

Village of Jacksonville Council Meeting
March 28, 2019
6:30 PM

The Village of Jacksonville met in regular session with Mayor Sam Smathers presiding and the meeting called to order at 6:31 PM. Council members present were Emily Swart, Christina Ewing, Butch Chapman and Jay Chapman. Also present were Fire Chief Brad Lowry, Administrator Todd Smith, Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell and Solicitor John Haseley.

Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2019 Regular Council meeting and the February 21, 2019 Special Council meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Swart. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Ric Wasserman, Athens County Treasurer, appeared before Council to demonstrate how the Athens County Land Bank is funded using delinquent property tax penalties. Wasserman stated that it is easier for the Land Bank to collect delinquent taxes on properties that are still occupied than to collect on properties where the owner is deceased. The Land Bank is working with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate as many properties as possible. The Land Bank has been demolishing a lot of properties in Athens County as well. Wasserman explained the qualification process to purchase a property from the Land Bank. Some of the requirements to qualify include having no delinquent tax balances, no building code violations, and no health department violations. The County Auditor's valuation of the land is the starting point for negotiating a purchase price. In some cases, the buyer of a property will agree to demolish a structure on the property. The Land Bank ensures this is done within a certain time frame and in an environmentally responsible manner. Wasserman provided Council with a list of properties with delinquent taxes as of November 2018. Over 4,000 property parcels are delinquent in Athens County. Wasserman also provided Council with information on an escrow program offered by Athens County that allows property owners to make monthly payments thereby reducing the burden of paying property taxes once or twice a year. The Land Bank monthly meetings are held at 11AM on the third Wednesday of each month. Meeting locations are listed on the Athens County website.

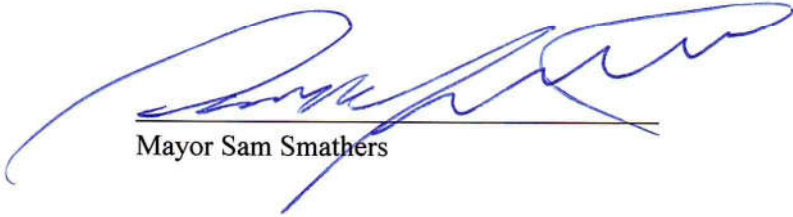
Residents Gary and Amy Simons appeared before Council to discuss the results of a survey they provided to residents of Jacksonville. Surveys were delivered to residents in January and February 2019. Seventy-seven residents responded to the surveys. One hundred six residents did not respond. Survey results were compiled into a report that was provided to Council as well as any comments that responders put on their survey. The report indicates that curfews for juveniles, establishing a neighborhood crime watch, thefts and robberies, police protection and speeding cars are the largest concerns of Jacksonville residents. Solicitor Haseley thanked Mr. and Mrs. Simons for their work on the surveys and stated that they received a good response rate. The Simons' also reported that the water fountain at the park has been vandalized.

Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to post the results of the survey on the Village website and Facebook page. Seconded by Councilperson Swart. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Tony McNickle appeared before Council to ask for an update on questions he posed at the October 2018 Council meeting. McNickle stated brush at the Oskey property needs cleaned up. McNickle asked if restitution was paid for the fire hydrant damaged on Palmer Street. Solicitor Haseley stated that two registered letters were sent to the individual who is currently

incarcerated. McNickle stated that fire hydrants on Sixth Street and State Route 13 need replaced. Council stated this is included in the current water project construction. McNickle expressed concerns regarding scaffolding near the stage. Council stated that the concrete in the park is larger concern at the current time. McNickle inquired about the funding used for the 2018 Flag Project. Council explained that money from the sale of a vacant lot and donations were used to fund the project.

Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council voted "yes", except Councilperson Clift who voted "no". Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.



Mayor Sam Smathers



Council Clerk Heather Rockwell