



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 28 , 2021

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in Council Chambers and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Derek J. Dobies.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION:**

Council joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was given by Fifth Ward Councilmember Karen Bunnell in which she talked about the challenges of COVID-19 and thanked the audience for attending.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Mayor Derek J. Dobies, Vice Mayor Arlene Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Councilmember Freddie Dancy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilmember Jeromy Alexander, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilmember Laura Dwyer Schlecte, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilmember Karen Bunnell, and 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilmember Will Forgrave.

Also present: City Manager Jonathan Greene, City Attorney Matthew Hagerty, City Clerk Andrea Muray, City Assessor Jason Yoakam, Assistant City Engineer Troy White, Director of Police and Fire Services Elmer Hitt, Chief Equity Officer John Willis, and Director of Neighborhood and Economic Operations Shane LaPorte.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to adopt the agenda with the additions of Items 11I Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance and 11J Living Wage Ordinance. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, and Forgrave (4). Nays: Councilmembers Alexander, Schlecte, and Bunnell (3). Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:**

**A. Presentation on Proposed Use of 971 N. West Avenue**

*Brendan O'Hara, Absolute Net Properties LLC*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Conduct a Public Hearing to Receive Citizen Comment for CDBG/HOME Program Performance and Authorize Submission of the 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to authorize the submission of the 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to HUD. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Citizen comments were heard and read into the record and the meeting continued.

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATION FROM CITY STAFF AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:**

- A. Letter Regarding Request for Investigation by Jackson City Council**
- B. Letter from City of Jackson Environmental Commission - Supporting Urban Farming Ordinance**
- C. CDBG, HOME, and CDBG-CV Homeless Prevention Financial Summaries through August 31, 2021**
- D. Environmental Commission Minutes of August 18, 2021**

Motion was made by Councilmember Forgrave, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to accept Items A through D and place on file. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2021**

*Approve the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of September 14, 2021.*

**B. Appointment to the Environmental Commission**

*Approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Jacob Inosencio as Commissioner on the Environmental Commission for a two-year term expiring September 27, 2023.*

**C. Special Event Application – Jackson District Library Bookmobile Launch**

*Approve a request from the Jackson District Library to host their second Bookmobile Launch on October 23, 2021 in the parking lot of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center.*

**D. Special Event Application – Jackson High School Homecoming Parade**

*Approve a request from Jackson High School to host their Homecoming Parade on October 15, 2021 on the streets of Jackson.*

**E. Appointment to Racial Equity Commission**

*Approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Jacob Inosencio to the Racial Equity Commission for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2024.*

Councilmember Alexander requested that Item E be removed for separate consideration. Councilmember Bunnell requested that Item B be removed for separate consideration. Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to approve items A, C, and D on the consent calendar. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Mayor Dobies to appoint Jacob Inosencio as a Commissioner on the Environmental Commission for a two year term expiring September 27, 2023. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded for discussion by Councilmember Schlecte to appoint Jacob Inosencio to the Racial Equity Commission for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2024.

Motion was made by Councilmember Forgrave, seconded by Vice Mayor Robinson to postpone to a date certain, October 12, 2021. Vote – Yeas: Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Nays: Mayor Dobies (1). Motion carried.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Article XVIII Marihuana Uses**  
**Recommendation:** *Second reading/final adoption of an ordinance amending Section 16-516 – License applications process and submissions.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to approve the second reading and final adoption of an ordinance amending Section 16-516 – License Applications Process and Submissions. Vote –Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Nays: Councilmember Dancy (1). Motion carried.

- B. Second Reading of a Proposed PILOT for the Blackstone Limited Dividend Housing Association LLC**  
**Recommendation:** *Second reading/final approval for the Blackstone Limited Dividend Housing Association LLC.*

Motion was made Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve the second reading/final adoption for the Blackstone Limited Dividend Housing Associations, LLC. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

- C. Second Reading of an Ordinance Creating a Community Police Oversight Commission**  
**Recommendation:** *Second reading/final approval of an ordinance creating Article V and Sections 21-100 through 21-125 in Chapter 21 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Michigan to create a city Community Police Oversight Commissioner and set the powers and duties thereof.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to approve the second reading/final adoption of an ordinance creating Article and Sections 21-100 through 21-125 in Chapter 21 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson to create a City Community Police Oversight Commissioner and set the powers and duties thereof.

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Vice Mayor Robinson to postpone until the October 12, 2021 Council Meeting. Councilmember Schlecte withdrew the motion.

Vote was taken on the main motion. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**D. Second Reading of an Ordinance Allowing for Urban Farming within the City of Jackson**

**Recommendation:** *Second reading/final approval of an ordinance amending Section 4-1 through 4-12 of Chapter 4 of the City Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Michigan to permit the keeping of certain farm animals within the city limits.*

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve the second reading and final adoption on of an ordinance amending Section 4-1 through 4-12 of Chapter 4 of the City Code of Ordinances on the City of Jackson to permit the keeping of certain farm animals within the City limits with the edit to Section 4-10 (f)(2) to read, “All honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition. No hive shall be taller than four (4) feet from the base of the hive stand unless secured with a ratchet strap” and (f)(7) “All permit holding beekeepers must post a weatherproof sign adjacent to the hive...”.  
Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Nays: Councilmember Schlecte (1).  
Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Resolution Revoking OPRA Certificate Number 3-19-0030**

**Recommendation:** *Approve the proposed Resolution revoking the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) Certificate Number 3-19-0030.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded for discussion by Councilmember Forgrave to approve the resolution revoking the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) Certificate Number 3-19-0030.

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to postpone the item until the October 12, 2021 Meeting. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Nays: Councilmember Dancy (1). Motion carried.

**B. Washington Avenue - Brown Street to West Avenue Conversion to Two Way Traffic**

**Recommendation:** *Approval of Traffic Control Orders 2357 through 2366 to convert Washington Avenue between Brown Street and West Avenue from one-way eastbound to two-way traffic.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Bunnell, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve Traffic Control Orders 2357 through 2366 to convert Washington Avenue between Brown Street and West Avenue from one-way eastbound to two-way traffic. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**C. Consideration of an Amendment to the Poverty Exemption Resolution**

**Recommendation:** *Approve a resolution removing specific language that does not comport with the change in statute.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to approve a resolution removing specific language that does not comport with the change in statute. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**D. Approve the Sale of City Owned Property Located at 971 N. West Avenue to Absolute Net Properties LLC for \$1,540,000**

**Recommendation:** *Approve the sale of City Owned property located at 971 N. West Avenue to Absolute Net Properties, LLC for \$1,540,000.00. Authorize the City Manager to sign all sale documents associated with the Property Transfer and make minor modifications.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Bunnell to approve the sale of City owned property located at 971 N. West Avenue to Absolute Net Properties, LLC for \$1,540,000 and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents associated with the property transfer and make minor modifications as necessary.

Motion to amend was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded by Councilmember Dancy to have a contingency that the funds raised by the City in the sale of the property, less any costs associated with the sale, are allocated go to the Parks

Department for redevelopment of other parks and capital improvement projects within the park system. Vote - Yeas: Mayor Dobies (1). Nays: Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Motion failed.

Motion to amend was made by Mayor Dobies to direct the City Manager, at the October 12, 2021 meeting, to propose a plan as to what the funds will be spent on. Motion died from lack of support.

Point of order was made by Councilmember Alexander.

Vote was taken on the main motion. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**E. Receive the Draft Substantial Amendment 1 to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan, Authorize Dissemination for Public Comment, and Establish a Public Hearing on October 26, 2021**

**Recommendation:** *Receive the Draft Substantial Amendment 1 to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan, authorize dissemination for public comment, and establish a Public Hearing on October 26, 2021.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Bunnell to receive the Draft Substantial Amendment 1 to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan, authorize the dissemination for public comment, and establish a public hearing on October 26, 2021. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**F. Approval for First Reading of a Proposed Amendment to the City Code Section 22-12, Assessments for Delinquent Invoices**

**Recommendation:** *Consider approval of a first reading of an ordinance amending Section 22-12, assessments for delinquent invoices, of the City Code concerning the levying of nuisance and hazard abatement fees as authorized by City Charter.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Section 22-12, Assessments for Delinquent Invoices, of the City Code concerning the levying of nuisance and hazard abatement fees as authorized by City Charter. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**G. SAFER Program Grant Funds for the Jackson Fire Department**

**Recommendation:** *Accept \$1.4 million SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant award from FEMA.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Bunnell, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to accept the 1.4 million SAFER Grant award from FEMA. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (7). Nays: none. Motion carried.

**H. Marihuana Facilities License – Objectiv Growth Michigan, LLC**

**Recommendation:** *Consider approval of a Class C Marihuana Establishment License for Objectiv Growth Michigan LLC.*

Motion was made by Councilmember Bunnell, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to approve a Class C and Processor Marihuana Establishment License for Objectiv Growth Michigan, LLC with the contingency that proof of payment to the State of Michigan is provided. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Nays: Councilmember Dancy (1). Motion carried.

**I. Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance**

**Recommendation:** *Move to adopt first reading and advance to second reading, and final adoption, two ordinances amending Section 28-5 and Section 28-100 of Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Michigan to create standards for electrical vehicle charging stations and bicycle parking in new developments.*

Motion for discussion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded for discussion by Councilmember Forgrave to adopt the first reading and advance to second reading and final adoption two ordinances amending Section 28-5 and Section 28-100 of Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jackson, Michigan to create standards for electrical vehicle charging stations and bicycle parking in new developments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander to table the item permanently. Motion died from lack of support.

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies to postpone until the October 12, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion died from lack of a support.



Motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Schlecte to postpone until the first meeting in January (2022). Vote – Yeas: Councilmembers Alexander, Schlecte, and Bunnell (3). Nays: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy and Forgrave (4). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded by Councilmember Forgrave to postpone until the October 26, 2021 meeting. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave (6). Nays: Councilmember Alexander (1). Motion carried.

**J. Living Wage Ordinance**

**Recommendation:** *Move first reading and advance to second reading, and final adoption, the proposed Living Wage Ordinance for the City of Jackson.*

Motion was made by Mayor Dobies, seconded for discussion by Councilmember Dancy to approve the first reading and advance to a second reading and final adoption the proposed Living Wage Ordinance for the City of Jackson.

Motion was made by Councilmember Schlecte, seconded by Councilmember Alexander to postpone until the October 26, 2021 meeting and ask the City Manager to bring back a list of contracts that are \$10,000 or more. Vote – Yeas: Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Bunnell, and Forgrave (4). Nays: Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, and Schlecte (3). Motion carried.

**CITY COUNCILMEMBER’S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Dobies, Vice Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Dancy, Alexander, Schlecte, Bunnell, and Forgrave all offered comments.

**MANAGER’S COMMENTS:**

City Manager Jonathan Greene offered comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business being offered, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Dancy, seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Vote was done by voice with all in favor. Mayor Dobies adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.