

Minutes April 15, 2025

JC City Council Mtg

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Vince Whitehead at 7:30 p.m.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees: Mayor Vince Whitehead, Council members Margaret McCrea, Randy Anderson, Jacqueline Moritz.

Review of Minutes: Mayor Whitehead called attention to the Minutes of the March 18, 2025 City Council meeting. He also pointed out that behind them were a set of corrected Minutes of the February Council meeting minutes which had referred to Rex Trullinger as the Mayor of Johnson City, when in fact he was the Mayor Pro Tem; that error had been corrected and the minutes were re-presented to the Council. All of these documents were made available to the residents and attendees of the Council meeting who wanted them. After the Council reviewed both sets of minutes, Jacqueline Moritz moved to accept both sets of minutes as presented, Randy Anderson seconded the motion.

Before we voted, Margaret McCrea pointed out that the March minutes said that the Budget Calendar had been attached to the March Minutes, but the Minutes as presented to the Council did not contain the Budget Calendar. However, the Budget Calendar had been inserted into the Council members' notebooks in March and therefore, they were available to all Council members.

A vote was taken on adopting the March City Council Minutes and the February corrected City Council Minutes. Mayor Vince Whitehead, Council members Margaret McCrea, Randy Anderson, Jacqueline Moritz all voted Aye.

Planning Commission: The next item on the published Agenda was the appointing of members of the Planning Commission and their taking their Oath of Office, but none of them appeared at the meeting, so that item of business was not completed.

Recycling Agreement: Mayor Whitehead informed the Council that the City had signed an agreement with Clackamas County that the County would handle the tasks involved in meeting the new State regulations dealing with recycling. The requirement involves management and reporting data to DEQ and another State

agency that would be a burden on small towns, so the County is managing those matters for Johnson City and other smaller towns. Johnson City does not pay for this service. The State grants about \$500/year to Johnson City for the program; Clackamas County will accept those funds and administer the program for Johnson City. The County will negotiate with our garbage service provider to manage our garbage handling to meet the new requirements recently imposed by the State of Oregon.

Discussion of potential city website: Mayor Whitehead checked with League of Oregon Cities to determine if we are required by law to have a website, and reported that we are not. However, LOC calls it a Best Practice.

There was some discussion about what benefits the website would bring to the City in meeting its obligations for communications, notification and transparency. Additional benefits of having a website are that the cost is very low, it would be easy to administer by keeping the calendar up to date, we could expand the circulation of our monthly newsletter, we could offer email communication with the Mayor and the Council members, and broaden the reach of our communications which we have been doing through a very low circulation newsletter. We also discussed the preference for text messages and the use of social media by a growing proportion of the public, over using email. A large portion of the public can be expected to check a website for information.

There was also discussion of who might put in the work to keep the website current. It would have to be the Mayor or the City Recorder or a resident volunteer. The primary task would be keeping the calendar up to date. It would start off simple and could possibly move to more sophisticated features over time. Mayor Whitehead has already appointed a committee of two to investigate the possibility of getting a website. The committee consists of himself and Margaret McCrea.

Open Council Seat: A city resident interrupted to ask why replacing the position of former Council Member Angie Long's seat at this meeting was not being discussed at the meeting. Mayor Whitehead explained that having a functioning Budget Committee and Planning Commission are priorities that, if not fulfilled, could "shut us down," i.e. cause Johnson City to lose its incorporation status, or be fined by the State. Because there are four members on the Council, we can still do City

business because we have a quorum. Mayor Whitehead explained that with his limited time and his other priorities, filling that vacancy has had to wait for a while, but he is aware of the need to fill the seat. City resident argued back that it would be easy to do.

Financial Statements: There were no financial statements to sign. There were none in March either. Mayor Whitehead explained that it is taking a while to reconstruct the city financial records that were not maintained while our City Recorder was absent. He did not affirm that we would have financial statements available in May either. The Council expressed its desire to have these documents made available as soon as possible.

City Recorder's Status: Mayor Whitehead explained that Judy Davis' limited abilities have had an impact on how much he and she can get done, and with the additional annual work they have to do, they have simply gotten behind. The Council discussed hiring an assistant bookkeeper to assist Judy in getting caught up, especially one who knows Quick Books. As an alternative, the Council discussed hiring someone to job-share Judy's tasks. No decision was made.

However, the Council expressed a strong desire that the financial tasks and financial statements be the City Recorder's priorities over all other City business, such as the newsletter, until the records are caught up and the annual tasks are completed. Mayor Whitehead expressed doubt that he and Judy Davis can get caught up in one month. Mayor Whitehead agreed to get an estimate from Judy about how long it will take for her to get the financial tasks done.

New Business: Jacqueling Moritz mentioned that our flags are faded and need replacement. Mayor Whitehead assured the Council that there is money in the budget for new flags, it just takes having someone take on the task and get it done. He did not commit to doing that himself and did not commit to appointing the task to someone else.

Adjournment: Mayor Whitehead asked for a motion to adjourn. Jacqueline Moritz moved to adjourn; Margaret McCrea seconded. The Ayes were Mayor Vince Whitehead, Council members Margaret McCrea, Randy Anderson, Jacqueline Moritz. There were no Nay votes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Margaret McCrea