

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 17, 2016

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, May 17, 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; Community members present: Jeff Carstensen, Lyle & Cynthia Gillen, David Ewing;

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

Community Concerns:

Request for Oktoberfest was not discussed as the interested party did not attend.

Stella Lingen and Lyle Gillen were present to address the Council regarding St. Joseph's church. Lingen informed the Council on February 5, 2015, St. Joseph's voted to either close the church or oratory. The pastoral council met again in May 2015 and March 2016 and agreed to close. The church currently has 3 people suing for abuse allegations against a priest during 1958 to 1965. The pastoral council would like to see if the City would be interested in purchasing the building. Council members will ponder over this for the next month and address at next council meeting;

Cynthia Gillen thanked the Council for the grate placed near her house to catch access water;

Motion by Rodman, second by Damman to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from April 12, 2016;

Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to approve the minutes from the Board of Appeal & Equalization from the meeting on April 14, 2016;

Review and approve the April Claims to date: League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, Worker's Comp 2016-2017, \$30795.00; M&H Hardware, Stove & Fridge for Memorial Hall, \$1030.99; Peoples Bank, Quartziter Quarter Craze Petty Cash, \$4700.00; Erik Skogquist & Robert Pazdernik, ½ Partial Assessment Fee, \$1035.00/each; Skyberg Construction, kitchen in Memorial Hall, \$3,789.79; Olsen Electric, Moved outlets in hall, changed breakers, add light, \$1071.00; Univar USA Inc., Mosquito Kontrol Spray, \$2,145.00. Motion by Johnson, second by Damman, to approve the April claims, all ayes, and motion carried;

Receipts noted: 20 ATV permits were sold during the month of April. In previous years the city has issued less than 45 permits. This year an additional 20 permits were issued as the demand has increased. Bid Rig HD LLC purchased the 1981 Chevy CB for \$500.00. One additional truck is still for sale;

The delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts were discussed.

The city float sponsor list and letter was presented to the council. Baustian will sign the letter;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Wellness Center updates. Kounkel did not have the final count of members as some dropped out for the summer months. Concern forms have been successful. Jump ropes and exercise mats were requested a few times, as well as a Nu-Step. Approval was granted to purchase the jump ropes and exercise mats;

#### NEW BUSINESS:

FYI: A request has been made to the County Commissioner to expand Alliance Communications services;

The Summer Lunch program will be offered in Jasper this summer from June 13<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>, excluding July 4;

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The increase in water rates from Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water could be absorbed into the water budget so an increase in rates is not needed at this time;

Clean up letters were mailed to residents;

FYI: Collector plates never expire. Kounkel will check with Quinton to ensure the vehicles are insured.

Vacating the last portion of Poorbaugh Ave, as requested by Jeff Carstensen, was addressed. Questions were raised regarding the fire hydrant located near the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> and Poorbaugh. Thode reminded Carstensen that the accessory building cannot be taller than the primary structure. Carstensen informed the Council that the accessory building will sit about 3' to 4' lower than the house due to a slope in the land. The house is approximately 14'. Carstensen anticipated 16' sidewalks and a 19' peak for the building. Carstensen was informed he would have to apply for a variance regarding the dimensions of the building, to be done at a later time. Motion by Johnson to vacate the last North 150' of Poorbaugh Ave, Damman second, all ayes;

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension sent an updated contract to be signed by Baustian and Kounkel. Motion by Damman, second by Rodman, all ayes. Forms will be signed after meeting;

Infra-track invoices were discussed. According to Denton, any agency has 6 years to collect on debt. However, we may deduct expenses incurred to remove their lines from the \$3900.00 bill. Kounkel will issue them a check minus expenses;

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

One land use permit was issued to Ericka Perez for a barn in West Jasper. Thode informed the Council it was more of an addition to the existing horse shed;

The northwest baseball fence at the Athletic Park was discussed as the public works department would like to see it removed. The baseball diamond is not used and creates troubles when mowing or weed eating. Thode talked with Jamie Skyberg who had no issue with the removal. The fence will then be sold;

The City of Ihlen is requesting mosquito spraying services for the summer months. The public works department will complete this on Thursday evenings;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

FYI: The City of Pipestone will paint the sidewalks and crosswalks in June. The city is charged for the paint & hourly rate of the worker;

The water leak has been found and repaired in front of 116 6<sup>th</sup> St E. Water usage levels have already decreased;

Spring down by the park was briefly discussed;

Thode added that the wood chips at the city park would have to be replaced. A truckload of wood chips cost around \$3000. Replacing and covering the entire play area with wood chips would cost \$9,037 and would have to be replaced again in approximately 3 years. Rubber mulch lasts a lifetime and would cost approximately \$11,700. Since the introduction of the new playground equipment, the city has spent over \$12,000 on replacing the wood mulch. Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to replace the wood chips with rubber mulch due to the longevity of the rubber mulch, all ayes, carried;

The fire hydrant at the Wall St & Sherman Ave intersection will be replaced the week after Memorial Day. Dave Boucher & Double D Gravel will help complete the work. Thode would like to see the hydrant moved to the north of the stop sign and also make the south sidewalk handicap accessible to defer water from rushing down;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Kounkel presented the Council with complaint forms compiled from examples other cities have shared and implemented. The forms will be placed on the next month's agenda for approval;

The sidewalk south of the Jasper Soy Producers new construction needs to be cleaned up as it is full of rocks and gravel. Baustian will talk with the owners and ask them to clean it up;

Asphalting the city alleys will be put on next month's agenda;

The Council would like to do another drive-thru after cleanup day;

Motion to adjourn by Damman, second by Leslie, meeting adjourned.

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

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.