

**CITY OF JEFFERSON**  
Regular City Council Meeting  
February 23, 2017  
6:30pm

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Walt Perry, Dave Beyerl, Brad Cheney, Stan Neal, Michael Myers, Robert Burns

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** Cyndie Hightower

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Cook, City Recorder; Jeff Buskirk, PWD; Lissa Davis, Planner

**OTHERS PRESENT:** MCSO Sargent Don Parise, Commander Eric Hlad; MC Contract Specialist Camille Peterson; MC Financial Analyst Stephen Staten

- I. **COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE** – In the absence of the Mayor, Council President Michael Myers called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the flag salute.

1.2 Presentation from MCSO

Sgt. Don Parise came forward, introduced himself and Contract Specialist Camille Peterson and Financial Analyst Stephen Staten. He noted Commander Eric Hlad would be joining them shortly. They began with a 6-minute video highlighting all the departments within the Sheriff's Office, as well as a packet of information materials. It was noted how important relationships were to them, expressing how pleased they were to have worked with the City of Jefferson for nearly 22 years and was one of their first contracts. He provided a brief rundown of Jefferson's two current contract deputies.

Management Analyst, Stephen Staten thanked the Council for allowing them to do the presentation, indicating he'd worked with Sarah Cook on some grant applications and the monthly stats, but that it was nice to put faces to some of the other names. Going through the handout, Stephen noted they wanted to meet the City's needs through the contract. He went on to explain the various options for the City; Option 1- The City could cancel the contract all together, then the City would not have any police services within the City and would just utilize the Marion County in general, so whichever Officer was available to the area would respond. Not only would response times be longer, but also the responding Deputy would be at a disadvantage, as they would not be familiar with the town, its people or businesses. There would be a need for the community to do a lot of their own policing in order to assist with crimes and arrests. Option 2 would be to work through a contract with the Sheriff's Office, like the City currently was doing. Less or more coverage could be included, depending on the City's ability to fund it. Option 3 would involve the City maintaining their own self-funded police department.

Mr. Staten then went on to highlight some benefits the contract provided, including on-site dedicated deputy for shorter response times, continuous trainings, certifications, dispatch services, outfitting an Officer, professional standards, vehicle purchases and regular routine maintenance, service coordination with all the County partners and all services they provide such as traffic safety team, detectives, drug activity complaints, budgeting, grant seeking and crime analysis. Looking at the 2016 crime statistics, Mr. Staten indicated overall crime rate had dropped almost 25%. He also noted that quality of life crimes, such as disturbances and public intoxication had fallen. Property crimes were also listed on the downward trend. Looking at the City of Jefferson statistics compared to the national average, it indicated Jefferson had less crime than the national average in all crime indicators, with the exception of property crimes, which were slightly higher. The top five call types in Jefferson were listed as citizen calls, traffic stops, civil calls, theft, and suspicious activity. Mr. Staten placed those calls on a hot spot map, which gave the community an idea of where the calls were being generated. Finally, Mr. Staten mentioned some events from 2016 that MCSO was involved in, including the Mint Festival,

National Night Out, the safety expo. Also, Jefferson utilized the swat team in May, covered an armed robbery at Center Market, and a multi-agency narcotic seizure on Main Street.

Commander Hlad had arrived and explained a briefing he was attending had run late. He introduced himself as the Enforcement Division Commander and gave a brief rundown of his responsibilities at the Sheriff's office. He also spoke about the very large footprint the Sheriff's Office covered, noting some 90,000 people lived outside incorporated cities within the County. About 36,000 people lived in the 4-corners area of Salem alone, which was Marion County jurisdiction.

Going back to Stephen Staten, he shared a success story they had in the Northern half of Marion County. He shared that the City of Donald and the City of Aurora had approached them about a lot of speeding and fatal accidents in a particular area. The County analyzed the numbers and saw the increase in the reports; they then researched the cause of the increase by doing a traffic study. The study showed that the vast majority of the traffic was due to people passing through the area and not from residents of the two towns. MCSO looked for solutions to educate, enforce, and provide focused enforcement. MCSO reached out to their partners in Public Works because they couldn't have a deputy on every corner, so they worked out a plan with the local Public Works to have appropriate markings on roadways, rumble strips, signage, etc. With both departments working together, they were able to try a few different approaches, go after some grants, etc. He mentioned he wanted to bring it up because he was sure there were issues in Jefferson that the Sheriff's office may not see. He asked the Council to let the Sheriff's Office know if there were any issues they would like to take a closer look at and they would dig in and take a hard look study, noting they had a lot of information and data at their disposal that could be used to leverage. Stephen talked about upcoming goals for 2017 and provided ideas to put together to include goals and objectives and what direction they would like to see law enforcement going from year to year, noting they should include room for growth. Mr. Staten went on to talk about the COPS grant and the hopes to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> contract deputy. The number of deputies that currently served the community, compared to other communities of officers per thousand, showed Jefferson was sitting at .6 per thousand. He understood the expense of adding more deputies and felt the City's pain, noting MCSO would continue to look for grants and other funding opportunities to help with the costs associated with adding another deputy.

Questions: Councilor Neal asked what approximate percentage of property crimes were solved, as well as the number of arrests made for those crimes and how much stolen property was recovered, to which Mr. Staten wasn't able to provide those numbers on the spot without further research.

Councilor Burns asked if statistics showed that it was about half an officer per thousand, how that squared with declining crime rates. Mr. Staten pointed him to page 8 of the handout, under "notable law enforcement efforts", pointing out in 2016 it showed concentrated efforts on 4 drug houses, which resulted in a number of arrests. They used a policing approach with community involvement.

Councilor Perry asked what affect Facebook had on the numbers, referencing an incident last year where complaints were all over Facebook, but only 2 or 3 calls were actually made to MCSO. Mr. Staten replied that MCSO did not actively monitor Facebook, but often times people would share things with them about thing posted to Facebook. Staten suggested that if there were complaints that people may not be comfortable calling in on, rather than putting it on Facebook, they could use the Tip 411 recently launched by MCSO.

Michelle Nunes, Jefferson Station Café owner, explained that when they first opened the café, they had many little things stolen from them and they called in every incident, not that they cared for the meaningless things that were taken, but more so to create a statistic that would reflect the need for more police coverage. Also, she was under the impression that there was a decline in people signing up for law enforcement jobs nationally and wondered if that was correct. Commander Hlad responded, noting hiring was a challenge these days, as there had been a shift in the way people perceived the profession in the United States. Also, the PERS Tier 1

retirees created a large number of folks who left with short notice, which affected more than just Marion County. Further, the competition against bigger cities and agencies had grown as well. He added, the latest generation coming on board was interesting; millennials coming on are great with technology and are hardworking, but perhaps not so good with people.

Michelle Nunes asked if it was easy for a City like Jefferson to reincorporate its own police department, to which Commander Hlad spoke about how both the Sheriff and Undersheriff started off in Jefferson as one of the first few officers assigned to the contract here, so he didn't want to step on those toes. However, he did explain that it would take about 5 or 6 officers to get 24-hour coverage, which didn't include all the other intricacies of having a department. You would start seeing real benefits at about 12 FTE, for firearms training, records retention, measure 11 type cases, etc., evidence storage, noting they currently employed 2 evidence techs for that alone that the City would need to take into consideration for establishing their own. He believed there were benefits built in when contracting with an agency for those services and that his contract cities was one of the benefits that brought people to come work for them.

Citizen Audrey Webster- 170 8<sup>th</sup> St.- after looking at the hot spot map, she had some concerns about areas of town that were darker and in need of street lights and wondered what kinds of projects MCSO and the City Public Works could do to add more light. Sarah Cook explained that City staff, along with Public Works and MCSO had completed a street light inventory and identified and prioritized the darkest spots. Two lights had been ordered, which would likely be installed in the spring, and hopefully each year more could be added.

MCSO Sargent Don Parise wanted to add that "Discussion with Deputies" was coming on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Jefferson Station Café and that he and both contract deputies would be there to answer questions from the community and hear their concerns.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance# 701, Declaring and Authorizing the Vacation of Right-of-Way Designated as Street, 66 Feet in Width and Approximately 117.75 Feet in Length, Located on the Undeveloped South Side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street Connecting to Columbia Street**

Council President Mike Myers opened the public hearing at 7:20pm. Background and summary were provided in the staff report. Councilor Beyerl noted the written testimony received was provided in the packet. Lissa Davis, City Planner provided a brief summary of the staff report. Citizen, Cory Thompson, 386 Columbia, was present as was one of the adjacent land owners that would receive a portion of the property back. He wanted to build a fence and would love to get the property back before he put the fence in. Councilor Neal stated he had driven thorough the area and thought the property was about 7500 sq. feet and asked about the field on the opposite side, which the Planner indicated was privately owned and that the other side of 4<sup>th</sup> St. on the north side was owned by the City. Jeff Buskirk, Public Works Director, also added that if the area was ever developed in the future they could loop the water and sewer in to accommodate the development. Councilor Neal asked if there was any value to the property south of Columbia street, to which Lissa Davis explained the intent to give back what was previously taken and doing so would square off their lots.

Councilor Beyerl further explained that legally, since it had been determined that the portion would not be developed, due to Fairfield Court's development, the City had to give the property back to the original two lots that it was taken from and could not sell it. He also pointed out that there was a ditch in the middle so it was not buildable anyway. Councilor Burns wondered if the property could be used for another purpose, such as a medical building of some sort. Lissa Davis explained it was not a legal tax lot; it was designated right of way, and therefore not a buildable lot. The City was obligated to either maintain it or give it back to original property. Both Councilors Burns and Cheney stated, after hearing the explanation, it made better sense.

Public Testimony:

Margaret Robbins, 3<sup>rd</sup> St.- She thought that many years ago, the land had been declared a wet land so she saw no need for the road to ever go through there. Jeff Buskirk explained that some had been designated wetland, but that wetlands could be built upon if one wanted to pay into wetland mitigation, noting most people did not due to the cost.

William Bropst, 675 High Ct.- confirmed that once the land was given back there would be no need for the City to take it for future power grid in the future.

With no further testimony, the public hearing closed at 7:32 pm.

Council President, Michael Myers read the required language for adoption of an ordinance and asked if there was any Councilor that did not want the ordinance fully adopted at the meeting. Councilor Burns indicated he did not want it fully adopted and wished to postpone the vote until the next regular Council meeting, since he had not received the information in his packet until two days prior. Councilor Myers read Ordinance #701 by title only for the first reading. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading would come at the next regular council meeting. Councilor Beyerl moved that the ordinance be adopted and passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title only. Councilor Perry seconded. All in favor: Ayes-3, Opposed- 2 (Burns & Neal). **PASSED.**

**III. OLD BUSINESS – none**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 Volunteer App for Budget Committee

The applicant, Chris Giffin, was present and stated that she would love to participate in all that she could to help. There were no questions for applicant. Councilor Beyerl moved to appoint Chris Giffin to the budget committee and Councilor Perry seconded. Discussion: none. All in favor: Ayes – 2, Opposed – 3 (Burns, Cheney, Neal); Council President Myers, acting as Mayor, forced a tie with an Aye vote, indicating the subject would come up later under discussion and come back to the next regular meeting.

4.2 Request for Re-Appointment to Library Committee

Councilor Beyerl moved to reappoint Edna Campau to the Library Board. Councilor Perry seconded. Discussion: Councilor Perry said Edna had proven herself time and time again and that she was a valuable volunteer asset and he would like to see her involvement in the next stage of the library project. Councilor Burns agreed. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

**V. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

5.1 Memo and Materials from Councilor Burns: West Linn Ordinance 1651, 1<sup>st</sup> pass letter to legislature and SB 1573

Councilor Cheney stated, that on advice of the Ethics Commission, there could be a potential conflict of interest and therefore he declared as such. Councilor Neal also declared a potential conflict of interest. Councilor Burns declared a potential conflict of interest in discussing anything having to do with annexation, SB 1573, Ord 695, and anything to do with land annexing. Councilor Burns was interested in knowing the possibility of sending a letter to their elected representatives in the Legislature regarding two bills then in committee,

which would remove the most onerous parts of SB 1573, mainly the part that took away the vote of citizens on annexations. When that law was passed, it stimulated him to work hard to get the citizens right to vote returned to them. The City's Ordinance 695 existed; 1573 was still among them, but being challenged in courts by Corvallis and Philomath, but that didn't solve the problem of getting the vote back to the people, which was most important to him. In order to do that, the best they could do at that time was come up with some sort of hybrid solution to the problem, which was what City of West Linn did, noting their ordinance in the materials.

Councilor Burns summarized what had taken place thus far, noting that as it stood, the City Council had the power to annex a piece of land or not, according to SB 1573, so when an applicant came before Council, they had to make a decision one way or the other, not the people. The City of West Linn came up with an ordinance where the applicant would come to the Council and they would put the matter up to a vote of the people, an advisory vote, for the people to advise the Council what they thought about it. Then, the Council would have an idea of how the citizens felt and at that point, Council should be able to make an informed decision. He thought it was the best possible solution to getting the vote back to the people and he would be able to tell the voters that he had done something about it. Eventually, it was going to be decided in the courts or the legislature would rescind SB1573, and then it would go back to the way it was and all would be moot anyway. He went on to explain the City of West Linn adopted an ordinance and their legal counsel blessed it. He had also spoke with the City Manager of Lake Oswego and they had done the same thing, so it seemed to be a workable solution. He spoke of the other bills currently in committee to adjust SB 1573, and hoped his fellow councilors would sign a letter advising people in charge of those bills to pass them.

Councilor Beyerl took exception with his name being included in a draft letter when he had not had the opportunity to read or approve of it and asked that it not be included on anything in the future without his consent; Councilor Burns understood.

Councilor Myers wanted to address the letter to the representatives first. Councilor Perry asked if it was going to go out as a document from the City. Councilor Myers explained that if the united Council accepted the letter, it would be put on City letterhead and sent to the State Representatives and Senators asking for their support of the two bills. The letter would not need to be reviewed by legal counsel, as it would be a sentiment of the Council relative to the senate bills and the position of the City of Jefferson's Council. It would not be binding on staff, and it was not a resolution or an ordinance; just the Council's collective voice to their representatives. Councilor Burns then read the letter he prepared out loud.

Councilor Myers, referring to a statement in the letter, had not read in the Oregon Constitution anything that upheld their right to accept or deny applications for annexations. SB 100 established the LCDC and that was where land use planning came into play in Oregon, under Governor McCall at the time. Prior to that, they were under no such provisions. With the development of LCDC, a plan was created for state, counties, cities both incorporated and unincorporated, to develop state guidelines. The right to annex or vote for or against did not come into play until 1976, and Corvallis took the lead on it. Jefferson was somewhere around the 96-98 timeframe, before the Charter was amended, so he didn't think it was accurate to say the right had been around for over 100 years, as noted in Councilor Burns letter. Myers stated it was important to understand land use decision making processes were only about 40 years old. The other part, was that it was a legislative decision, and not under home rule and would be argued in the courts, probably at the state Supreme Court level. So, he felt they had the ability to move the legislature to bring it back, but was troubled by the language that claimed an ancient right. He was also troubled about pointing fingers at elements that does not add any value, such as landowners, developers, etc. He felt the letter should have language about division in small communities and felt the letter was too overpowering and the language to be almost combative. Councilor Burns indicated that was fair enough, but that the right of cities to determine their own future was spelled out in 1903, article 11 of the constitution, and read the section.

Councilor Neal said he was only one person on Council and liked the idea of sending a letter. He did feel the language needed to be changed some to make it more effective. His experience when speaking to the citizens of Jefferson was that they wanted the right to vote. He felt it was a big deal when the right to vote was taken away from 600,000 people and thought a letter should be sent and further volunteered Councilor Myers to make the edits and bring it back for review. Councilor Burns reminded Council that the previous Council had voted on Ord 695 and had stated that they would have preferred the right to vote remain with the people, but felt compelled by the law to vote as they did. Councilor Myers explained his issue was with the tone of the letter. Councilor Cheney agreed with Councilor Myers and suggested the letter be edited and that they send it to other City Councils urging them to send a similar letter as well. Councilor Beyerl agreed with supporting SB 114 and 258, as he was one of the original petitioners to get the vote in for the City of Jefferson, however, he was not interested in his name going on the letter as it was written.

#### Audience questions:

Tim Groome, 216 Faith Dr. – His biggest concern with the letter is that 3-4 of the current Council are suing the City. Members of the Council said that wasn't true, and Mr. Groome argued, indicating their involvement with J4J. He noted in all his time on Council and as much as he was aware, the City had not exceeded their legal fees until the new Council members surfaced. He further discussed the land use law regarding 20-year growth, which Jefferson was severely deficient and urged them to read up on. Councilor Cheney commented that the suit was about returning voters right to annexation decisions.

Paul Terjeson, 934 S Main- said developers/builders weren't so bad, and explained that DLCD was the difference between Oregon and California or Washington. Their development was rapid. Oregon stepped up and really took a stand as to how development would occur, made that distinction, and really got serious about development from 1972 on.

William Bropst, High Ct- noted that tension was high over the subject, and he did not like that his rights were taken away. If they start with removing voter's rights from land use, then what was next, he wondered. He appreciated having the old and new Council and that they were trying to work together. The previous Council all stated they were against the idea of SB1573, but felt they had to vote on it. Now, they all had an opportunity to voice an opinion as a town and work together. If the language needed changed, he thought that was fine as long as they worked together and for the town, without tearing each other down.

Councilor Neal, directing his comments to Tim Groome in the audience, said he for some reason has the perception that prior to coming onto the Council he was part of J4J, but he disconnected himself from them; however, he had not disconnected from the issue of citizens right to vote and if Mr. Groome expected that of him, then his expectation was too high.

Councilor Myers suggested he and Councilor Burns work on the letter and once they have a final draft it would get forwarded to the City Recorder and shared with all Council to comment on. There was a consensus amongst Council to go that route. Councilor Perry suggested a Town Hall meeting to hear from the public about the letter; however, Councilor Beyerl did not feel adding the topic to the upcoming town hall meeting was a good idea, as it would take away from the scheduled topic. There was brief discussion about all or some of them signing the letter, noting if any Councilor didn't like the letter, they didn't have to sign it; however, Councilor Myers felt a unanimous letter from the Council would get more attention. Interested citizens should prepare their own letters as well, because that would most certainly get some attention.

Moving on to the second part of Councilor Burns materials, Councilor Myers asked if the Council was interested in seeing the West Linn Ordinance. Councilor Beyerl would just like to deal with the letter, as he was not as

concerned with the ordinance because of the litigation going on. He would rather wait and see what happened there and just focus on the letter for now.

Councilor Neal disagreed with Councilor Beyerl and felt they could deal with the letter and discuss a possible resolution or ordinance at the same time, noting it would obviously be vetted by the City's legal counsel, and he would like to move on with discussing it. Councilor Beyerl noted they could kick all they wanted, but in the end, all the litigation and legislature would determine what they could and could not do. Councilor Burns had mixed feelings about it, noting Councilor Beyerl made a good point and maybe the best thing to do was just step back and let things settle out and react to what might come down, but that could be years. Councilor Neal thought the court decision could take years as well and in his talk with the City Manager of West Linn he learned the ordinance was a way of providing citizens an opportunity for an advisory vote and did not violate SB 1573. He would like to see the discussion continue. Councilor Cheney wondered how they could discuss it any further without having it reviewed by the City's legal counsel and suggested perhaps they were at that point.

Audrey Webster, 170 8<sup>th</sup> St – expressed concern with creating a work around where citizens would get a vote to advise Council, noting she was not happy when their vote was taken away either, but would be worried about a work around when the matter was still in the court system. If the court voted in favor of the citizens to get their vote back and the Council had already created a work around, then they could ignore her vote anyway. She did not want the 4 Councilors, who she felt should be abstaining to begin with, deciding her vote. Stan Neal felt it was optimistic to think it would only take a couple months and the advisory vote was more than making people feel good. Councilor Perry asked staff how soon they could expect to see any other annexations coming. The City Recorder indicated it would likely be more than 10 years, if not 20. Nancy Hamby, 664 Alder Ct., said her family owned 6 acres on the north side so it would likely never get annexed. The schools also owned a large piece, but all the properties between them would have to agree to come in before it could happen so it would be years down the road and was not anything they needed to be worried about.

Dennis person, Talbot Rd. – questioned the property opposite Hazel Hill development, if it was in the UGB. Sarah Cook explained that large section was already inside the City limits and could be built upon tomorrow if a developer wanted to.

Councilor Myers brought everybody back to the West Linn ordinance. Councilor Burns moved to have the Ordinance vetted by legal counsel to get some direction and have it tailored for the City of Jefferson. Councilor Neal seconded. All in favor: Ayes – 3, Opposed – 2 (Beyerl, Perry) **APPROVED.** Beyerl felt it was premature and while Councilor Myers does not vote while acting as the Mayor, he agreed with sending it on the legal.

5.2 Discussions with Deputies – FYI, no discussion

## **VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Beyerl moved to approve and noted legal fees were part of the consent agenda and pertained to the lawsuit. Councilor Burns second. Discussion: Councilor Perry, questioned the process of transferring money to cover any overages in the budget for the excessive legal fees. Councilor Myers indicated the City budgeted \$20k for legal fees and it was in excess of \$32k, so at some point they would have to do a transfer to cover the fees, bearing in mind, while the budget cycle was fiscal, the City received roughly 75% of operating dollars in November from taxes. So, from July 1 until November, we try to live on what was saved from prior year. Jefferson had done well in the past with that. All in favor: Ayes – 5, Opposed – 0. **APPROVED.**

## **VII. COMMITTEE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Library – getting 4 new (used) computers from CCRLS; committee member is a science and math teacher and she is going to work with librarian on a program for the solar eclipse; summer reading program gearing up. Councilor Burns noted they had all done marvelous work and he was very grateful.

Planning – no new info

Chamber – no new info

Building Committee – joint session with council coming in March

MPO – no meeting, but COG rep that handles MPO is resigning to take a new position in Bend

Fire Board – went through Emergency Operations Manual, needs reviewed and updated

School Board – no new info

FOL – tax filing ready to go; library construction project biggest setback is inflation so going to continue to fundraise for additional \$100-150k; groundbreaking coming up; encouraged brick purchase; mailer going out to invite to groundbreaking; color guard will be bringing colors in to groundbreaking and will bless the ground

Parks & Rec – no new info

MWACT – no new info, no March meeting

## VIII. VISITORS

Dennis Person, 1878 Talbot Rd.- handed out info on SB2480, which he said was the same line as 1573 and he was and glad to see Council will be sending a letter and thought they needed to look at SB2480 and send one for it too. He said SB1573 probably made an opening and they were going to see a lot more groups jump in line because they think they can roll over the City's. He also added there was a lot of half information and bickering back and forth about the lawsuit and cost of it. He said Corvallis stood up for their voter rights and the LOC jumped in with \$60k and Jefferson made the decision to go the other route and they should accept some responsibility.

Audrey Webster expressed concern about a City Councilor saying they had just received a 9pg bit of information about the street vacation and was unable to read it before the Council meeting. She felt materials should be made available further in advance if that was the case and felt it was important that they not waste peoples time and defer votes because you didn't take the time to read it, which frustrated her, as she had sat there for 10 minutes before the meeting started and read it herself.

Tim Groome, spoke about the need for a 3<sup>rd</sup> deputy; however, with the City continuing to spend money on legal fees, he did not see that happening. To the citizens, Mr. Groome, explained it was up to them to police the Council on how they spent their tax dollars and if they want to go after the legislature, let them with their own money, as Jefferson did not have the deep pockets like Corvallis or West Linn.

Bill Stam, 3375 Cemetery Hill Rd. - In the last 2 years, the All Nations Veterans Memorial had 1700 people come visit, from 38 states and 12 countries. Those people all eat at the restaurant and shop at the stores. He indicated he'd always had the support of the Council and involvement from past Mayor's, but had not had any support since the new Council. He asked that they all spread the word any way that they could. The audience applauded his success.

Nathan Hightower, 664 High Ct. – reminded the Council of the presentation he did regarding the SunShot initiative and that the deadline to apply was March 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, he added there was a lot of emotion in the room and he'd worked in a lot of places with noise, but he could not hear when the City Councilors were talking because of too much noise going on in the background. He thought conversations should be better controlled.

Michelle Nunes directed Mr. Hightower's attention to the "Turn Off Your Cell Phone" sign at the front of the room and suggested that perhaps he could hear better if he stayed off his phone during the meetings. Moving on, she wanted to talk about Jefferson Teen Connection, and from a parent stand point, she thought supporting

them was so much more important than spending money to light a bridge. She explained how her son had friends and had been successful in the school and with the teachers, had achieved academic and social success like they never imagined, even moving into main stream classes, and no more emotional outbursts. She felt his participation in Teen Connection played a big part because they build important relationships, gave kids responsibilities that they take ownership of and kids that were shy before find a positive way to come out of their shell. They needed help with their inadequate facility and to find a way the kids could continue to grow and develop in a positive way and to keep Teen Connection open. She would like to see it become a focus of the Council.

Nancy Hamby, 664 Alder Ct – She was appalled that the new members of the Council did not select Chris Giffin for the budget committee; a person that had given more time and money to the community than any of them all together, and with no valid reason. Linda Baker agreed and asked everybody to stand in support of Ms. Giffin, and all volunteers. Nearly everybody stood up in support. Chris Giffin thanked those for their support, noting she had given 12 years of her time to the community.

Kent Klevitz, School Superintendent – offered an update on the School District since there was not one given under the Department Updates. He said they had a nice presentation from a group of high school kids on an electric car program; they voted to approve a bond measure for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time and the district had a \$4 million matching grant, which would keep costs the same in the end, noting the needs don't go away and they are the community's kids; classified employee's month at the schools and many live within the community as well.

Dani Daniels, PO Box 515 – handed out paperwork to the Council but did not submit one for the record. She read on the City's website that draft council minutes were available upon request and she had requested the January 26<sup>th</sup> draft minutes from the Mayor and felt pertinent facts were omitted from both her and attorney Coulomb's statements. She noted she had corrected versions of the minutes for their consideration. She requested the corrected version be reviewed and admitted as an addendum to the minutes, that an addendum be placed on the City website to the January 26<sup>th</sup> minutes; that attorney Coulomb's revisions be compared to the actual recorded record for accuracy, and once proofed for accuracy and corrections, that the version be amended and the addendum be listed separate in the meeting minutes on the website so people could see them as addendums to the meeting minutes.

Councilor Neal said he was not trying to beat a dead horse; a lot of discussion had gone on during the last few meetings regarding the legal expenses and voting, but he felt compelled to contradict what Mr. Groome said about the legal expenses and Corvallis' deep pockets, asking if he's talked to the Corvallis City Manager or the Philomath City Manager. Councilor Neal said those cities had spent next to nothing on their legal fees, as he did talk to them, and they were allowing people to vote and had spent next to nothing and that all their applications went very smoothly. That was two communities that went a different path than Jefferson.

Councilor Myers brought them back to the citizen request regarding the minutes, noting there had been no questions or comments when passing the minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup>. He further said they should all know by now that the minutes were not to be verbatim, but to capture the general intent and summarize the conversation. Councilor Burns asked if the omissions were very important to her and something that would really make a difference in terms of the record. Ms. Daniel said they were important because she spoke, and if somebody couldn't make the meeting they couldn't identify what was said in the meeting. Councilor Burns suggested she go back and highlight the parts that she felt were the most important and bring it back to the Council in 2 weeks. He asked her to give them some sense of what was so important and really needed to be on that record so they could compare it with the actual minutes. Councilor Beyerl noted they had all already approved the minutes unanimously. Councilor Cheney was ok with it. Councilor Perry disagreed, noting it went back to the very basic reason they were sitting there, which was to do the business of the City. What they had been doing the past 4 sessions was dickering around about who did what. He stressed the importance of them moving forward and

stop going back and forth, re-hashing every meeting. He felt the decision was made and they needed to live with it and grow up!

**IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Myers pointed out the northwest community magazine, which showcased Jefferson, and thanked Deanna for her work on it. Also, if it was ok with the Council, he and Councilor Neal would like to continue their research on the old Oberson property, noting it was going into foreclosure with over \$15k in back taxes owed on it. Council was ok with them pursuing more information on the project. Myers added that when a Councilor makes a decision, whether up or down, and you have a party to the decision in the audience, it was important that one explains their decision. To make a vote and say nothing at all was a disservice and the people had a right to know why you made it. In the future, it needed to be done, every time.

**X. ADJOURNMENT** - Dave Beyerl moved to adjourn. Councilor Burns seconded. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 9:26pm.

**MINUTES APPROVED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2017.

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Cyndie Hightower, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sarah Cook, City Recorder