



Mayor Carlos Duffey
Councilman Theodore Patterson: District 1
Councilman Lewis Sims: District 2
Councilman Ricky “P-Nut” Johnson: District 3
Councilman Don Cook: District 4
Councilwoman Beth S. Weaver: District 5
Regular Meeting
Minutes

July 3, 2023

6:00 pm

Present:

Mayor Carlos Duffey
Councilman Theodore Patterson, District 1
Councilman Lewis Sims, District 2
Councilman Ricky Johnson, District 3 (Via Phone)
Councilman Don Cook, District 4
Councilwoman Beth Weaver, District 5 (Via Phone)

The City Council of Jackson met in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, July 3, 2023, at City Hall 134 S. Oak St. The meeting was open to the public and called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Carlos Duffey Councilman Theodore Patterson gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. NEW BUSINESS:

1. First Fridays Discussion.

Comments:

Mayor Carlos Duffey explained that the city has come to some compromises regarding the First Fridays events by changing the campus of the events, road closures, the time beginning road closures from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm, and starting the time of the event from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Sylvia Redic presented the new campus map to the Mayor and Council. She showed the Mayor and Council where the new road closures would begin and end. She also

presented the time changes to the Mayor and Council. Sylvia encouraged the businesses on the square to participate in the event to build their sales.

Lisa Durden with the Butts County Chamber of Commerce suggested having a free parking sign for the newly purchased Bank of America building to let the public know it is okay to park there.

Councilman Johnson spoke and thinks these campus changes and time modifications are a perfect way to meet in the middle.

Councilman Don Cook suggested moving the First Fridays to Saturday or Sunday.

Councilwoman Beth Weaver says she has spoken with the public regarding the event and Fridays are more convenient for families. Councilman Patterson agreed that Saturdays are too congested.

Melinda McLarnon asked if her business participates, are they allowed to put up signs for this? Sylvia Redic agreed that this is ok.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilman Theodore Patterson made the motion to pass the calendar event First Fridays with the modifications to the campus, seconded by Councilman Lewis Sims. The motion passed 3 to one with Councilman Don Cook in opposition.

2. SPLOST Discussion.

Comments:

Mayor Carlos Duffey explained to the Council that there has already been 3 meetings with the County regarding SPLOST negotiations.

Sylvia Redic the City of Jackson City Manager explained to the Mayor and Council that the City of Jackson was last set to 25% of SPLOST funds divided up between the County, Jenkinsburg, and Flovilla. She informed the Mayor and Council that she suggested this time, the City of Jackson has 29%, the County counter offered and came back with 27%. Redic suggested to the Mayor and Council her recommendation is to counteroffer back at 29%.

Mayor Carlos Duffey spoke of the 19 million dollars it will take for the Sewer Plant upgrades and having 29% will help with these upgrades. Duffey spoke of all the aging systems that are in need of repair. The Mayor spoke of wanting to make sure that the city is in the best shape possible to be able to accommodate the growth coming to our city.

Councilman Don Cook made the comment that he feels the County and the City have become totally separated when it comes to the parks and recreation.

Councilman Theodore Patterson feels that the city took a considerable hit when it came to LOST and that we owe it to the city to get as much as we can for SPLOST.

Lisa Durden with the Butts County Chamber of Commerce asked the Mayor and Council how much the city has in its reserves.

Stacey Patterson with Mulberry Drugs suggested the city apply for grants for the Treatment Plan repairs.

Harry Lewis suggested that we are already in a recession given the major swings in SPLOST already.

Harrileen Conner asked if the city gets Hotel/ Motel tax for the hotels in the City of Jackson

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilman Theodore Patterson made a three-part motion 1.) To approve 29% for SPLOST collection counteroffer 2.) To adopt categories as presented: Water/Sewer Infrastructure, Electric Infrastructure, Roads Streets Right of Way Infrastructure, Recreation, Facilities, and Cemetery. 3.) To approve further discussion for possible 2024 referendum, and, seconded by Councilman Lewis Sims. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilman Theodore Patterson made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Don Cook. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Carlos L Duffey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marjorie Stansell, City Clerk