requirements of the City while lighting the bridge. Her goal was to work with local universities, schools, and students, along with their architect and engineers to provide a sustainable, attractive, and replicable design that could be utilized across the United States. She asked Nathan Hightower to come up and provide more about the project.

Nathan Hightower, 664 High Ct. – picked up the presentation by providing raw data to start with so they could understand how the system would work and then he would talk about the application process. He explained each bridge span had 175 feet on each end and a 200ft span in the middle. He spoke of the 1100 feet of panels at 3 feet wide and the idea of putting the panels across the bridge to maybe enhance the view of the bridge. He indicated they could build a power purchase agreement with Pacific Power and would sell power to them during peak timeframes when solar was at its highest and worth its most, and augment it with the ability to shave costs at night when they needed lighting throughout the City. The idea was to do a trade with the utility to pay for a portion of the lighting during evening hours. The 186 panels provided about 56,000 watts of solar power, which would run about \$18,600, the inverters about another \$8000, and the meter, wiring and installing would be around \$20k, for total of about \$50k. Without doing a full analysis, he said he was looking at about \$1 per watt, with the right installation methods, people volunteering from the City, ODOT involvement, etc.

As for the application, Nathan Hightower explained the SunShot initiative required 25,000 watts' minimum in their application and allowed them to pick up anywhere from \$20k to \$100k if they won against other projects, noting if their project was the top pick, they could receive a community grant in the amount of \$1 million. He spoke on criteria for applying and said the beauty was they could change the community a little by the entrance alone. The Bright Bridge Power project would utilize that particular bridge, but he felt it was important to develop something that could involve the universities and schools to participate in the project. He had already reached out to the U of O electrical engineering instructor, who indicated they wanted to be part of it, and the work with the architect had already begun. There were some barriers to consider, he said, the biggest was winning citizens buy in, which he felt were good reasons to hold a few Town Hall meetings. Secondly, they had to obtain the federal ITC for the project, which was 30%. That, along with State of Oregon other credits, would provide a financial model that would make it replicable for other cities to use in their own ways. Third, they had to make sure ODOT would support the process and provide a potential budget to maintain it, unless Jefferson could. He went on to explain the appearance had to be inviting and their architect would make that happen. They had to agree to the application, noting the Mayor was the lead on it and at the front end of it. Obtaining the community buy in, developing a bridge enhancement plan, which would be done by the architect; those were the main things they needed, but also to provide a

replicable financial model. Mr. Hightower explained there were coaches available once the application was submitted, including coaches for finance, engineering and architecture, an installation team, etc. He noted it was a lot of information to think on and was a very unique project that would require close working relationships with ODOT and OR Department of Energy.

Nathan Hightower felt it was also important for the Council to understand the value of lighting the bridge, indicating the Willamette Light Brigade was a nonprofit organization in Portland that was dedicated to lighting bridges there; which they were able to do with grants and other funds. The City of Portland, about 14 years ago, was announced one of the most attractive architectural cities and he felt it was because of their bridges, noting that an innovative bridge design, lit correctly and augments power to the City would take them miles ahead for some of the other projects he heard from the Council earlier that night. It was his opinion that a lot of money had been involved in big projects, including money spent on attorney fees, and thought putting together this little project, for about \$50k would be money better spent.

Councilor Beyerl inquired how much it would cost the City up front, to which Mr. Hightower explained would depend if they won the SunShot grant or not, as well as reaching out to other organizations to help, so maybe it wouldn't be just the City money involved.

Councilor Perry asked if he'd sought permission from the owner of the bridge, noting it did not belong to the City of Jefferson, or even Marion County for that matter. Councilor Beyerl pointed out that Linn County owned the bridge and ODOT maintained it. Councilor Myers indicated he liked the initial presentation, but needed clarification on a couple things. He first confirmed the bridge lighting proposal was more than lighting of the bridge, but additional power source for the community too. Hightower explained that it shouldn't take more than perhaps 2000 watts, out of the 50k, to light the bridge; therefore, the rest could be traded for augmenting City lights. Councilor Myers noted he'd done significant work thus far and wondered if it was the kind of project that would need the City and/or staff's involvement, or if it would be a citizen run initiative, or who the team was he spoke about putting together. Nathan addressed him, explaining that the SunShot initiative requires a team and thought the Council would be intimately involved in the process, what it looked like, the funding opportunities, etc. However, the real core team would be different and he proposed that team to be Council members at the lead; Architect, Bill Ryals; Eric Anderson from PacifiCorp; reps from PGE, Brett Seamen, the owner of the solar company, and several other names and agencies. Of course, the Council could say they don't want those players involved and pick others, but they would have to re-apply and submit it. In closing he explained there were two pieces; the first part was having major people in the City being involved in the architectural look of the bridge; then, the other side was the nuts and bolts of installing it and politically working with constituents at ODOT, Linn and Marion County, etc. He began to speak on a project in Lebanon and the lengthy process involved there; however, the Mayor noted the time and indicated they needed to move on.

C. Introduction of Architect, Bill Ryals

Bill Ryals, 935 Jones Ave. NW, Albany and partner Gary Hartill, 240 N. Broadway in Portland, OR, came forward, indicating they were invited by Mayor Hightower. Mr. Ryals provided some background about himself, noting he was born in Scio, grew up in Albany and was very familiar with Jefferson.

Mr. Ryals noted there was unique, beautiful land around here and whether people liked it or not, growth was coming and he'd set himself up to come back to the area to guide and control it in a positive way for people around here. He'd been working over the last 20 year in Albany helping them regenerate their downtown, which was doing wonderfully and was a great enhancement to tax payers. He elaborated on some of the work involved there and indicated that he prepared a slide show of some things they'd done recently, noting anything was possible; lighting the bridge was easy, getting downtown redeveloped was easy if you had the right components involved.

Questions: Michelle Nunes, owner of Jefferson Station Cafe – agreed the downtown area was in need but wondered how you could force the people with financial restrictions to keep up on their properties. Mr. Ryals noted Albany faced similar issues and had to bring in millions of dollars, which was very difficult. It had to first start with a vision that came organically from the people. Also, SHPO worked with them to create a historic district, which Linda Baker (FOL) interrupted to explain the City's LAC was in the process of doing. He went on to speak about the Main St. America program and that once you were declared a historic district you had access to grants, as well as the ability to allow developers to receive a tax break.

Gary Hartill came forward to present the slideshow, after talking a little about his background as well, noting he began working with Bill about 6 years ago, grew up on the coast, and went to school in Portland. He indicated the first step was to organize all their ideas and create a master plan, which would create a framework and structure to determine what got tackled first. Then they would price it out and plan over 2-10 years. He brought two examples of master plans with him and noted there were 14 people in their group and most of the work they did was for institutions, such as OHSU, and a lot of multi-family residential and old building restorations. A citizen and former Councilor, Mike Sampels interrupted, indicating he thought the presentation was supposed to be about the bridge, noting what he was seeing was a sales pitch and he wasn't interested in their resume. Mayor Hightower asked the presenters to pick up the pace a little bit, to which they replied they were just offering some background of who they were and projects they'd been involved in. They went on with the slide show and explained they were there to propose helping them organize a master plan that would find a road map to downtown improvements. Again, Mike Sampels, wondered where the information was about the bridge project everybody thought they were there to present; the audience agreed. Mayor Hightower requested they show respect for all visitors and indicated she had invited them and was interested in hearing what they had to say. However, with the meeting running long and still more business to get through, she asked them to wrap up, indicating she'd like to have them back. Bill Ryals said they'd like to come back to the next Council meeting and present more information and ways to improve the City. Council Dave Beyerl questioned who was paying for an architect, noting if the City wanted an architect they'd need to put out an RFP for one. Mayor Hightower explained he was a friend of hers and was not charging the City for his services. The audience took issue with that before the Mayor thanked them for coming and moved on.

Chris Giffin 207 Main St. – with all due respect, she did not understand how the new Councilors could discuss the next two items on the agenda when they were suing the City. Further, she went on, questioning how they could direct Sarah Cook, who they were also suing, to go against the law, and felt they should be declaring conflicts of interest first.

D. Draft Resolution Related to Voter Approved Annexations and Senate Bill 1573, Directing Staff to Comply with Sections 12.76.010, Subsection (D.) of the City Charter and Jefferson Ordinances

Mayor Hightower noted the Resolution was a draft prepared by Councilor Cheney. Councilor Neal stated his address of 731 S. 5th St in Jefferson and declared a *potential* conflict of interest. He explained he'd spent hours talking to the Ethics Commission on the phone and in person, and said all this had to do with was restoring the right to vote, and nothing to do with previous activities which he had since disconnected from completely. He read from information that he indicated was received from the Ethics Commission, stating he went to them to procure sound advice and if he carried out the sound advice it would grant him a safe harbor when running into conflicts of interest and the draft resolution was only a way to try to get the right for citizens to be able to vote on annexations again. If the resolution was passed, it would restore the way annexations were processed back to the way it was before SB1573. He said it was only a potential conflict of interest, in that if they went back to voting on annexations, that in turn could be a conflict of interest in that restoring the right to vote might change the number of accepted annexations and could affect his property values and all others in Jefferson. He felt he was free to talk about the resolution because he was provided a safe harbor in deliberating on it and he would do whatever was possible to help restore citizens right to vote, which was one of the main reasons he was elected. He added that over 600,000 people lost their right to vote by a law that was currently being challenged by other bills and the City of Corvallis. He felt it was his way of standing up for the citizens and if they could spend millions on sewer and water and a few hundred thousand on City Hall, then they could spend a few thousand more on restoring the right to vote.

Councilor Cheney added that he too had been in communication with the Ethics Commission and it was at their advice that whenever discussing land use decisions, he disclose a *potential* conflict of interest, which he did for the record. He read a letter he had received from J4J, reminding him of the importance of the position he was elected to and that the decisions he made be the best for the citizens. The letter also reminded him of their attorney's discussions at the last council meeting and the advice on potential vs actual conflicts. The letter indicated the citizens expected him to declare a potential conflict of interest, and suggested he ignore the City trainer's advice to declare an actual because that would take away the sole reason they ran on. Councilor Cheney said they had a lot of people telling them what to do and he was doing what he could to do what was best. His proposed resolution had nothing to do with what happened in the past; he felt it was a way to move forward and was almost an exact copy of the Philomath resolution they passed when SB1573 came into play.

Councilor Perry said he'd spent the past couple days up at the State and with some federal representatives and found the resolution to be premature in that there were two new bills in committee right then, that would remove the "error" in SB1573 that removed the citizen right to vote. Councilor Perry moved to table the draft resolution until after the issues had been settled by the State and the courts, noting they made the mistake and the City didn't have the power to finish it, so let them. Councilor Beyerl seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilor Cheney asked if they could bring it back at the next meeting, rather than wait, as there should be a decision in the Corvallis case any day and the two senate bills in committee may never make it out of committee and he didn't want to wait for that. Councilor Beyerl expressed extreme frustration with the statement at the bottom of the resolution, which he read out loud, that

directed City staff to essentially ignore the law, and agreed it should be tabled until the litigation was settled. Councilor Neal noted that the oath he took was to uphold federal, state and city law and sometimes they were in conflict with each other, noting the marijuana matter, where the state legalized it, but it was still illegal by federal standards. He felt business was best done at the local level, noting Philomath had done it, as well as Corvallis and West Linn, so it was not illegal. Further, he reminded them that it still had to be reviewed by the City's legal Counsel and it was not up for adoption that night, just discussion. Councilor Cheney said it was very evident that everybody had polarizing views, but they should respect each other's, and read Article 11, Section 2 of the Oregon Constitution regarding a legislative assembly shall not enact, amend or repeal any charter for any municipality. Councilor Myers commented that historically, when looking at something at a worksession, particularly draft resolutions, at best you would get a consensus of the Council to move forward, with the understanding that legal review would be done. The resolution presented was a draft, and didn't put any Councilor on notice as to supporting it or not, so he suggested they form a consensus to forward it on to legal for review and comment. He added that he was alarmed in what Councilor Cheney read in the letter from J4J and could understand a group that supported him, but saying they spoke for the City of Jefferson was scary because he didn't know of any group that could speak for the entire community and cautioned any Councilor to think that a single entity had such a voice. He strongly suggested each Councilor was accountable to one group only and that was the community as a whole, because they represented the City now and needed to do so to the best of their ability, noting what was laid out in that letter was a sad road to go down. Councilor Neal felt his comments were well taken and felt it was not wise to listen to a small group of individuals when making a decision, but he was personally in favor of the resolution because he went out in the community and knocked on doors and the general consensus he received was that everybody wanted the right to vote, regardless of whether they'd vote for or against an annexation. Councilor Cheney indicated that was not the way he understood the J4J letter and didn't think their intent was to represent all of the City.

All in favor of Councilor Perry's motion to table: Ayes – 2 (Perry, Beyerl), Opposed – 3 (Neal, Cheney, Myers). **FAILED.** Councilor Myers clarified his vote by explaining he felt stuck because through a confidential memo received by the City's legal Counsel, he felt there was a solution and he'd like to see that solution brought forth at the next meeting, rather than the resolution as it was included in the packet.

E. Memo & Materials from Councilor Burns Re: Potential Actions Post Ord. #695

Mayor Hightower asked that the subject be tabled until Councilor Burns could be present. Councilor Beyerl moved to table it until the next session. Councilor Cheney seconded. Discussion: Councilor Perry noted that Councilor Burns prepared the materials and knew he would not be present. All in favor: Ayes 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

III. **APPROVAL OF ACCTS PAYABE** – Councilor Beyerl moved to approve. Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

IV. **VISITORS**

Matt LaCrosse, 360 Arlowene Ct. – expressed grave concern with the Council telling people to violate the law, noting he dealt with people who violated the law in his profession and when he sees movement from a group of people taking the City to task for what they believe was not following the Charter, and then running on that, to the point of having to appeal it, troubled him. He reminded them that the judge said the City’s Charter was written in such a way that state law had to be followed. The people, as a City, advocated that part to the State when the Charter was prepared and he agreed it should be changed, but did not think it was the right fight. Speaking to the Councilors named on the court documents, he said the issue wasn’t done, whether they were listed on documents as it moved forward or not, they started it and the attorney for J4J came into the City’s own Council meeting after the City’s own attorney, giving advice in opposition and then went into court and filed an appeal the very next day. He felt that when they spoke about potential vs actual conflicts, they were splitting hairs and further noted how some of the Council were reliant on advice from the Ethics Commission, but yet their very own City Attorney said when considering potential vs actual they were better off unplugging completely, so he couldn’t understand how they could negate that advice and tell their staff, who they’ve also sued, to violate state law, which a judge had also said was affected by the Charter. Perhaps the focus shouldn’t be passing a resolution, but maybe a Charter fix all around instead, and wondered why they were doing all this, noting the difference in other municipalities challenging the senate bill was that Jefferson had already been sued and a judge had already found in favor of the City! A lot of money had already been spent and he felt it had gotten rather ridiculous, pointing out that he was sure that was the reason for such high attendance at the meetings. In closing, Mr. LaCrosse said it broke his heart to see what was happening to the City over something so small and after a Circuit Court Judge had said the City followed the law, so he questioned why they were still doing this, why not table it, why not fight it at the state level?

Audrey Webster, 170 8th St – during the visioning and brainstorming portion of the meeting, she noted nobody mentioned fiber optics and was hoping that was still in the works for Jefferson. The City Recorder noted a date was selected for a Town Hall, which was March 21st and the flyers would be coming soon. Also, she pointed out that the visitors that were there to talk about the bridge and solar project hadn’t talked to different solar companies or architects and cautioned Council about getting locked in to one company without hearing from other vendors, noting their numbers weren’t realistic if they hadn’t considered other options.

Edna Campau, 609 E. Union – Mr. Myers had talked about 5th St/half street and she wondered if it was still on the City’s capital improvement project list to push 5th street through. Jeff Buskirk confirmed it was. Ms. Campau also noted the bridge was a historic monument and she believed it was on the State registry, which created more tape.

Robert Brown, 149 W. Union St. – Dave Beyerl and he were on Council when the Charter change came about and he thought the City made a mistake at the time, when they said you shall annex based on property meeting all of the criteria. He had read a portion of SB1573, emphasizing the differences in “shall” and “may” and felt the Council and attorney at the time, made the mistake, noting the bill was put through by lobbying the legislature and it was the homebuilder’s associations that wanted it. He thought they could have easily put it up for a vote and thought it would have passed.

Chris Giffin, 207 Main St. – agreed with Matt LaCrosse’s statements, and she too wanted the rights restored for voting. She also believed it was an actual conflict of interest for the Councilor’s named in

the suit to be discussing the matter and had spent a lot of time talking to the Ethics Commission herself. She announced that she had the Ethics Commission information for anybody that felt compelled to file a complaint and would be happy to share it.

Dani Daniel, J4J Treasurer, PO Box 515, Jefferson – She inquired with the Mayor as to how many minutes were allowed for visitors to speak, asking if it was 3 or 5, or if there were exceptions. Directing her next comment to Councilor Cheney, she said in December she had contacted him regarding the rules about stating your name and address for the record and wondered what he'd found out. In response, Mayor Hightower cited Section 19, item D of the City Council rules in Resolution 882, which indicated any public member addressing the Council shall be limited to 5 minutes. Councilor Cheney responded to her inquiry explaining that he took her question to the City Recorder, who replied back to his email, which he had in front of him and read aloud. The City Recorder's response indicating there was no state law that required it, but that it was a part of the City's best and past practices, which the City continued to follow. Generally, addresses were public record anyway, as one could google search a name and come up with an address, or even look them up on the tax assessors site to determine. A person could decline to give an address and should still be heard. Name and address records were particularly important for land use matters, where notice requirements state that mailers must be sent to anybody speaking during a public hearing. If an address was not given, a notice of further meetings or decision on the matter would not be sent. Councilor Cheney didn't think anybody should be forced to state their name and address for the record and suggested it be changed. It was noted in order to make the change, the Resolution laying out the City Council rules would need to be amended.

Keith Rude, 510 Delores – addressed the original Council members, reminding them of their support in changing SB1573 and was concerned to hear that they wished to table the subject. He wanted to put them on notice that they could be recalled for their actions. It was noted that in the end, the subject was not tabled and would be brought back to Council at the next meeting.

Wendy Sampels, 1261 Hazel – kept hearing reference to "J4J" and wondered what it was and who was involved.

Chris Giffin – felt names and addresses needed to be stated because there could be people bringing others from out of town and they could have an overwhelming amount of people speaking about Jefferson that weren't even from there or contribute there.

Tim Groome, 216 Faith Dr. – expressed concern about the amount of legal fees the City had spent, announcing the last time he checked it was about \$27k, which was \$7k over budget. Nancy Hamby, 664 Alder Ct. interrupted to add that she had spent \$11,800 in attorney fees thus far and the amount was still ticking because there was an appeal.

Margaret Robbins, 212 S 3rd – reminded the Council that they were sworn in for office for the betterment of Jefferson and they were sitting up there telling everybody they'd distanced themselves from J4J, but she wondered about their involvement in the other group mentioned in the newspaper that day; the Select Reform Committee of Jefferson. She commented that with the money spent on legal fees they could have lit the bridge and as far as she was concerned the 4 people recently elected had personal hidden motives and they didn't want their personal view taken away from their homes.

She challenged them to swear on a bible that they were on the Council strictly for the City of Jefferson and not their own game; there was no reply.

Linda Baker, 1287 Filbert – Councilor Neal was talking about his visions for a farmer’s market and she explained there would be a courtyard in front of the new library that would come across in front of City Hall as one continuous landscape and would love for them to share their visions and ideas for them to consider for “Jefferson’s living room”.

Mersha Studer 453 Oakdale Ct. – the City should consider sidewalks and curbs on Greenwood too, as it was dangerous at night for people walking.

Michelle Nunes, Jefferson Station Café – to Councilor Neal, she disagreed with his statement that he was elected based on the J4J agenda, noting that people had faith in them to do good for the City and yet they couldn’t even watch a video that night without frustration and tension, all over a guest speaker. She wondered what the new Councilor’s were going to do to bring the community back together, what they all should do, as it had gotten out of hand and was very frustrating. She had faith that Stan Neal and Brad Cheney could bring forth positive change with the doctor’s healing approach and Cheney’s technical background. Councilor Neal went back to a comment that insinuated they were still involved in J4J and he said it was absolutely not true that he was not involved with any activities with the writ of mandamus at all. In running for Council, he explained that he’d found the majority of people he spoke with were also offended by the removal of the citizens right to vote and that was important to him and the hundreds he spoke to, noting the most impartial jury was the citizens. He had also found there to be a lot of resistance to restoring voting rights, and he didn’t understand how everybody wasn’t passionate about having their rights taken away. He added that he liked Jefferson and it wasn’t about his view, but the ability to vote. He had every intention of moving forward and trying to have a spirit of unity, as he was not trying to upset the apple cart and was not a rebel rouser and did not want to tear relationships down.

Paul Terjeson, 934 S. Main – appreciated Stan Neal’s comments, noting it was like extending an olive branch. He said it was a messy process and people get cut down by it, explaining how he had gone through it with his own annexation and he took it on the chin. Even he and Councilor Beyerl butted heads about it at the time, but they were still friendly and talked today. He suggested they pull the talons in, figure something out, as people shouldn’t be run down or run out over it because in the end, it wasn’t that important and not worth it. In closing, he said development was a rational business decision and you build what people will buy, period.

Melissa LaCrosse, 360 Arlowene Ct. – She didn’t think anyone was against their voter rights being taken away, but rather, what people had a problem with was their decision to go after the City rather than the legislature where the law was created; the City was the wrong target. She added that Jefferson didn’t have the deep pockets of those other big cities fighting it and they should let them. Also, she was confused because in one sense they said they wanted to see the City embrace development and make things pretty and attractive for people to come, but then fight an annexation that would bring people. She explained she was very active on the school board and bond campaigns, and knew nobody wanted to pay more taxes, but couldn’t understand where the 4 new Councilors were coming from at all when statements were made about wanting growth and not wanting growth and she felt they needed to have congruency in their message.

Keith Rude, 510 Delores – commented that City staff were in attendance at the LUBA hearing and he didn't believe it was necessary for them to be there with their spouses and families and sit in the "Hamby section", noting that the only two people that had the right to speak were the two attorneys'. There was much uproar from the audience and Nancy Hamby addressed him asking if he was present at the hearing to know who was or wasn't present, and further explained that she attended by herself and had every right to be there. He proceeded to argue and asked the Mayor if the matter had been addressed with the City's personnel, to which she indicated it had been discussed.

Nancy Hamby – appreciated Melissa LaCrosse's comments and noted her family had been in Jefferson a very long time and they needed cohesiveness. As a group, the Council could come together and guide the City back into feeling like a community. To Councilor Neal she indicated he claimed to not be a part of J4J, yet he was a financial contributor and supporter and perhaps he could talk to them and try to come together because as the leaders of the town, they should be helping get Jefferson through the sour, negative process.

V. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Perry attended a round table meeting with Representative Schraeder and one message he addressed to rural communities was that Portland was getting bigger and running out of land. He felt what was coming could be compared to the San Fernando Valley of southern California and was what they had to prepare for. Annexation would not even be in the vocabulary because the State of Oregon would come in and dictate boundaries. He agreed, they needed to finish the conflict, noting they were either going to fix it, or it wouldn't be fixed. Jefferson will grow naturally and through new people coming in and old people dying off; it was a fact of life. He felt they needed to enjoy their time and their City and thought everything was getting too crazy over 14 acres.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Perry moved to adjourn. Councilor Beyerl second. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 9pm.

MINUTES APPROVED this 23rd day of March, 2017.

Cyndie Hightower, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Cook, City Recorder