

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 19, 2015

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, May 19, 2015 at the Jasper City Office. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Lisa Rodman, Pete Johnson & Jeff Leslie; Employees present; Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Stella Lingen, Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; *Jasper Journal's* Kyle Kuphal; Others in attendance: Les Nath, Bill Ott, Brad Burris, Audrie Stack, Dean Isakson, Curt Johnson, Bernie Hubner, Brian Persing;

Mayor Baustian called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance;

Community Concerns:

-Curt Johnson informed the council that the storm drain in front of his house is blocked with sand. Thode will look at this and see if the jetter truck will work to remove the blockage. It was mentioned by Thode that we may have to look into a dredge ditch west of Baustian's shop.

-Audrie Stack purchased a property in Jasper on April 7, 2015. She received her first water bill which included the previous owner's delinquent balances. Audrie would like the council to forgive the delinquent balance as she was not responsible for the property as of this time. The previous charges may be written off until we receive the check from Pipestone County in June or July. The council will then be able to tell if the previous owner paid the delinquent balance on taxes. If the delinquent balance was paid by the previous owner, the write-off will continue. However, if the previous owner did not pay the delinquent amount, Audrie will be held liable for the previous balance. Audrie also questioned why she is receiving a water bill when there is no water going in or out of the house. Mayor Baustian explained that the minimum charge for service is \$54.99.

Les Nath introduced Bill Ott and Brad Burris from the Pipestone County Medical Center. Bill presented the council with information regarding fundraising for the new hospital. They are attempting to raise \$2,000,000 over the next 6 months. Bill informed the council that the construction of the hospital is already funded. Contributions will be used for expanding the surgical area and recruitment of new doctors, upgrade MRI, continue hallway décor to existing building, and to meet current codes. An individual is pledging \$0.50 for every dollar raised. Bill informed the council that they may pledge any amount over the next 5 years and sign a letter of intent. This does not mean money is expected immediately.

Bernie Hubner was present to request permission from the council to remove the sidewalk on the east side of his property. Bernie informed the council that his insurance company requested the removal of the sidewalk before an injury occurs. Bernie also stated that every year the sidewalk is getting worse due to snow removal. The council discussed sharing the cost with Bernie to replace it; however he stated that he would like to remove it completely. Council will counter decision until next council meeting.

Brian Persing was present to introduce himself to the council. Persing is planning on opening a restaurant in the old Three Straw Café building. He also stated that the council may use the west side of the building for a fitness center. Persing invited the council to come down and look at the building.

Review & approve the minutes from Regular Meeting, April 14, 2015, Rodman motioned to approve the minutes from the April 14 meeting, Leslie seconded, all ayes, so carried;

Review & approve the minutes from the Board of Appeal & Equalization Public hearing on April 16, 2015, Johnson motioned to approve the minutes from the April 16 meeting, Rodman seconded, all ayes, so carried;

Review & approved the April Claims to date: Rodman motioned to approve April claims, Leslie seconded. All ayes, motion carried;

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage account report:

-1 account also received a letter about mowing. Different individual from town went and mowed property;

-1 property is still vacant;

-It was decided that \$500.00 will be donated from the United Fund for the Drew/Geisler Fund;

New Business:

1) Contract with the local assessors was reviewed. Lisa motioned to approve the contract, Johnson seconded. All ayes, motion carried;

2) Chapter 2 Ordinances (pages 4-14) were reviewed by the council. Council requested to clean up page 7, Resolution 08-051F (Section 2, refer to Resolution 08-051F. The council agenda format on page 10 will be molded to the current format of council meetings. Consenting the agenda and petitions will be removed. The Pledge of Allegiance will be added. Chapter 3, pages 15-29 will be reviewed at the next council meeting in June.

3) Section 4.52 of the Ordinance Book was reviewed. Persing is inquiring about obtaining a liquor license to sell beer and wine at his restaurant. Section 4.52 prohibits the sale of alcohol within 100 feet of a church. Typically churches are in residential area which is not zoned for alcohol sale. Kounkel will inquire with Ben Denton about how to structure this section. Will counter discussion until next council meeting.

4) Council reviewed the City of Luverne Code regarding public nuisances. Ben Denton assisted Luverne with writing their code. Page 96, Section 9.41 of our current code is very vague. The council agreed that stricter regulations are needed in order to pursue habitual individuals who continue to have a "junkyard" on their residential property. Kounkel will ask Denton to look at the section regarding public nuisances and add any additional wording he advises. Kounkel will ask Denton to write a letter to the habitual offenders and have them delivered by the Pipestone County Sheriff's Office. The residents will have 30 days to clean up the mess. If it is not cleaned up, Thode will complete this with a Deputy present as he has done in the past.

5) LPRW Water Use Restriction Policy was reviewed by the council. Kounkel will include with the water bills on an FYI basis. If and when water use is restricted, Kounkel will post notices around town, on the cable tv channel, website and Facebook.

6) Baustian informed the council that he was successful in the bid for the exercise equipment being sold by the City of Pipestone. All equipment is currently being stored in Baustian's shop. Kounkel contacted Jerry Brockberg about insurance for the location. Brockberg was in contact with the League of MN and will get back to Kounkel. Rodman suggested obtaining a consultant to assist with the set-up process. 24 hour access will be provided and security cameras will be installed. Council meeting was recessed so council could look at the proposed location for the fitness center and to look at the equipment. Upon returning to meeting, council discussed putting together a committee to oversee the setup of the fitness center. Baustian volunteered to participate with the committee. It was recommended to ask Damman if she would be interested in joining the committee as she was very excited about the fitness center. Community members will also be asked to join. Tim Nelson (operator of fitness centers in Garretson) will be contacted to see if he has any input or advice for the city. Committee will be established by the next council meeting. Kounkel will look into any grants available. Private donations will also be accepted.

Old Business:

1) Kounkel spoke with BNSF railroad regarding the property at the intersection of Hwy. 269 and Hwy. 23. Kounkel spoke with an individual by the name of Jill. Jill informed Kounkel that the property is not under a lease at this time. Kounkel emailed Jill photos of the parking area and of the area across the railroad tracks to the west regarding weed control. Jill then sent an individual from the Railroad Police to check the area. No word back on their input.

2) Sam's Club vs. Costco. Sam's Club cards are \$45.00 for 2 while Costco is \$55.00 for 2. The council decided to let the Sam's Club membership expire due to lack of use and no current need for them.

3) Kounkel looked into the price of magnets. Prices range from \$0.21 to \$0.42 depending on the size of the order. It was decided to use the current magnets and replace the old public works employees name with Chuck. Magnets will then be mailed out with water bills.

4) Alleyway reconstruction was revisited. Gillen & DeJongh are in favor of taking the ridge out of Gillen's lawn to prevent water backing up in DeJongh's backyard. Thode will get bids from SK&D and DD Gravel. He will also inquire about the culvert near Johanna Garcia's property.

5) The Rural Fire Board approved the installation and shared cost of the new generator at the Emergency Services Building. Motioned by Rodman to pay 50% of the cost for the installation and new transfer switch, Johnson seconded, all ayes, motion carried.

6) Clean up letters were mailed to residents from the council drive through.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

1) Land Use Permits were granted to Trinidad Garcia for the installation of a fence for their horses. Garcia is renting the property located at 310 Prospect Ave S. from Sherry Wurtz. Garcia is currently receiving water from Wurtz as the rented location has a permanent disconnection of water and sewer

services. Garcia does not want to pay the additional \$500.00 to turn the water on. Council agrees that consistency matters with this subject; if one has to pay, so do the others. Another Land Use permit was granted to the City of Jasper for the installation of a fence at the Yard Waste Site.

2) Otten Shingling Bids were presented for the city owned buildings. Thode will talk with the previous Mayor to determine how much is covered by insurance. Cortney will contact Mike Coulter to determine how much of the shingling will be covered by insurance. The roof on Memorial Hall needs to be done this summer as it is in poor shape. The bid for the Marilyn DeBates Park includes the price of steel. Leslie motioned to approved the bids from Otten, Johnson seconded, all ayes, motion carried.

3) Seal Coat Bid were presented. Thode is waiting on other bids as a company will not know the price of oil until June. Thode hopes to have this bid by the next meeting, or a special meeting may be called. Sealcoating is done every 6-7 years. Fuller Paving will do the patchwork. Thode proposed building up the area in front of Baustian's shop on 8th Street. Baustian is in favor of sharing the cost due to the amount of traffic to his shop. Thode will also talk to Fuller about the area south of the city park. They could do patching thicker or cut out a ridge like they did to the east.

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

1) Kounkel mentioned that the City Office is receiving numerous complaints regarding animal feces on public and private properties. It was recommended to have the complainant take a picture of the feces for proof and to contact the Pipestone County Sheriff's Department.

2) The Summer Lunch Program will be offered at the City Park again this summer. No details are available as of this time.

3) List of 2015 Parade Invites was presented. Kounkel offered to pull the float in Lake Benton on June 21, Pipestone on June 27 @ 10:00 a.m., Hardwick on June 27 @ 7:00 p.m. and Tyler on July 25th. Lingen will ask Ilene DeBates about pulling the float on June 6th and June 13th.

4) Rodman proposed offering each resident a free yard waste tag to help clean up the town. Notification will be placed on the water bills, Facebook and website. Residents will have to pick up the tag from the City Office. A list of residents will be used to keep track of who received a free tag.

5) A handicap accessible porta-potty is needed at the ball fields. The current restrooms are operating fine but are not handicap accessible. In previous years the cost of the porta-potties were shared amongst the Lions Club, City and softball players. This created some tension as the softball players did not feel they had to contribute to the cost. The council agreed that the City will pay for the porta-potties this year and not ask for assistance from the other 2 groups. Kounkel will call to get a handicap accessible porta-potty before the first game on May 28th. Water will also be turned on.

6) The west side door at the city park was slightly ajar.

7) Meeting room door is still catching and not closing appropriately.

8) Curt Johnson placed his headstone approximately 3 feet away from the next lot, where footstones are typically placed. According to the quarry, he set this stone when he works for them. This is creating a

problem with selling the plots directly east of his plot. Thode will talk with Johnson and have him move the headstone.

Next council meeting is June 9, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Rodman motioned to adjourn, Leslie seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor