

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 10, 2017

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, January 10, 2017 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; Community Member: Jerry Tower;

Mayor Baustian called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance;

Community Concerns:

Jerry Tower was present to voice his concerns over properties in Jasper that need to be cleaned up. The Council previously deemed 1 property a nuisance and filed a criminal complaint against the property owner. Since that time the house has changed ownership but still remains in the family. The property is worse than it was before. Kounkel will consult with the city attorney and get the process of filing a criminal complaint started. Tower also mentioned another property located around the block from the abovementioned property. This property has numerous vehicles parked all over the property, most being out of commission. Kounkel will send a letter to the property owner to remove them accordingly. Luverne's policy regarding the number of allowable vehicles on a property will also be looked into;

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

Review and approve the December Claims to date: Douty Floral, Christmas Greenery/Wreath, \$894.95; Jasper Sunrise Village, 2016 Property/Casualty Dividend, \$6,334.08; Pipestone County Sheriff's Office, 2016 Contracted Services, \$33,200.00; USDA/Rural Development, Water Improvements Loan, \$29,400.00; Peoples Bank, (2) Transfers from Checking to Savings, \$200,000.00 (total);; Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to accept the December claims to date, all ayes;

Receipts noted: Rock County Auditor, November 2016 Disbursement, \$39,145.14; Pipestone County Auditor, November 2016 Disbursement, \$65,123.78; League of MN Cities, 2016 Property/Casualty Dividend, \$13,196.00; Jasper Sunrise Village, Town Homes Property/Casualty Insurance, \$12,680.00; Jasper Sunrise Village, 30% of Audit Costs, \$1,662.00; MN Management & Budget, ½ LGA/MV Credit-Ag/PERA Aid, \$105,625.15;

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

Motion by Damman, seconded by Lape to appoint Pete Johnson as the acting mayor for 2017, all ayes, carried;

The committees will remain the same as last year with Lape taking over the seats previously occupied by Rodman;

Motion by Damman, seconded by Johnson to appoint the Jasper Journal as the official newspaper for 2017;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Motion by Damman, seconded by Leslie to designate Peoples Bank as the official depository for 2017, all ayes, carried;

The IRS 2017 mileage rate reimbursement is \$0.535/mile, down \$0.005 from 2016;

The delinquent SWG report was reviewed. All delinquent accounts receive a separate notice in the mail detailing that water will be turned off if not paid by a specific date. Green shut-off notices are then placed on resident's doors if account continues to be delinquent. The first notices are often ignored which is essentially a waste of time and money. It was recommended to skip sending the initial notices to the delinquent accounts instead opting to place the green shut off notice only. Payments or payment arrangements are almost always taken care of within 24 hours of placing the disconnection notices;

Kounkel will look into credit card processing and bring information to the next council meeting;

Wellness Center:

3 member's cards were deactivated for failure to pay;

NEW BUSINESS:

The council chose not to nominate anyone to the Southwest Regional Development Commission at this meeting;

The Property/Casualty and Worker's Comp Packets were provided for the council to review;

The Ambulance won a free defibrillator from Zoll Medical Corporation in part of the company's 12 days of Christmas promotion;

Lights for the RV Park have been donated to the city. McDonald's of Pipestone recently replaced their outdoor lighting. All the lights were then up for grabs. An individual from Jasper is storing the lights in their garage but would like to donate the items to the city;

OLD BUSINESS:

The tax abatement for newly constructed residential homes was briefly discussed. The City of Pipestone has implemented a policy similar based off of the county's policy. Kounkel will furnish the council with the tax abatement policy for review at the next council meeting;

The pawnbroker's ordinance was modeled after Pipestone ordinance. This will be addressed when Mr. Ritcher attends a council meeting;

Insurance for bussing individuals to swimming lessons was discussed. According to Jerry with Kozlowski Insurance, the city would be responsible for Thode's workman's comp if a claim is filed while operating the bus; however, Ludolph's Bus Service would be responsible for all other insurance. Kounkel will get the word out on Facebook and posters around town eventually;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

No land use permits were issued during the month of December;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Thode mentioned that the price of Christmas greenery has increased over the years. Discussion whether to do something different in the coming years occurred. The greenery located by Hi-Fat takes a beating every year due to semis entering the location so hanging any decorations there should be avoided in the future. Thode mentioned purchasing artificial greenery which is not much cheaper but will last a couple of years. Christmas decorations typically go on sale after the holiday season. Prices will be obtained for the next council meeting to continue discussion;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

The Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearing in April will be 1-2 weeks behind schedule this year. No date has been set as of this time;

Mayor Baustian added that the Jasper Development Corporation requests that the city forgive the sewer and water hookup fee for any new homeowner looking to build a house within city limits. This is something that could be addressed every January. Will mention at the next council meeting;

Upcoming Meetings:

Rural Fire Meeting, Saturday, January 21, 2017 @ 9:00 a.m. Baustian will attend as Lape will be out of town at training;

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

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

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

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.