

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021 9:00 A.M.**

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson, Aaron Banks; Ashby Foote, Vice Chair (via Teleconference); Brian Grizzell (via Teleconference), and Virgi Lindsay, Council President. Directors: Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor, Safiya Omari, Chief of Staff; Shanekia Jordan, Clerk of Council, and Denise Fortner, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council.

Absent: Angelique Lee, Kenneth Stokes and Vernon Hartley.

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The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Aaron Banks**.

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DISCUSSION: Chairperson Banks recognized, **Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor**, who introduced **Marlin King, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Public Works** who gave a breakdown of the divisions of Public Works and introduced the director of each division. **Deputy Director, Charles Williams** leads **Engineering & Infrastructure Management**, **Deputy Director, Tony Jones** leads **General Services**, **Deputy Director, Mary Carter** leads **Water/Sewer Utilities**, and **Deputy Director, Carla Dazet** leads **Water Sewer Business Administration**.

The Mission of the Department of Public Works is to contribute to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens and visitors of the City of Jackson, through well planned, environmentally sensitive and cost-effective sustainable infrastructure investment. Providing high quality service that facilitates public health, safety, environmental stewardship and economic growth. DPW is committed to the planning and implementation of policies, goals, and objectives that achieve the Mayor’s vision for the City.

- **Accomplishments**
 - Fire Station #20 Replacement
 - \$164M awarded for Infrastructure projects and repairs
 - Water Billing System and Meter Replacement Plan
 - AOC Water Agreement executed
- **Core Services**
 - Engineering & Infrastructure
 - Capital Infrastructure Program Delivery
 - Stormwater Compliance
 - Traffic Engineering/Maintenance
 - Drainage Systems Maintenance
 - General Services
 - Building & Grounds Maintenance
 - Custodial Services

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- Maintenance for City’s Fleet
- Collection & Disposal of Residential Waste
- Water & Sewer Business Administration
 - Utility Customer Care Billing, Collections and Meter Services
- Water & Sewer Utilities
 - Treatment and Distribution of Water
 - Collection and Treatment of Sewerage
 - Capital Improvement and Maintenance of Plants and Distribution Network
- **Goals**
 - Complete Water Billing and Meter Replacement
 - Build Internal Capacity
 - Complete Consent Decree Modification
 - Develop City-Wide Facility Standards

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DISCUSSION: What is the Plan? How do we go about getting money to move the City forward? Chairperson Banks recognized Mayor Lumumba, who stated that the City is looking for internal/external ways to obtain funds at National and State levels. The Council posed questions about the Capital Improvement Plan, American Rescue Plan, the Plan for spending the remaining ARPA funds, and money to meet EPA needs. Chairperson Banks recognized Marlin King, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, stated that of the \$21 million in ARPA funds 61% has been used for Public Works. Chairperson Banks recognized LaaWanda Horton, Interim Director of Administration, stated that \$12.7 million has been given to Public Works, \$570,000 was given to the Convention Center, and there is \$7 million remaining.

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Chairperson Banks recognized Charles Williams, Interim Director of Public Works, stated that Fund 31 will be used to cover EPA needs and that 2 SRF loans have been applied for Sewer \$31 million and Water \$27,953,000.00.

Chairperson Banks asked questions about the number of Public Works employees that make less than \$10 an hour and what will the remaining \$7 million in ARPA money be used for.

Chairperson Banks recognized LaaWanda Horton, stated that \$250,000.00 for the Bean Patch Tech District, \$500,000.00 for a guaranteed income program, \$500,000.00 Cooperative Incubator Business, \$250,000 for the Zoo, and \$2 million for the Mid Farish Sole City Market (Project X). This will leave around \$4.1 million from the first part of ARPA money.

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Note: Council Member Hartley joined the meeting.

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Chairperson Banks recognized, **Mayor Lumumba**, who introduced **James Davis, Interim Chief of Police**, who introduced his staff and stated the following.

The Mission of the Jackson Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the city, by working cooperatively with the citizens and within the framework of the United States Constitution to enforce the law, preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide a safe environment.

- **Accomplishments**

- Successfully launched the state-of-the-art Real Time Command Center
- Gradual salary increases to attract new officers and retain current officers
- Conducted promotional exam resulting in the promotion of 17 Sergeants
- Conducted 3 successful auctions for total revenues in excess of \$365,000
- Increased Community Policing efforts, including the institution of a weekly Conflict Resolution Class

- **Goals**

- Roll-out phase II of officer pay raises by giving a raise to all corporals
- Conduct 3 recruit classes during the year with a goal of graduation a minimum of 75 new rookie officers
- Continue efforts to build strong relationships with the Community and enhance community policing efforts
- Hire additional detectives and create special units to address specific crime categories such as Cold Cases, Gangs, and Human Trafficking

Council made request for information on how much money it would take to raise salaries for Corporals to \$45,000 per year.

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Note: Council Member Angelique Lee joined the meeting via teleconference.

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Chairperson Banks recognized **Council Member Hartley** asked for suggestions on helping out the homeless population.

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Chairperson Banks recognized **Mayor Lumumba**, stated that they were looking to the state for resources to help with the homeless population and that they were also looking into transitional housing.

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Note: Council Member Virgi Lindsay left the meeting.

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Council Committee Members posed questions about the number of active officers currently employed by the city and the cost of getting laptops (Tough Books) for officers.

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Note: Council Member Angelique Lee left the meeting.

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Chairperson Banks recognized **Juan Gray** spoke about grants being pursued by the police department. There are 185 active patrol officers and 31 inactive patrol officers.

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Note: Council Member Virgi Lindsay returned to the meeting.

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Council Committee Members agreed that an emergency item would be added to the council meeting in which the council would hear from the Financial Advisor provided by the Mayor's office.

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There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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