



**CITY OF JOHNSONVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
JOHNSONVILLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
111 W BROADWAY ST  
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020 6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hanna

The invocation was given by Council Member Haselden

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag

Council present: Mayor Johnny Hanna, Gary Arthurs, Frankie Poston, Jamie Altman, Marie Haselden and Rev. Dennis Bailey

City personnel present: Jim Smith (City Administrator), Marlene Rollins (City Clerk), David Mace (Economic Development), Ron Douglas (Police Chief)

Guest present: Rev. Raye D Nelson, Warren Newcomb, Sammy Jones, Rev. Wilcher, Melvin Bobo and James Campbell

The City Clerk reported that the Media was notified by email on Thursday July 3, and the agenda was posted at City Hall and placed on the City web page on Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and seconded by Council Member Poston to approve the agenda with an Amendment to add discussion for a plaque to go on the Francis Marion Statue. **Motion carried unanimously with amendment.**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Altman and seconded by Council Member Bailey to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried unanimously**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Rev. Raye Nelson**, 511 Diamond Branch, stated that there was a March in the city a few weeks ago, and was told that you opposed the Police Chief assisting in the March, he then asked the Chief to stand and told him he respected him and thanked him for not following those on the board that didn't want him to show up and assist them on the march, and he went by some of the council houses and yal were home and you said you had prior engagements, if the chief had got shot where would yal be. He is our protector, not just for the City, the sign on the building says Johnsonville Police Department it does not say City and we if had started something you not their Mayor, that would look bad on your part. Want yal to understand that I did not know that we are so divided in this little small town. Mayor I hold you not him (Council member Poston) or him (council member Bailey) cause they were there, why yal don't want Black Lives Matter, do you see this, this is not racist, and try to get this man which hi respect dearly



to not show up and protect us while we march, I pay tax, I pay everyone of yal in here, I have almost decided to dig my own well and leave yals water alone and I got the equipment to do it, but I didn't know yal were this divided didn't want the chief to protect us. Now I want to know who called him and told him not to show up and I think I know who did it. ("Chief Douglas stated no one called him") someone called the chief and told him not to show up but he did and I thank him for it. Not only black was there but white was there too. We got trouble in this nation and we can't set aside our personal agenda we let 230 years of oppression and it still going on today.

**Sammy Jones**, 253 E. Marion Street, addressed council with drainage problems behind his residence that has been going on for years and it is time to get something done about it. There is a drain pipe there that is higher than the yard. Mr. Jones stated that he has tried to contact the Administrator, but he is never there, maybe I am calling at the wrong time. I have several other things but not the time tonight.

#### **APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL**

Mr. Melvin Bobo, presented council with Community Improvement Proposals (see attached for Mr. Bobo's presentation and proposals).

Council will get in touch with PDTRA to verify their stops in Johnsonville, so the City can place a bus stop in the areas.

Mayor Hanna stated we appreciate his time we will take into consideration, it just not that you are on the list, I think you will see that this administration and this council is a little different then you have seen in the past, we've got some needs just like Sammy's got some needs he's been chasing a long time and you got some needs you have been chasing a long time, it's a little bit on the embarrassing side when needs like these go unanswered, we can't tell you we going to fix everything, but we will try, we are looking at other water problems I assure you we will look at your water problem, we want this administration and council to be one of action and results and there no reason for you to put the time and action like you do to come up here with no results I do commend anybody that comes up here and tries to get something done for the betterment of Johnsonville

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bailey and seconded by Council Member Arthurs to give Mr. Bobo permission to replace the trees that have died on Railroad Ave. that his family planted several years ago. **Motion carried unanimously**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Smith asked cancel for direction on pursuing Trustmark with unfinished projects on 320 Chapman Drive, example: paving of Ottwell Dr. and Chapman Dr., fencing the back portion of the property at Ottwell Dr.

**Council member Arthurs** asked if this would be the first time, we legally pursued this. Mr. Smith answered yes, he had done all he can do talking with Trustmark, Councilmember Arthurs asked if we have talked with Mr. Zeigler, Mr. Smith stated he had not talked with anybody at this point until he gets some direction from council.

**Council Member Bailey** asked if there was anything in writing or verbal agreement. Mr. Smith stated we had some ongoing discussions with the superintendent and he left about 80-88% through the project, the answer to the question is that we do have some documentation yes do we have documentation for everything no.

**Mayor Hanna** asked we got advised to back off, Mr. Smith stated he was advised to back off. council asked by who, Mr. Smith stated by the Mayor and legal counsel at the time, because Trustmark had threatened to pursue a law suit against the City if we pursued these issues because there was enough of a question contractually as he mentions previously. There was a question in the attorney's mind if we



could legally pursue this. Council that was here at the time may remember it was pretty clear that they had committed to do these things.

Discussion ended with Mr. Smith to get legal advice.

We have been approached by Attorney Askins to purchase The property on W Broadway (the block of Stores) beside the new Municipal Complex. Do yal have any interest to buy this property.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bailey and seconded by Council Member Haselden to not purchase property at this time. **Motion carried unanimously**

Budget Review Workshop dates were set for July 13 and 15, 2020 at 6:00pm

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Hanna will issue a statement/ Proclamation concerning the wearing of face coverings or mask during the Covid-19 Pandemic

**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and seconded by Council Member Poston to give Mr. Tom Redmond permission to clean out the ditch that runs between his residence and Marion Street.

**Motion carried unanimously**

Reuse of 111 W. Broadway the current City Hall, Council member Arthurs wanted to know if the county was still interested, use as Senior Center. Both Council members Arthurs and Altman stated they new someone who was interested in the building.

**Motion** was made by Council member Bailey and seconded by Council Member Arthurs to approve Resolution Authorizing the sale of Surplus Property by Utilizing an online Auction System.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Administrator reported that he needed for council to move the August meeting back one week. He will be on vacation the first week in August.

The next council meeting will be held on August 11, 2020

Council Member Arthurs reported that we need to use the money from the Francis Marion Project to purchase a plaque for the Francis Marion Statue at Venters Landing. And to have a plaque at new Municipal Complex Council Chamber to be named after former Mayor Steve Dukes for his 38 years of service to the City. **Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and seconded by Council Member Bailey to purchase plaques. **Motion carried unanimously**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bailey and seconded by Council Member Haselden to enter into executive session. **Motion carried unanimously**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and seconded by Council Member Poston to enter back into open session. **Motion carried unanimously**

#### **Action taken from executive session**

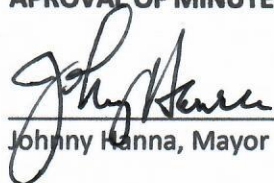
**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and seconded by Council Member Poston to pay \$5,000.00 to hold Danny Ray Altman property. **Motion carried unanimously**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Bailey and seconded by Council Member Haselden to Develop a fund as an Incentive for businesses that want to locate into Johnsonville. **Motion carried unanimously**

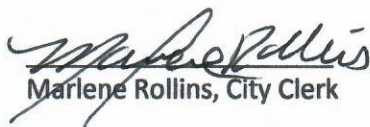
**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and seconded by Council Member Poston to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously**

**ADJOURN:** 8:47pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

  
Johnny Hanna, Mayor

Attest:

  
Marlene Rollins, City Clerk

