

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2016

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, January 12, 2016 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 with Reclaimed Community; Paul VanDeBerg from Alliance Communications; Ben Denton, City Attorney; Ambulance Members, Jim Veldkamp and Kim Drew;

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

Community Concerns:

Paul VanDeBerg from Alliance Communication was present to address the council regarding the Alliance Communication Cable TV Franchise Agreement. The agreement is valid for 15 years and can be renewed at that time. VanDeBerg informed the council that the fiber installation will begin in the spring. They will be starting with Jasper and moving around in a clockwise fashion. Paul urged the council to have the City Attorney look over the agreement and get back to him regarding any questions or proposed changes;

Ben Denton, City Attorney, was present to address the council regarding his role on legal services for the City and its residents charged with crimes. Denton cited MN Statute 484.87, Subdivision 3 and MN Statute 484.88 stating that misdemeanors committed within City limits need to be prosecuted by the City Attorney. This statute applies to cities with a population greater than 600 people. Denton informed the Council that he would charge \$100 per hour for any prosecution cases, not the \$150 charged for other services. Denton predicted the amount would be under \$300 per month given there are about 5 to 10 cases per year. Denton contacted the Pipestone County Prosecuting Attorney who stated if the City was on board, he was fine with the change as it would decrease his workload. The Council would like time to consider Denton's request. Items will be addressed at the February council meeting;

Elicia Kortus with Reclaimed Community was present to update the council on her efforts to purchase the Jasper School. Kortus informed the Council that the MN Historical Society was down to inspect the building and will be sending an official letter deeming the school eligible for a listing as a Historical Site. Kortus handed out flyers promoting the Pancake Feed she and others from Reclaimed Community will be hosting with hopes of raising enough funds by February 16th to purchase the school;

Kim Drew & Jim Veldkamp were present to update the council on recent ambulance elections. Kim was voted President, Jim Vice-President, Lisa Rodman was appointed secretary and Pam Hubner was appointed Treasurer. Lana Baerenwald, Wayne Drew & Richard Rieck are the present board members. Jim informed the council that the ambulance received a \$3,000 grant in the summer of 2014 to go towards the purchase of radio equipment. With the emergence of the Armor System, the funds were held until the new radios became available, costing \$1200.00 for 3. Serial numbers will be provided to the City for insurance purposes;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Kim also requested for the update of the cities Disaster Preparedness Plan. Kim informed the Council that the Ambulance and Fire Department could spearhead this plan, including the Council and other city members. Kim has a sample Disaster Plan we could reference and make applicable to our city;

Ambulance could assist with betterment projects at the ESB building as long as prior approval/communication takes place. The Ambulance is not responsible for any utility bills at the ESB as dictated when the Ambulance was organized in 1969;

Review & approve the minutes from Regular Meeting December 8, 2015. Motion by Rodman, seconded by Leslie to approve the minutes from December 8. All ayes, motion carried;

Review & approved the December Claims to date: Dave's Repair, Sweeper, \$3,630.00; Skyberg Construction, Water Box Work, \$2,112.45; Jasper Sunrise, 2015 Dividend Pay from LMC, \$4,239.36; HD Supply Waterworks, Training for Radio Read, \$1,500.00; US Bank NA, Street Bond Payment, \$43,662.50; Fire "Special Account", State Fire Aid, \$19,318.52; USDA/Rural Development, Water Improvements Payment, \$29,300.00; Heiman, Fire Equipment, \$763.40. A grate is still needed over the water box installed by Skyberg. Thode mentioned the sweeper is working great. Motion by Damman to approve the December claims, Johnson seconded, all ayes, motion carried;

Receipts noted: Rock County, 11-15 Distribution, \$35,273.97; Pipestone County, 11-15 Share, \$48,016.42; Stonewall Bar & Grill, 2016 Liquor License, \$1,000.00; MN Management & Budget, Small City Assist/LGA/Ag Credit PERA, \$112,832.56;

Quarterly/End of the Year Financial reports distributed for the Council to review;

2016 business was addressed. Motion by Damman to appoint Johnson as Acting Mayor, seconded by Leslie, all ayes, motion carried; 2016 Committees were left as is; Motion by Johnson to appoint the Jasper Journal as the official newspaper, seconded by Leslie, all ayes, motion carried; Motion by Damman to designate Peoples Bank as the official depository, seconded by Rodman, all ayes, motion carried, Motion to add Kris Fjellanger on the EDA Board, all ayes, motion carried;

FYI: 2016 IRS rate for mileage reimbursement is \$0.54/mile, down \$0.035 from 2016;

Lingen informed the Council that the United Fund will be issuing Dennis Evans of the Jasper Mini Mall a check for \$350.00 for the meat he donated to the Pipestone County Food Shelf;

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage account report & Water Usage Comparisons were presented to the Council;

-Wellness Center Updates

-Yoga Classes are scheduled for Thursday, January 14th @ 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 23rd @ 10:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall. Sharon Lemly will be the instructor;

-75 active members, nine have dropped out from either non-payment or reaching the end of their 3 month membership. Leslie mentioned members would like a more durable rug outside so they can wipe their feet off before they go in. Free weights continue to be requested. Continue to watch Craigslist for used free weights. Due to liability issues, any weights over 60lbs would require a cage;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

New Business:

-Loss Control Recommendations from LMC were presented to the Council. Representatives from the League met with Kounkel and Laurie Ykema. These are merely recommendations and will be considered in the future;

-Worker's Comp Data Packet given to Council at meeting;

-Seal Coat plans for County Rd 1 in 2016 was discussed. Kounkel gave county projected dates for Quarry Festival;

-Brian's 19th Hole BBQ Pit could not obtain a wine license due to the fact it would fall under the category of liquor. Given Stonewall Bar & Grill already holds the only liquor license available in the City, Brian's was denied;

Old Business:

Vacating portion of Poorbaugh Ave. was discussed. Carstensen contacted the other abutting property owner and discussed the vacation of the street. Neighbor verbally agreed to sell the land to Carstensen. Kounkel is waiting for a written agreement before sending out notices and holding a public hearing;

The cleanup of the property on 2nd Street was completed. Legal fees and man hours average about \$900.00. This does not include the towing or dumpster expenses. Denton will provide an affidavit of hours for this particular property;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

No land use permits issued;

Thode addressed replacing the ceiling tiles in the basement of Memorial Hall. 205 are needed. Thode looked into pricing locally and in Sioux Falls. Rodman Lumber offers USG brand tiles at \$5.63/tile. Menards had the same brand available for \$4.15/tile. Menards also offered Armstrong brand tiles, with the same acoustic rating as the others for \$2.49/tiles after \$1.00/tile mail in rebate. Thode will check with Ray at the Lumber Yard to see if he has the Armstrong brand available to compare prices. Motion by Rodman to replace the tiles in the meeting room of Memorial Hall once additional pricing becomes available, seconded by Damman, all ayes, so carried;

Thode mentioned an issue at the City Cemetery where a grave was dug for a person but was it in the wrong spot. Mark Walgrave came back and dug the grave in the correct spot. Unsure on who would be responsible for the additional dig, the city or the funeral home. Lingen explained the confusion as the funeral director informed her that the person would be buried by a baby and did not provide the baby's name. When looking through the Cemetery books, the first person bearing the same last name was labeled as "baby". However, the correct spot was by a baby with name. Both of these babies died in 1958;

Thode contacted the City of Luverne and discovered that they mix the salt/sand mix with 25% salt, while Jasper mixes it with 10% salt. Straight salt can be used when it is really cold outside;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Audit is scheduled for March 22nd & 23rd, 2016;

The timeclock in the office is not working. Motion by Rodman, seconded by Damman to approve the purchase of a new timeclock, all ayes, so carried;

Rodman informed the council that the City Park Committee has been established. There are 5 people on the committee who will be looking into available grants and other upgrades to the City Parks;

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

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor