

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 13, 2016

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, December 13, 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; Later in the meeting, JDC member Bob Quissell, Community member: Mike Patterson;

Mayor Baustian called the meeting to order 7:06 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance;

Community Concerns:

Kounkel (later joined by Quissell) spoke with the Council proposing a request from the Jasper Development Corporation regarding a tax-abatement program that Pipestone County has recently passed. The tax abatement program would encourage new, owner-occupied housing within city limits. Taxes on the property would be abated for 3 years. The Council will consider the proposal and review at the next meeting;

Brian Persing is requesting that the city donate a portion of land to the Lion's Club to place a billboard to advertise local businesses. Persing was not present and it was not known if he spoke to the Lion's Club regarding this;

Michael Patterson was present to address the Council regarding Pickle Ball Equipment. Patterson read a letter addressed to the Council about the benefits of Pickle Ball. Patterson asked that Memorial Hall be available for the game and that the city purchases the equipment. The council spoke about incorporating this with the Wellness Center once the Catholic Church is available. Will continue discussion once Church is available;

Swimming lessons in Luverne are also being looked into. A 2 week block during the month of July has been reserved for the City of Jasper. Kids of all ages are able to attend. Any child under 4 years old would need a supervisor present. Ludolph Bus Service does offer transportation during the summer. The fee for the busing could be raised by donations or through the United Fund. Thode, who is already an employee of Ludolph's , could drive the bus if the city compensates him. Kounkel will look into insurance coverage for this;

Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 8, all ayes;

Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on November 9, 2016 to canvas the votes of the recent municipal election;

Review and approve the November Claims to date: USTI, Support '16-'17; \$970.00; WM Heating & Cooling, Heater & other repairs in PW Barn, \$3,905.58; Annual Payrolls for Fire Dept. (net \$7,063.65) & Ambulance (net \$13,817.68); Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to accept the November claims to date, all ayes;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Receipts noted: Jasper Lions Club, Basketball Court Donation, \$700.00; Peoples Bank-Pay it Forward, Basketball Court Donation, \$3,500.00; Jasper Senior Citizens, Fire Department Donation, \$3,000.00. Discussion will be held in early spring of 2017 regarding the installation of the basketball court;

The delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage/Property Maintenance Tax Rolls for Pipestone and Rock Counties were presented. The United Fund report was also presented with a surplus of \$1500.00 which can be used for other contributions throughout the year;

Wellness Center:

The public works assistant replaced the worn pads on a machine. Parts are hard to find for the equipment as it is outdated;

Vanco Payment Solutions, who we currently use to reimburse participating wellness center members, will no longer offer insurance reimbursements after January 1, 2017. NIHCA (National Independent Health Club Association) has contacted the city regarding their fitness incentive program. NIHCA requires an annual investment of \$399 but offers training, advertisement and the ability for members to create their own account. NIHCA works with 13 different insurance companies for reimbursements versus the 3 we had with Vanco. Kounkel will look into whether the Avera Health Plan will be available. Motion by Leslie, second by Lape to contract with NIHCA for 1 year, with review at that time;

Lape mentioned an individual from the area that teaches yoga and chair yoga. Once the Wellness Center is moved to the Catholic Church, Kounkel will look into this as the new location will offer more space. Zumba classes will also be considered;

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to approve Resolution 16-348A (Business License Fee for 2017), all ayes, carried;

Motion by Lape, second by Damman to approve Resolution 16-348B (Designate Funds in Money Markey Savings Account), all ayes, carried;

***Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. to open the Public Hearing for the Budget/Tax Levy for 2017. It was a unanimous decision to keep the levy the same as last year. Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to approve Resolution 16-348 Adopting the Payable 2017 Final Property Levy and Budget for the City of Jasper, all ayes, carried. Public Hearing adjourned, regular meeting continued;

OLD BUSINESS:

The City of Pipestone's Pawnbrokers Ordinance was presented. This Ordinance is more suitable than the last presented. Review at next meeting;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Steel bids from 2 area lumber yards were presented to the Council for the new public works barn. There was approximately a \$1500 difference between the 2 bids. Thode checked with the lower bid and they

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were confident on the dollar amount. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to accept the lower bid. Thode and DeSchepper will be installing the steel;

Thode would also like to look into shelving for the public works barn that is large enough to fit pallets like the mosquito sprayer. The City of Pipestone currently uses them. Thode will look into pricing on shelving later this winter;

Salt sand received from the Rock County Highway Department has been used this winter. It contains 20% salt which has managed to melt snow on Main Street which we have never had before;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Skunks and other varmint have been noticed at a property in town. Kounkel will contact Ben Denton regarding this as this one of the properties we dealt with last year and find a resolution;

St. Joseph's Church was discussed. Lingen informed the Council that the second step will be completed on Friday and then the Bishop will have to give his go-ahead. Discussion regarding the stained glass window plagues also occurred. It was decided that the plagues will remain in place until a family wishes to have them. Is there a need for a daycare as well? Other potential ideas will be pondered;

Upcoming Meetings:

Council meeting, January 10, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Personnel Evaluations were scheduled for January 17, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Personnel Evaluation Findings were scheduled for January 24, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.;

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

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.