

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – November 10, 2015

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, November 10th, 2015 at the Jasper City Office. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Lisa Rodman, Pete Johnson, Karen Damman & 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, Jeff Enger, Jeff Carstensen; Quinton Johnson, later in the meeting;

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

Community Concerns:

-Jeff Enger was present to address the Council over concerns when the City flushed the sewer lines. Enger states water was shooting out of his toilet for about 3 to 4 minutes, at least 2 stories high, during the flushing process. Drains were fine prior to this. Stout and Evink were called to assess the issue. They determined that it was blocked, not by tree roots, but another material. Thode mentioned the “burp” has happened before and based off of internet research, it is very common and is a result of venting issues throughout the house. Kounkel will be looking into a sewer jetting policy like other Cities have. Rodman motioned to reimburse Enger for the Stout expenses as done in previous years to other residents, seconded by Damman, all ayes, motion carried. Enger will drop the invoice off at the City Office;

-Jeff Carstensen was present to address the Council regarding an area abutting his property. The area is directly west of the property Carstensen just purchased on 8th Ave .Carstensen is proposing for the City to vacate the last 150’ of Poorbaugh Ave as he would like to purchase the area from the other abutting neighbors and construct a 36’ x 60’ building. Xcel Energy does have pods near the rear of this area so Kounkel will contact the Pipestone County Recorder’s Office to determine if there is an easement at the location. From there, the City attorney will be contacted. With typical vacations of street, the property is then deeded over to the any land owners that have abutting property. The Council discussed how Xcel Energy could possibly use the alley from the west to get to their pods. Thode mentioned that a portion of Rosedell Ave near the elevator was closed in 2001. There were some requests that have been denied. The Council wishes to check on the status of the area and will take up at the next Council meeting;

-One resident requested to be put on the agenda but never attended. Issue regarding property nuisance at said residents’ property was discussed. Councilman Leslie talked with homeowner regarding some issues that need to be completed before the Council will motion for dismissal of charges. Leslie informed homeowner that the buckets & containers near the garage need to be cleaned up and the wood pile needs to be cleaned up and organized. The eastside entryway into the house still contains a considerable amount of junk so this will need to be cleaned as well. Leslie also mentioned to the homeowner the dangers of burning wood in the house without a triple stack exhaust. Occupant is only using a single, galvanized pipe as the exhaust. Homeowner indicated to Leslie that the occupant is not in good health as of this time. Kounkel will send a letter to said homeowner detailing the requests of the Council;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Review & approve the minutes from Regular Meeting October 13, 2015. Motion by Rodman, seconded by Leslie to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried;

Review & approved the October Claims to date: Peoples Bank \$700, Quartziter Halloween Carnival; Team Laboratory Chemical Corp., \$651.00, root destroyer/glass cleaner. This led into the discussion of the sewer jetter. This has been a great investment for the City as there have been no backups this year. Kounkel will look into creating a sewer jetting policy as other Cities have; Motion by Johnson to approve the October claims, seconded by Damman, all ayes, motion carried;

Receipts: Pipestone County Treasurer, 2015 Police State Aid \$6,141.18; Quartziter Club Halloween Carnival, \$2288.90. Rodman mentioned this was the biggest turnout yet for the Halloween Carnival;

Council members who have extra meetings or mileage need to turn in the amounts; payments will be made on the December 15 payroll;

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage account report:

-Lingen will be working on getting these delinquent accounts on the taxes. Most are repeats so this will be a fairly easy process;

-Lingen received one of the bills back as there was no forward address for the individual. We will ask around town and see if anyone has made contact with this individual;

-Kounkel will look into the mowing for one property. Thode does not feel we mowed the area as often as presented;

-Motion by Rodman, seconded by Johnson, to approve Resolution 15-314A Rock County assessing delinquent Sewer, Water, Garbage & Property Maintenance Bills to taxable properties in the City of Jasper;

-Motion by Johnson, seconded by Damman, to approve Resolution 15-314B Pipestone County assessing delinquent Sewer, Water, Garbage & Property Maintenance Bills to taxable properties in the City of Jasper;

-Lingen updated the Council on the 2015 United Fund Campaign. She stated that as of Tuesday, November 10th, \$3800.00 has been raised. The budgeted amount was \$3850.00 so we are \$50.00 shy. \$70 was deemed for other accounts;

New Business:

-Chapter 6 Ordinances were reviewed. Section 6.17 was discussed as it is difficult for the Ambulance to find houses if the ordinance is not followed and house numbers are not displayed or adequate in size. This would be a great job for an Eagle Scout to conduct an inventory of houses not in compliance. Baustian questioned if the City obtained an inventory of numbers, would people be more likely to put them up, free of charge? Kounkel will look into the pricing of bulk house numbers and present to Council at next meeting;

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-Approve the off-sale liquor license application for Stonewall Bar & Grill for 2016. Motioned by Leslie to approve the off-sale liquor license application for Stonewall Bar & Grill for 2016, seconded by Damman, all ayes.

-Approve the on-sale liquor license application for the 19th Hole BBQ Pit for 2016. The Council was hesitant on this as the sale of liquor is only approved to Stonewall Bar & Grill. The Council motioned to table until the December meeting as more clarification from Brian Persing is needed;

-Wellness Center Updates

-61 active members, 3 dropped out. One member dropped out due to health reasons, another 2 had their passes deactivated due to failure to pay the monthly membership;

-Brian Persing purchased a tanning bed and wanted to know if the City would be interested in having this be a part of the monthly membership to the Wellness Center. Due to liability reasons, the Council opted to decline Persing's offer, and let the tanning beds go under Persing's insurance. Another issue is the proposed placement of the tanning bed. Persing had anticipated putting it in the backroom of the Wellness Center but this could pose a problem as that area is used as an emergency exit;

-Requests for additional equipment were noted. Purchasing a set of Kettlebells was approved. Kounkel will contact Mark Bills to determine range of weight. Kounkel will also be contacting Debra Fitzgerald regarding possibly setting up a yoga class. After this, approval for yoga mats may be presented to the Council at future meetings;

-Request made to put a stop sign at the intersection of 6th Street and Sherman Ave. Kounkel mentioned a concerned citizen requested the placement of a stop sign to the west of her residence as she has witnessed cars speeding up and down the road. She also witnessed a near collision with a school bus and a car. Those suggested placing the signs a block east at the intersection of 6th & Spicer instead to slow traffic going both ways. Motioned by Rodman to place a stop sign at the intersection of 6th St. & Spicer Ave, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

-Kounkel presented the Council with Ben Denton's recommendation for the language of City Code Section 8.17, Subd. 2. Motion to accept Denton's recommendations for the language of City Code Section 8.17, Subd. 2 by Johnson, seconded by Rodman, all ayes, motion carried. Kounkel will present the updated section at the next Council meeting;

-The placement of pea rock at the City Park was briefly discussed. Kounkel contacted the LMC Insurance Trust. A typical park lawsuit ranges around \$300,000.00. This could open the City up to lawsuits as pea rock is not ADA acceptable. Continue with mulch;

-The Nobles County Community Service agency will service all of Jasper;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

-2 building permits were issued during the month of October. Naomi Beers built a new garage on the south end of her property. She was within all the guidelines and setbacks. Alliance Communication was

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approved for the installation of a telecommunications hut behind Houg's Service Station. The old, brown building will be removed;

-Thode discharged the ponds. The process of discharging the ponds was discussed. A pre sample is obtained, followed by 3 additional samples. The ponds typically take 9 days to discharge;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

-Thode presented the Council with an estimate for new lights at the ESB from Olsen Electric. Thode mentioned that the average electric bill is about \$230.00. The installation of new lights will help decrease the monthly expenditures in the long run. Approval to purchase the cheaper versions of lights was granted. The rural fire department will be responsible for half of this bill as well;

-Team Tayden will be having a vendor fair Saturday, December 5th in the meeting room of Memorial Hall. Team Tayden committee members are requesting the \$40.00 rental fee for the area be waived as the committee will not be making money. Johnson motioned to waive the \$40 rental fee for the Team Tayden Vendor Fair, seconded by Damman, all ayes, motion carried;

-A resident requested the placement of containers at the end of the ballfields so people have a place to dispose of their animal waste. Resident reported picking up waste from 5 dogs that did not belong to her. It does state in the animal ordinance however, that pet owners will dispose of waste AT THEIR RESIDENCE. Request denied;

-The orange highlighted area on Ben Denton's invoice was discussed. This pertains to the City being charged for Denton reviewing paperwork over a civil dispute between residents of Jasper. The Council does not feel we should be charged for this;

Damman motioned to adjourn, Leslie seconded. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor