

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 21, 2017

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, February 21, 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; Rebecca Peichel-Novel Energy;

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

Community Concerns:

Rebecca Peichel, with Novel Energy, addressed the council concerning the Minnesota based solar development program. Municipalities are encouraged to apply for the lottery to become part of the Made in Minnesota program which will allow a discount on your energy bills when you sign up to put a solar panel on your meter. Rebecca went into detail regarding the program with the Council. Agreement was reached to allow the city to apply for the lottery;

Jim Baustian, who was not able to attend due to rescheduling the council meeting, would like the council to address the drainage issues near the driveway located at 201 3<sup>rd</sup> Street West. The council discussed solutions with Thode. Will look into the issue and come up with a solution;

Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 10, 2017, all ayes;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on January 17, 2017, all ayes;

Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on January 31, 2017, all ayes;

Review and approve the January Claims to date: Robert Pazdernik, \$1500.00, ½ Payment/Partial Assessment Fee; Erik Skogquist, \$1500.00, ½ Payment Partial Assessment Fee; Postmaster, \$658.00, Stamps; US Bank, Street Bond Principle & Interest, \$42,812.50; Pipestone County Sheriff, 2017 Contracted Services, \$34,195.00; Motion by Damman, second by Lape to accept the January claims to date, all ayes;

Receipts noted: Stonewall Bar & Grill, Liquor License 2-1-17 to 1-31-18, \$1000.00; Jasper Lions Club, Basketball Court Donation, \$500.00; Peoples Bank, Transfer from MM to Checking, \$100,000.00; Rock County Auditor, December 2016 Tax Revenue, \$1,630.28; Pipestone County Treasurer, January 2017 Distribution, \$8,286.60

Lingen presented the SWG Delinquent Report to the Council. Three accounts have been disconnected due to failure to pay. The list is long due to customers having until midnight to pay their bill. Lingen also provided the council with an informational packet regarding lighting in the church;

Wellness Center:

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The insurance reimbursement through NIHCA has gone well thus far. Kounkel will obtain prices for free weights for the next meeting. Brian Persing was initially given an ending date of April 30, 2017. With required updates to the church, the move will be moved back to May 31, 2017. Kounkel will inform Persing;

**NEW BUSINESS:**

FYI: The Report of Outstanding Indebtedness submitted to Pipestone & Rock Counties;

The Worker's Comp Plan quote was received from the League of MN Insurance Trust. The premium has decreased some, with future decreased anticipated;

ADA curb ramp replacement proposal from Pipestone County to fix the ramps on County Road 1 near the park was presented to the council. Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to approve the resolution allowing the county to fix the curb ramps;

The Pipestone County Auditor would like the city to consider going to mail in ballots. Lingen explained that the county is purchasing new election equipment and would like a decision made so they know exactly how many machines they will need. Lingen explained the difficulty in obtaining election judges. Eden Township went to mail in ballots but reverted back shortly after. The City of Ihlen has gone to mail in ballots and just needed to provide a counter within city limits. The council will consider this and discuss at the next meeting;

Motion by Lape, second by Damman to approve the Audit Contract from Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co., PLLP, all ayes;

The purchase agreement for the Catholic Church was presented to the Council. Ben Denton reviewed the agreement and suggested a few wording changes. Once the changes are made, the agreement can be signed;

The County Commissioner would like to know if the city would be interested in partnering with the Plum Creek Library System to the library at the Church. There are certain requirements of the Plum Creek Library System that all participating libraries need to abide by such as hours of operation, access to library cards, etc. The Council feels it would be best to keep the library "free". Meaning that no library cards or set hours have to be established;

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water will increase \$0.10 come June. We are currently paying \$2.36/1000 gallons. Kounkel will do an increase comparison for the next meeting;

The City of Luverne's policy regarding the number of vehicles allowed on a property was presented. Discussion whether this would actually work occurred. We will have the Sheriff's Department check the registration/insurance of vehicles on properties with excessive amounts of cars. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to change the city ordinance making it illegal to tarp inoperable vehicles, all ayes. Kounkel will start the process;

A \$25 charge to anyone who would like to get rid of their mattresses;

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Different credit card processing companies were looked into. Some require a monthly service charge while others do not. In reviewing all of the companies, GovPay.net offers the least risk to the city as service charges will be charged directly to the customer. Water bills, building permits, etc. will all be able to be paid via debit/credit cards. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to start credit card processing with GovPay.net, all ayes, carried;

Residents have requested a stop sign be placed at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Spicer Avenue (east & west) due to vehicles speeding down the street. Discussion led into whether this would be a good place to put the stop sign or if it would be more beneficial at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Hill intersection. The council will think about this and address at the next meeting;

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Tax Abatement proposal was discussed. Motion by Johnson, second by Lape to approve the Tax Abatement program for any new owner-occupied residential housing units, all ayes, carried;

Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to approve a Sewer & Water hookup fee forgiveness plan to any new, owner-occupied residential housing units, all ayes, carried. This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to declare Parcel #17.600-0730 a public nuisance, all ayes, carried;

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

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

Prices for artificial greenery were obtained. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to purchase "Season's Greetings" in script writing, all ayes, carried;

Mike Baustian put in a request for a permanent disconnection of sewer and water services at his property located at 201 Sherman Avenue South. Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to approve the permanent disconnect for the abovementioned property, all ayes, carried. Baustian sustained;

Thode will be gone March 7-9, 2017 for Water and Wastewater classes;

Jim, the manager of CHS, would like to petition to council to vacate Burr Avenue from the alley leading up to the railroad tracks. Jim plans on planting trees in the area to prevent trucks from entering the elevator on the city streets. Kounkel will start the process;

#### ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

FYI: Daycares are exempt from obtaining a Conditional Use-Home Occupation permit;

FYI: The Rural Fire Department meeting was held on January 21, 2017. Expenses continue to increase each year. The Fire Department has received a grant to purchase 18 sets of turnout gear. A local, anonymous individual has donated a Side X Side with stock wheels and tracks. This will allow the Fire Department the ability to get to fires that are "off the beaten path". Leslie is currently looking for a tank for it. He has moved some items out of the Emergency Service Building to the old fire barn. Leslie also

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mentioned that the generator was only running ½ throttle and the battery operated lights are not working as expected;

FYI: Preliminary Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearing Schedule was presented to the council;

Johnson mentioned the house located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street that was once the place where methamphetamine was manufactured and how the property is a nuisance. Kounkel will speak to Ben Denton and give him the history on the house to see if he has any advice for us;

Updates/renovations for the Catholic Church were briefly discussed. Lowering the ceiling, covering the windows and adding a bathroom into the confessional were all ideas. Rubber mats under the workout equipment would also be beneficial to help defer the machines from moving. With the updates/renovations that the council is looking into, the move date will be extended to the end of May. Kounkel will notify Persing;

Upcoming Meetings:

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2017;

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

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Baustian, Mayor

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