

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 11, 2016

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, October 11, 2016 at the Jasper City Office. Council members present: Mayor, Mike Baustian, Kim Lape, 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; Quentin Johnson; Community members: Dale McClure;

Mayor Baustian called the meeting to order followed by the pledge of allegiance;

Community Concerns:

Resident was not present but requested to have his sewer portion of his bill forgiven. An outdoor hose was left on for a couple of days. On average, the resident has paid \$9.45 per month for sewer. This past month his portion for sewer was \$62.32. Motion by Johnson to reduce resident's portion for sewer to \$9.45, second by Leslie, all ayes, carried;

Neither Brian nor Kristin Persing was present to discuss their wine & hard beer request. Kounkel did inform the Council that they are eligible to receive the wine & hard beer license without interfering with Stonewalls Liquor License. It was explained that the only time wine falls under the liquor category is when it is sold with other intoxicating liquors such as Bacardi, Jack Daniels, etc. The city has never previously issued a wine license so a fee must be established prior to the issuance. Kounkel will speak with the Persing's to determine when they would like to apply for the licenses;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 13, 2016, all ayes;

Review and approve the September Claims to date: League of MN Cities, Municipality Coverage "16-"17, \$27,825.00; Jerry Priester, Public Works Barn; \$62,000.00; Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to approve the September claims, all ayes;

Receipts noted: League of MN Cities, Fire Hydrant Replacement, \$4,502.30;

Quarterly reports were included for the council to review;

The delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts were discussed. Notices will be hung if the bill is significantly delinquent;

Wellness Center:

The letter addressed to the property owners detailing some of the repairs needed within the Wellness Center has been ignored. The problems still exist and the owners have not contacted Kounkel with anticipated plans for repairs as requested;

One machine needs new arm pads. Thode will contact Pipestone and find out where they ordered the replacement parts when they owned the equipment;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

The St. Joseph's Church Finance Council received an appraisal from Winter Realty for the church. The appraised value is \$12,000.00 and inquired whether the city would be interested in purchasing the building. All religious artifacts and pews will be removed. Everything else including tables, chairs and dishes will be included in the purchase price. In previous years, the electricity was budgeted at \$2500/year, \$3100/year for gas and \$57/month for SWG. Discussion was raised on what the church could be used for at the city level. It was mentioned that if the city would like to continue to expand the Wellness Center, Lingen explained that the church may be sold but the corporation of the church is still intact until the lawsuits are settled. The proceeds from the sale of the church will be put into escrow until then. Motion by Damman to write a letter of intent to purchase the church for the appraised value of \$12,000.00, seconded by Lape, all ayes, carried. Lingen questioned when the city would like to take over ownership. Mayor Baustian stated that St. Joseph's can give the city a timeline as we are very willing to work with them;

The Plum Creek Library will be terminating services December 31, 2016 due to lack of funding. The books and shelves may remain and continue to be used if desired. The council requested to keep the shelves and books. Kounkel also informed the council that the Ivanhoe library has offered their collection of books to the city as well. Kounkel will be traveling there soon to go through some of the books;

Lingen presented the United Fund Budget to the council. The Blood Mobile will be receiving \$100 less from previous years due to lack of spending. The seniors will be left out due to having a surplus in their account. The Boy Scouts from Pipestone will be delivering the United Fund envelopes on October 24, 2016;

Damman updated the council on the Park Committee's first meeting. The main goals of the Park Committee are the shelter at the main park and the playground equipment at Marilyn DeBates Park. Kounkel will speak to the Lion's Club about the latter. Tent sites will also be looked at for the RV Park. Hiring an engineer for the park shelter was discussed; however, the cost is outrageous. Thode recommended excavating 4'-5' out, placing gravel, cement and tiles. The current shelter is directly on the land which is why the concrete is buckling. Kounkel will be writing up a proposal for a potential \$40,000.00 grant to help fund the new shelter;

Cleaning services for the meeting room and bathroom at the Emergency Services Building was discussed. Cleaning would only be required about 1-2 times per month. An ad will be placed in the Jasper Journal and Pipestone Star requesting interested individuals;

The Annual Inspection Reports for Sunrise were presented to the council;

OLD BUSINESS:

Peoples Bank is requesting for the city to put \$5000.00 down on the basketball court instead of the previously agreed upon amount of 1/3 (approximately \$3500.00) of the cost. Discussion regarding the amount of use the basketball court will receive was discussed. The council would like to see the

donation from the city to remain at 1/3. Motion by Leslie, seconded by Damman to put the basketball court on hold until more information about the shelter is obtained;

Ben Denton is still working on the Pawn Shop Ordinance for the city. This will be put on hold until the interested individual comes to address the council regarding his plans;

The cold weather was discussed. Kounkel and Thode received conflicting reports from the city of Pipestone on whether they disconnect individuals from October 15 to April 15. According to Ben Denton, the city would have the option of disconnecting individuals during this time if we choose. Further discussion was raised. The council wishes to see a policy with "more teeth" for next year. Discussion regarding this will begin in August 2017;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permits were issued to Trinidad Garcia, 310 Prospect Avenue, for the installation of a wood fence;

Public Works Department will start jetting sewer lines the end of this week;

All hydrants have been flushed and flow testing for the ISO fire rating has been completed;

Bids for heating the new Public Works Shed were presented and discussed with the council. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Damman to accept Option 1 from WM Plumbing and Heating for the installation of radiant heat in the shed, all ayes, carried;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Training will need to be completed by at least 1 council member. Kounkel will send out an email with log in information;

Reclaimed Community's gifting request was addressed. Lape mentioned that she has a lot of feelings in her heart for the school but feels the liability would be too grand for the city to take on. Further discussion regarding the school took place. The council wishes to not accept the proposal from Reclaimed Community;

Reclaimed Community would also like the city to sponsor t-shirts for their upcoming fundraiser. Damman mentioned that if we sponsor one, we will have to sponsor all. Request denied;

A church group is requesting to rent the meeting room every Sunday; however, this would not leave the option of others renting it during that time. It was decided to allow the church to rent the room only if someone else does not;

Mayor Baustian mentioned that October is typically the month to address council pay. The last increase in pay was in 2010. Decided to leave pay as is and address in future years;

Upcoming Meetings: November 8, 2016 @ 8:01 p.m. for a Regular Council Meeting;

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

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.