JCC Holds Non-Public Meeting On Homeless Issue

The City of Jackson continues to discuss how to address the issue of homeless in the city, both at this week’s City Council meeting and a non-public meeting last Friday where the media and certain members of the public were excluded. The first meeting on Friday was held at 11 am on Friday morning at the Council’s regular meeting space at Jackson City Hall, Council members Connie Gonzales and Mayor Bob Simpson hosted the meeting, which was also attended by the Jackson Police Chief, Fire Chief and Head of Publics Works. Members of the public who had been either personally affected by the homeless or those who have worked with homeless individuals were invited, but both KVGC’s reporter and other members of the public were asked to leave. KVGC was later provided a recording of the meeting. During public comments of the regular Council meeting, Jackson resident Thornton Consolo, who was asked to leave from the Friday meeting, denounced the city’s conduct as “Shameful”, saying that the public should not have been kept from discussing such an important issue. Gonzales replied that attendance of the meeting was limited due to Covid and to attempt to make faster progress on the discussion. The Jackson City Council did take some concrete action on the issue at the Council meeting, approving an application for $75,000 in State grant money to address homelessness issues. If awarded, the funds would pay for city staff to begin a homeless outreach program.

