

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 9, 2017

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, May 9, 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 members: Lee Bjerk-Geronimo Energy, Ryan Reker-Reclaim Community;

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

Community Concerns:

Lee Bjerk from Geronimo Energy approached the Council regarding the Community Solar Garden Program. Bjerk gave the Council the history on Geronimo Energy and the Community Solar Garden Program which was initiated in 2013. Xcel Energy received sanctions in 2013 demanding that 1.5% of power comes from solar. The solar gardens are built anywhere from 1-5 megawatts, on a 40-80 acre lot. A benefit of the solar garden is that anyone in the area can benefit from the solar garden. The first step is to determine what size of subscription would work for the city. Bjerk will work with Kounkel on a proposal for the next council meeting. The program has a 25 year contract which has been "blessed" by the League of MN Cities. Other cities in the area such as Pipestone, Edgerton & Trosky have partnered with Geronimo Energy. The program does not cover street lighting if the city does not own the poles. The Made in MN program will still be available for the 1 site accepted. We may choose to do both. Bjerk then went over the possible savings for the community. Kounkel will obtain the requested Xcel Energy information for Bjerk to complete the proposal;

Ryan Reker, Reclaim Community Board Member, was present to address the council regarding the raffle for Quartziter Days. Reker informed the Council of Reclaim's agenda for Quartziter Days. Reker also requested to have Sherman Avenue & a portion of Wall Street closed for a car show. This will be tabled until the next meeting;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 11, 2017, all ayes;

Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to approve the minutes from the Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting on April 27, 2017, all ayes;

Review and approve the April Claims to date: Little Scrapper, Quartziter Pedal Pull, \$625.00; Ben Denton, Legal Services, \$990.00; MN West, EMT Refresher, \$2,256.36; Skyberg Construction, \$8400.00 (total), Labor at Catholic Church; Rodman Lumber, Materials, \$4,266.79; MN West, Fire-car fire/bin rescue, \$2,025.00; WM Heating & Cooling, Air Conditioners for Fitness Center, \$5,550.00; Rodman Lumber, Supplies, \$858.56; Motion by Damman, second by Johnson to accept the April claims to date, all ayes;

Receipts noted: Pipestone County Treasurer, 2016 Ambulance Appropriation, \$4,000.00;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Lingen presented the SWG Delinquent Report to the Council. The council questioned Lingen regarding the decision last month to allow delinquent residents to pay 50% of their bill to avoid disconnection. Lingen explained that this has caused more issues than anything. The residents who paid 50% last month continue to be on the delinquent list. Decision was made to place green notices on doors and disconnect services as of May 23, 2017;

Lingen mentioned that her husband, Dick, is willing to pull the city float in area parades this summer. New clips are needed for the float;

Wellness Center:

Construction is almost completed at the new Wellness Center. The council then opened bids for the carpet and paint. Johnson motioned to accept the bid from Vander Stoep as long as the carpet chosen is lower in price than Pipestone Interiors, second by Lape, all ayes, carried;

The painting bids were then opened from Melanie Boecher and Skyberg Construction. Johnson motioned to accept the bid from Skyberg Construction, Lape second, all ayes; abstained, Leslie;

Wellness Center committee members will be looking at free weights and other equipment at Scheel's on Saturday, May 20;

CATHOLIC CHURCH:

Pipestone Area Schools will be holding a registration day on Tuesday, May 30 from 5:30p-7p for the 2017-2018 preschool year at the former Catholic Church. Kounkel will be in contact with PAS Superintendent and Principal regarding lease agreement, etc.;

May 10th- Librarians from PAS coming to help set up free library;

May 11th-Attending former Pipestone Area School to look at library shelves;

Kounkel will share the original post for renaming the building on Facebook;

NEW BUSINESS:

The Quartziter Club petitioned for a street closure during Quartziter Days. Three streets were requested to be closed which include Sherman Avenue, 3rd Street and Burr Avenue. All streets are surrounding the city park. Damman asked for a continuance of the street closure for future Quartziter Days events. Motion by Leslie, second by Lape to close Sherman Avenue, 3rd Street and Burr Avenue during the Quartziter Days festival, all ayes, Damman abstained, carried;

The Quartziter Club has also asked that the city do the name reveal/open house for the Wellness Center at 3:00 p.m. After further discussion it was decided to have the name reveal/open house immediately after the 10:00 a.m. parade which will allow the building to be open all day for the community;

Reclaim Community's request for the Raffle was approved. Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to sign the raffle form as requested, all ayes, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The Annual Professional Assessor Contract was presented. According to the contract, the Assessors are to complete 30% of the homes on an annual basis. Lingen mentioned that since 2004, her home was assessed only once. Kounkel will contact the Assessors to request documentation to support the claim that they assess 30% of the homes annually. Contract tabled until next month;

The Southwest Fire Department Association Mutual Aid Agreement was presented. Leslie informed the Council that this was started this year and allows for mutual aid in case of a disaster. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to approve the Southwest Fire Department Association Mutual Aid Agreement, abstained: Johnson & Leslie, all ayes, carried;

The Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive Program was presented. The decision will be tabled until next month depending on the information provided by Geronimo. Kounkel will contact the city of Trosky and Edgerton to get their opinion on the Geronimo project;

OLD BUSINESS:

The basketball court at the city park was discussed. This will be tabled until we know what to do with the shelter. Damman and Kounkel are meeting with Wayne Drew to tour the New Horizon blue building in Pipestone;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permits were issued to John Haack, 209 4th Street East for an addition to the north side of the house. A permit was also issued to Cody Balster, 300 6th Street East to install a chain link fence. Jeff DeBates also filed a permit to add on to his building. Some discussion regarding this matter took place. DeBates is within the required setbacks

Rubber mats under the swings was also discussed. Thode received pricing on these. Recommended to purchase new mats for under the swings and by the play area;

Thode updated the council on the clean-up efforts for the property nuisance located on 6th Street. The property was cleaned up this morning by the public works department, a scrapper and garbage men. The individual did pick up the property a bit the weekend before. However, the scrapper took all the metal while another individual jack hammered the concrete. The police department gave the property owner 7 days to remove the unlicensed/inoperable vehicles from the property. Thode then mentioned that for future clean-ups, the city should consider hiring an outside individual to clean up the property so city personnel is not involved;

The police department has been ticketing the property owner who has the manure hauling equipment on their property. Kounkel will find out what the stipulations to the tickets are.

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Leslie updated the Council on the 3 new firemen. All are currently completing classes and appear to be doing well in the class;

Flowers will be planted around town on May 20;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting: June 13, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.;

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

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.