

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 8, 2015

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, December 8th, 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, Elicia Kortus, Don Madetzke, Brian Persing, Kristine Persing, Paula Gerlach, Kris Rodman, Randy Larson, Brian Sievert, Ron Seivert and Mark Sievert;

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

Community Concerns:

Ron, Brian & Mark Sievert from Jasper Soy Producers were present to update the Council on their bag warehouse building project. Ron informed the Council that the project was delayed some due to the blueprints for the foundation not being completed and again because of snow. The dirt pile in the alley was cleaned up so it is now assessable but probably won't be used until the spring due to the amount of mud. Ron also informed the Council that a new, heavy duty fence will be placed as the wind took the other one. Ron has been in contact with Dennis Evans throughout the project and has been trying to accommodate to Dennis's requests. The alley was cleaned so Dennis can place the garbage can in the back again;

Elicia Kortus was present to address the Council regarding her efforts to raise funds for the purchase of the Jasper School. Kortus plans to purchase and renovate the building with the help of the Jasper community. Kortus has created a Generosity Page to raise funds and has been in contact with Preservation Alliance of Minnesota to achieve tax-exempt status while she files for non-profit status. Non-profit status would allow Kortus to apply for grants. Kortus would like to see the school preserved instead of demolished. She anticipates the school being used for apartments, small business, dances, etc. A Facebook page was also established to raise awareness. Kortus states the page has generated over 300 likes. If each person donated \$50, the school could be purchased;

Brian & Kristine Persing were present regarding the status of their 3.2 on sale beer license. Baustian informed Brian that the Council would address this later in the meeting;

Review & approve the minutes from Regular Meeting November 10, 2015. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Leslie to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried;

Review & approved the November Claims to date: MN Unemployment Insurance, \$3,484.78. Motion by Rodman to approve the November claims, Damman seconded, all ayes, motion carried;

Meeting was recessed at 7:32 p.m. for the Truth in Taxation Meeting. No one was in attendance regarding this and no letters had been received by the City Office. Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 15-342 adopting the payable 2016 final property levy and budget for the City of Jasper, seconded by Leslie, all ayes, Resolution & Budget adopted;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Truth in Taxation meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. followed by the continuance of regular meeting;

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage account report:

One resident paid the delinquent amount so amount was taken off the taxes;

Another resident had promised to pay but did not. Therefore, Lingen will be putting the delinquent amount on the taxes;

Lingen sent out thank yous to everyone who donated over \$100 to the United Fund. Also presented the Council with a thank you from Team Tayden for allowing them the use of the Meeting Room free of charge;

Resolution 15-342A (Business License Fees for 2016) was presented to the Council. Baustian would like to see separate Resolutions for the Jasper Mini Mall and Brian's 19th Hole BBQ Pit. Motion by Leslie to approve the off-sale 3.2 beer license to the Jasper Mini Mall, seconded by Damman, all ayes, motion carried. Persing clarified with the Council that he is requesting a 3.2 on sale, set-up and wine license. The food license should be approved this month after the health inspector visits according to Persing. Persing also stated that he is not allowed to sell any beer until the food license is approved. Motion to approve the on-sale 3.2 beer license and set-up license for Brian's 19th Hole BBQ Pit by Damman, seconded by Johnson, all ayes, motion carried;

Resolution 15-342B (Designate funds to Money Market Savings Account) was approved by Leslie, seconded by Johnson, all ayes, motion carried;

New Business:

-Chapter 7 Ordinances were reviewed. City Streets will be stricken from Page 74, time will be changed to 10:00 p.m. in Subsection K, and Ordinance #87 will be added in the City Code Book;

-Wellness Center Updates

-67 active members

-Kounkel contacted Debra Fitzgerald about teaching a yoga class in town. Debra declined due to her hectic schedule. Kounkel will be looking for another instructor while a signup sheet is placed at the Wellness Center to see how many people would actually be interested. Kounkel mentioned this would be a great way to gain publicity especially if the Wellness Center "donated" this class to its members/non-members.

-Mark Bills is assisting Kounkel with the purchase of additional equipment (kettle-bells, etc);

Kounkel presented the Council with the form Pipestone County uses for their employee evaluations;

Old Business:

Numbering of houses was briefly discussed. Kounkel could not find any companies that sold bulk amounts of numbers. Individual numbers run \$3.99 and up;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Section 6.16, Subsection 1 and Section 8.17, Subsection 2 revisions presented. Previously approved at November's Council meeting;

Council was presented the League of Minnesota Cities column on vacating a street. Jeff Carstensen expressed at November's Council meeting that he was interested in vacation the last 150' of Poorbaugh Ave, adjacent to his property. Kounkel will contact Carstensen to see if he has spoken with the other adjacent property owner as the land would have to be split 50/50. Leslie mentioned there is a fire hydrant on the SW corner and would like to know what Carstensen plans to do in that area;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permit issued to Mike Baustian for a pole building addition to feed mill;

The fire hydrant on the NW corner of Wall St. & Sherman Ave. was run over by a semi on December 1st. Thode discovered who the driver was by a witness. Driver initially denied hitting the hydrant but called the Pipestone County Sheriff's Office on December 8th and stated she found damage and red paint under her truck, admitting guilt. Information will be passed on to LMC for insurance purposes;

The new sweeper needed electrical work but seems to be operating fine. Thode did have to purchase a wire harness for \$50;

Thode would like to see the lettering of Memorial Hall painted in black so it stands out more. Thode will talk with a resident about certain paint needed for the quartzite rock;

When the water meters were updated in 2014, the software was on backorder so the City was never billed even though it was installed. The City will be responsible for the \$1500 payment to HD Supply;

A main broke on the south side of Sunrise. Fixed today;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Lingen mentioned to the Council that there is another party interested in the purchase of the school and was wondering if the sale goes through, if the council would allow 5 year tax abatement. Interested party would like to put an indoor, organic farm in there. He is looking into different locations and thought Jasper would be a great place due to low taxes and family in the area;

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

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor