

MINUTES
Town of Jefferson
Regular Meeting
January 20, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Jefferson Town Hall

Members Present:

James Miller – Mayor
Jane Johnson – Council Member
Alvin Myers – Council Member
Tonya Rollings – Council Member
Geneveve Robinson - Council Member

Others Present:

Howard Garland – Town Administrator Bennie Miles – The Link Jan Pierce – Canter, Tiller, Pierce
Stacey Cook – Town Clerk Andrea Alderidge Percy Payne – Congressman Fry Office

Call to Order

- **Mayor Miller** called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm.

Invocation

- **Admin Garland** gave the invocation.

Town Talk

- **Mr. Fry (Congress Fry's Office)** – Introduced himself to the public and stated if there were any concerns the town had he would be glad to pass those issues along.

FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

- A. 2024-25 Town of Jefferson Audit Presentation – Jan Pierce – Canter, Tiller, Pierce & Green CPA**
- a. Mr. Pierce gave a brief presentation of the audit and the findings in the town, which were unqualified.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to accept audit as presented
 - ii. **Council Member Robinson** seconded the motion.
 - iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)
- B. Approval of Council Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes, December 16, 2025**
- a. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from December 16, 2025, council meeting.
 - b. **Council Member Rollings** seconded the motion.
 - c. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

C. First Reading Ordinance 273 – Jefferson Grease Traps Ordinance

- a. **Admin Garland** gave a brief overview of the concerns with local businesses and residents on grease traps and pouring grease in the lines. Admin Garland mentioned he has been in contact with CCRW and they are willing to enforce this ordinance once it gets passed outside of our jurisdiction, dealing with the school and restaurant making sure they had grease traps set in place.
- b. **Admin Garland** suggested that the town not put this ordinance into effect until June, when we have been given enough time to pass on this ordinance information along to the businesses in town.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** asked how this information would get to the businesses.
- c. **Admin Garland** stated through letters mailed out to the businesses.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to accept reading of Ordinance 273 – Jefferson Grease Traps Ordinance.
 - ii. **Council Member Robinson** seconded the motion.
 - iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

D. First Reading Ordinance 274 – Duke Energy Quarterly Franchise Fee Payments

- a. **Admin Garland** we currently get our franchise fee from Duke Energy in June each year at around \$55000, which is 5% of what is charged to the Town of Jefferson residents. We would like to get this money quarterly to help us out with a cash flow standpoint.
 - i. **Council Member Robinson** made a motion to accept first reading of Ordinance 274 – Duke Energy Quarterly Franchise Fee Payments.
 - ii. **Council Member Johnson** seconded the motion.
 - iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

E. Approval of Street Light Receptables for Christmas Lights Agreement with Duke Energy

- a. **Admin Garland** this is over \$2500.00 limit, so we need council to approve this. This is for 8 new receptables for Christmas lights and 5 that have been broken. Altogether a total of 13 with a cost of \$3380.00.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to approve the Street Light Receptables for Christmas Lights Agreement with Duke Energy.
 - ii. **Council Member Robinson** seconded the motion.
 - iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION:

A. Financial Report

- a. The financial report was submitted for the council's information and signed.

B. Water/Sewer Report

- a. **Admin Garland** we have an update on the water line project, we have been asked to give an extension on the SCRW, due to a delay in parts for this job. They are asking for an extension for 10-12 weeks. Right now, they are working on commercial downtown. We had a meeting with Hannah Engineering, Carolina Civil, Mayor, and me and explained concerns we have had with them and they explained their position. Carolina Civil mentioned the 811 locating wasn't quite right and there was also an electrical line to a residential property. Garland stated he had talked with Duke Energy; they were taking responsibility.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** asked if Hanna Engineer was onsite overseeing the project.

- b. **Admin Garland** answered yes. The problem we have run into here is our guys not knowing exactly where everything is located.
- c. **Admin Garland** stated that we are finally getting reimbursed for some of the engineering fees from the SCRW Infrastructure. We have had a few businesses in town complain about the dirt being brought into the buildings, Carolina Civil has said they would put steel plates down.
- d. **Admin Garland** stated we have the sewer line grant that we will be reapplying for in March for 7700 ft. linear pipe in east Jefferson.

C. Fire Department Report

- a. **No Report**

D. Administrative Report

- a. **Admin Garland** asked Cody Mitchell for money again to repair the rubber flat part of the Community Center and pave the parking lot of the Town Hall.

E. Council and Staff Time

- a. **Council Member Rollings** wanted an update on the new poles for Duke Energy.
 - i. **Admin Garland** stated he had not heard anything, but he would check into this.
- b. **Council Member Johnson** the Beautification Committee, wanted to see if it were possible to get water faucets downtown. Johnson stated that she had spoken to the water/sewer department and was told it might be possible on the East side.
 - i. **Admin Garland** stated he was unsure about this and would send a message to the Engineer to see if this was possible.
 - ii. **Mayor Miller** stated that we may have to get the water from the backside of the properties and not sure if this would be possible for taps.
- c. **Council Member Johnson** stated that if we couldn't get the water then we move to plan B, which would be to fix the gator and put a water tank on this to haul water up and downtown.
 - i. **Mayor Miller** stated we were looking at getting the gator fixed, but one of our employees had some medical issues, so we had to put this on halt.
- d. **Council Member Johnson** also asked what the status of the Carrico property was in getting permission to be allowed to put up a fence. Johnson stated that we did get a verbal agreement.
 - i. **Clerk Cook** stated yes, they did verbally agree to this, but their notary will not sign the document. Cook stated not sure if this will hold up in court should something happen.
- e. **Council Member Robinson** added to the statement that Johnson made regarding the water downtown on the west side. We currently have 2 water hoses there, but we are not sure if they are connected to someone's property and check into these spots.
- f. **Council Member Robinson** asked how many times we clean up here in the town.
 - i. **Admin Garland** stated twice a year.
 - ii. **Council Member Johnson** stated that the fall of the year just didn't work out.
- g. **Council Member Robinson** stated that she has noticed these individuals with the trees in the yard letting the trees lap over on the sidewalks and citizens should maintain these bushes/trees from the right of way.
 - i. **Admin Garland** stated that every few years Duke Energy will cut the right of ways.
 - ii. **Council Member Johnson** mentioned a cable line hanging down low. Duke Energy will not touch this line.

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- iii. **Council Member Rollings** mentioned the same thing in her yard and Duke was kind enough to check for power. (No Power) Rolled up the line beside the pole and had someone come by and cut the line.

F. Mayor's Report

- a. **Mayor Miller** met with Howard and the Engineers as stated earlier, like before delay in materials. I have noticed that some of the businesses have been struggling, but this is the process of progress. I noticed that constructors did but down the steel plates at the businesses.

G. Executive Session (6:47 pm)

- i. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ii. **Council Member Myers** seconded the motion.
- iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

H. Adjournment (7:45 pm)

- i. **Council Member Rollings** made a motion to adjourn.
- ii. **Council Member Robinson** seconded.
- iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Cook

Stacey Cook
Town Clerk