

Village of Jacksonville
Regular Council Meeting
January 30, 2025 6:30 PM

The Village of Jacksonville met in regular session with Mayor Sam Smathers presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Council members present were Jay Chapman, Rachel Gratz, Butch Chapman, Cameron Lowery, and Angela Strock. Also present were Solicitor Andrew Grillo, Fire Chief DJ Henry and Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to excuse Councilperson Eric Clift from the January 30, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gratz moved to appoint Angela Strock as 2025 Council President. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Lowery. Councilperson Jay Chapman moved to appoint Butch Chapman as 2025 Council President. No second was made. All Council members voted “yes” to the appointment of Angela Strock as 2025 Council President. Motion carried.

Mayor Smathers proposed keeping the 2025 Committees the same as the previous year if there were no objections. No objections were heard. Council discussed if the Special Event Committee should be established as a permanent committee or created temporarily on an as-needed basis. Council agreed to establish the committee temporarily as needed.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned the approval of the December 18, 2024 Special Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Henry reported that new member Leora Coffman is currently in volunteer firefighter classes. Marvin Nichols and Alycia Nichols resigned from the fire department and junior firefighter Zach Nichols resigned as well. Henry reported that Homer Township has offered to purchase up to \$4,200 worth of equipment for the new brush truck. This would cover the light bar, siren, tool boxes and other items. Henry asked if some of the funds approved by Council for brush truck equipment could be used for the lettering for the truck. Homer Township is purchasing the items directly and will donate them to the fire department. Council discussed what needs to be in the appropriation ordinance prepared from the Fire Committee meeting. The appropriation ordinance was changed to reflect \$1,600 received in donations for the brush truck. Henry stated he also needs \$550 for training added to his budget for Leora Coffman who will be taking her exam on March 17, 2025. Henry has two additional members he needs to send to classes, but they can wait until April.

Henry reported that he applied for a 50/50 match grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to purchase gear for Firefighter Harp. Henry applied for an equipment grant for \$10,000 for saws, a battery fan and various tools. The total equipment would be \$12,000 of which \$10,000 will be covered by the grant. Henry applied for a training reimbursement grant for \$1,000 for the two members that passed the exam. Henry reported that the department received a 2024 MARCS grant to cover user fees in 2025. These funds were received and the department will still receive a MARCS invoice, but will pay the invoice with the grant funds.

Henry reported that the department responded to five runs in January consisting of two structure fires, two lift assists and one motor vehicle accident. The Easter Breakfast is scheduled for April 19, 2025 from 8:00am to 11:00am. Council discussed the oven in the kitchen that cannot be used. It must be disassembled to be removed. The hospital that donated it would like it back if it can't be used by the Village. Henry stated the firefighter that discussed this with Council did so without Henry's knowledge. Councilperson Angela Strock stated she will contact the hospital to arrange the return of the oven.

Rockwell provided updated figures for additional changes to the appropriation ordinance to cover training requested by Henry.

Councilperson Strock asked about the certification status for Hunter Harp. Harp stated that he is covered under reciprocity and the National Registry. Mayor Smathers provided a printout from the State of Ohio's Certification Verification website showing that Hunter Harp does not possess a state certification. Smathers stated the information was printed out two hours before the tonight's meeting. Harp stated is Pro Board certified. Henry stated if you are Pro Board certified, you are certified in all fifty states. Harp said he submitted his application for the State of Ohio, but has not received anything yet. Henry stated Pro Board is what allows firefighters to travel to other states to assist with disasters and fires. Henry stated that the Village hasn't dealt with Pro Board certifications much because most of the members of the department are only certified in Ohio. Henry stated it may take a while to get the State certification. Strock asked what happens with insurance and other concerns in the meantime. Henry stated "nothing, he is covered". Solicitor Grillo asked if Harp was certified in Kentucky. Harp stated he is certified from his time in the U.S. Air Force. Grillo said there is likely some kind of reciprocity agreement. Rockwell stated she was told by State EMS that Harp has to apply and be issued an Ohio Firefighter Certification to be valid in Ohio. This involves submitting his U.S. Air Force certificates to Ohio and paying a fee. Henry stated all of that has already been done and everything is covered because Harp is Pro Board certified. Strock asked if Brett Downs is still the Assistant Fire Chief. Henry stated he is. Strock asked when fire officers are elected. Henry stated this takes place in October each year and the vacant position from the resignation of Marvin Nichols has not been filled. Councilperson Gratz asked if Leora Coffman needs added to the roster. Henry stated Leora can't be added yet because she isn't carded, but she can be added to the Jacksonville Firefighter's Association. Henry stated she can't currently go on fire runs.

Administrator Rockwell and Water Operator Riley have been replenishing the Village's supply of aggregates. There were a lot of water leaks during the recent cold weather. There was a request to turn water on at an address with a large leak that was the owner's responsibility and had not been repaired. Council may want to address allowing a leak credit in cases like this in the future. Another sewer backup occurred at the Municipal Building. Strock asked if Mayor Smathers can meet with the custodian and discuss the issue. Grillo recommended keeping documentation of the meeting. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to for Mayor Smathers to issue a verbal warning and discuss the matter with the custodian. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

The Administrator and Water Operator made repairs to the salt spreader to correct parts installed incorrectly by the factory. Roads and alleyways have been plowed and salted. The water control valve batteries are failing whenever there is extreme cold weather. The batteries have been replaced multiple times in recent years. The radios were replaced two years ago. The entire system is only nine years old, but the batteries have been replaced at least four times. Fiscal Officer Rockwell is working with Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) to upgrade the solar panel and battery system using grant funds. Until the system is replaced, the Administrator and Water Operator both have to work every weekend while the weather is cold to ensure the valve is working and the water tower is filling.

Solicitor Grillo reported he has been working on one criminal case for Jacksonville that is resolved. Grillo presented the ordinance for Batemans for trash service. The term end date will need to be decided by Council. Grillo explained the pros and cons of a short or long term. Grillo reviewed other key points in the ordinance with Council. Grillo reminded Council that they need to negotiate the final amount for the Hellyer water account. The Water Committee will need to discuss this and submit a recommendation to Council. Council discussed the term end date for Batemans and decided on three years. This will be presented to Batemans for signatures. Grillo provided an ordinance to dispose of fire department equipment. This will need to be advertised for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper. Minimum bids were set at \$1,001 for the Dodge Durango and \$2,000 for the wildland skid unit.

Fiscal Officer Rockwell reported that the December 2024 monthly financial statements and bank reconciliation will not be available until the Annual Financial Statements are complete. Rockwell stated there have been internet issues in the building which is slowing progress on the Annual Financial Statements. The internet issues are due to upgrades being performed and supposed to be temporary.

Rockwell requested approval for the November 2024 financials and bank reconciliations presented at the December 18, 2024 meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Gratz and seconded by Councilperson Strock to approve the November 2024 financial statements and bank reconciliations as presented. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Rockwell requested a water leak adjustment for 6,046 gallons due to an underground service line leak. The total adjustment requested is \$104.67. A motion was made by Councilperson Gratz and seconded by Councilperson Strock to approve a water leak credit in the amount of \$104.67 for account 02010-001. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Rockwell reported that she is still busy working on Year End Financial Statements for 2024. There are some new requirements this year that are taking additional time to complete. All items due by January 31 have been filed. Rockwell presented a supplemental appropriations ordinance for items requested by the fire department, additional materials needed for street maintenance, a replacement water colorimeter and water repair clamps.

Rockwell provided Council with copies of the most recent Park Event Agreement form. Rockwell stated Larry Sisson asked if the baseball field could be included on the form. Rockwell asked if the form is complete and ready for use. Water use in the park is covered under the separate Park Water Agreement form. Council reviewed the form and discussed changes. Council discussed how the reservations will be enforced. Shelter houses will be barricaded with "reserved" signs and lengths of chain. The shelter houses will need to be designated as "Shelter House 1", "Shelter House 2" and "Shelter House 3" on the form to clearly specify which shelter house is being reserved. The baseball field will be added to the form as well. Council agreed that it is acceptable for one deposit to be paid and the deposit to "roll over" to the next reservation date, especially in the case of a ball field reservation. The deposit will not roll over if the agreement terms are violated. Council agreed this reservation form does not include activities during the Old Settlers Reunion which are covered in a separate Event Contract. The Park portion of the website will need to be reviewed and updated in the near future.

Rockwell stated there is a request to camp and hook up to water and electric in the park during the Old Settlers Reunion. Council stated they do not have provisions for electric use in the park. Mayor Smathers stated there are additional requirements for the park to be used as a camping area. Gratz stated there are vendors that stay in the park during Old Settlers Reunion and they are covered under the Event Contract. Council advised Rockwell to respond that the individual needs to coordinate with the Old Settlers Reunion.

Rockwell reviewed items concerning the Park in the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant in Spring 2025.

Grillo made amendments to the ordinance to advertise the fire equipment. The minimum bid does not need to be included in the advertisement.

Councilperson Butch Chapman requested a status update on the generator for the Municipal Building. Rockwell stated the most recent information is that the generator should be received by the contractor in February 2025. The contractor will then coordinate with the Village on an installation date.

Councilperson Gratz asked if we know when paving is going to begin. Rockwell reported that the paving is going out to bid in March 2025. Smathers stated the fire department will need to know when roads are going to be closed during paving when the information is available.

Councilperson Strock stated a complaint was received that the curb cutout on Eighth Street is being blocked by other cars. Council agreed there is nothing they can do to stop other cars using the space because it is public parking. If the curb needs repainted blue, the Village can do this in the spring. Strock also received a complaint that when the Eagles is busy in the evenings there are people parking on both sides of Palmer Street essentially blocking all traffic access. Chief Henry stated it would be an issue in the case of a fire run if the truck couldn't get through. Strock asked if signs could be posted that there is no parking permitted on the north side of Palmer Street traveling west. Gratz suggested notifying the Eagles of the no parking signs so that if they know who is blocking traffic they can ask them to stop. This may prevent the Sheriff needing called if the roadway is blocked.

Strock asked if the noise ordinance applies to fireworks. She said there was something at the Eagles recently where fireworks were set off. A resident was concerned that their house could have caught fire because fireworks were landing on their rooftop. Smathers said there were multiple Sheriff deputies that responded to the scene because of a fight, but they did not address the firework issue.

Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 2025-1 declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Gratz. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance 2025-1: An Ordinance Authorizing and Entering Into Contract With Bateman's Refuse for Exclusive Trash Services Within the Village of Jacksonville Without Advertising for Bids and Declaring an Emergency. Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-1 with a three year term ending December 31, 2027. Seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

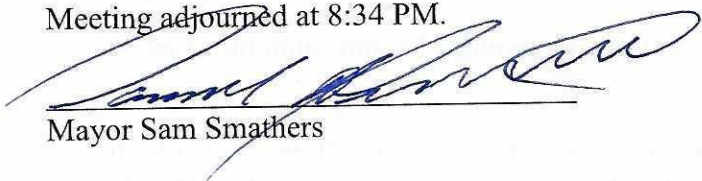
Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 2025-2 declaring an emergency. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance 2025-2: An Ordinance Authorizing the Fire Chief to Solicit for Bids for Municipal Personal Property No Longer Needed for Municipal Purposes Pursuant to R.C. 721.15 and Declaring an Emergency. Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-2 as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 2025-3 declaring an emergency. Seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance 2025-3: 2025 Supplemental Temporary Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency. Councilperson Butch Chapman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-3 as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Gratz. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Smathers entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilperson Jay Chapman and seconded by Councilperson Strock to adjourn. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.


Mayor Sam Smathers


Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell