

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – August 8, 2017

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, August 8, 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; Planning Commission members Duane DeCroock & Jerry Tower; Community Members: Zack Kounkel, Karrie Josten, Nick Madtson, Tony Klein, Andrea Denn & Nathan Moshier;

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

First on the agenda was the public hearing regarding Mike Dahms (104 4th Street East) proposal to extend his current fence 15' to the south. A variance is required for this due to the fence being placed on the property line. Planning Commission members saw no problem with the request as long as the neighbors are in agreeance. Motion to Leslie, seconded by Damman to approve the variance request from Mike Dahms to extend his current fence 15' to the south, all ayes, carried;

Community Concerns:

Zack Kounkel was present to request stop sign placement at Spicer Avenue and 2nd Street due to vehicles speeding on 2nd Street. Discussion led into placing stop signs or possible speed bumps to defer people coming from speeding when coming from the ballfield. Thode mentioned that the city is allowed to lower the speed limit by 5 mph but uncertain if the cost would outweigh the benefits. Kounkel will look into this. Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to install a stop sign on 2nd Street at the Hill Avenue intersection, all ayes, carried;

Tony Klein and Andrea Denn were present to discuss issues with the sewer line at 209 Hill Avenue North. The sewer line is shared with the Methodist Church and has been clogged numerous times recently. Denn has been responsible for paying the plumbing bill while the church has not paid anything. Denn and Klein were advised to talk with members of the Methodist Church to get this resolved;

Resident was present to explain his delinquent SWG bill to the council. Resident is selling a car so will have the SWG bill paid within 10 days;

Nick Madtson and Karrie Josten were present to discuss the placement of the Xcel Energy pole in the alley. According to Madtson, it is difficult to maneuver his vehicle through the alley. Madtson is encouraged to contact Xcel Energy to see how they can help;

Jerry Tower informed the council that there are numerous poles, tires and wires located by the tree dump. Varmints are making this area their home. The mess has been there for years. This area will be put on the cleanup list;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 11, 2017, all ayes. In reference to July's minutes, Lingen mentioned that she counted residents residing in Jasper and believes the correct population estimate is 674 instead of 609 as proposed by the Minnesota State

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Demographer. This difference in population estimates results in a \$15,000.00 difference in LGA amount received. Lingen will work on challenging this amount;

Review and approve the July Claims to date: Heiman, Inc., Turnout Gear, \$1,808.11; VanderStoep Furniture, Wellness Center Carpet/Linoleum, \$6,167.95; Carrow's True Value, ESB Washer & Dryer, \$1,332.73; City of Pipestone, Handicap Ramps, \$704.00; Ole's Lock & Key, Wellness Center Doors, \$1670.00; Jasper ELC, Sidewalk Replacement Program, \$3,918.75; USDA/Rural Development, ESB Loan, \$12,698.00; VISA, Free Weights/Annual Conference Expenses/Mailings, \$1,977.49; Motion by Damman, second by Lape to accept the July claims to date, all ayes;

Receipts noted: State of MN, LGA/PERA Aid/Small Cities Assist, \$110,353.50; Quartziter Day Proceeds, \$5,147.50;

Lingen presented the SWG Delinquent Report. Brief discussion was held regarding the delinquent accounts. Lingen sent out new notices last month detailing how the resident may come to the scheduled council meeting to give them a chance to explain to the council why there bill is delinquent and ask for a grace period. Delinquent accounts holders that have not made any contact with the city since receiving their letters will be disconnected the morning following the council meeting. The credit card machine is used sparingly but has shown no issues;

Wellness Center:

2nd Wind Exercise Equipment has given quotes on the purchase of a NuStep. Free delivery and extended warranty is offered on all equipment purchased during the month of August. Motion by Damman, seconded by Lape to purchase the Octane xR650 from 2nd Wind Exercise Equipment, all ayes, carried;

There has been a request to purchase another free weight system with cables for the Wellness Center to avoid members from waiting in line to use the equipment. At this time, it does not appear that there is heavy usage on the free weights. Will reconsider the request in the future;

The pool table and foosball table have been set up in the narthex;

NEW BUSINESS:

The appraisal for the Quartziter Community Center from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust was presented. The building was appraised at \$2,450,400; contents were appraised at \$142,500, giving a total appraisal of \$2,592,900. Insurance will be based off of this amount;

Pipestone County allowed the city to use a taxi bus for the Quartziter Days Quarry & Windmill Tours. Pipestone County has offered to sell the taxi bus to the City of Jasper for \$1.00. This bus could be used for many activities including transporting kids to swimming lessons next summer, transporting Sunrise residents to doctors' appointments or allowing the Red Hats to use it for their events. If the city decides to charge per ride, the driver would need a CDL license; if the city decides to allow a donation towards the maintenance of the vehicle, the driver would just need a valid driver's license. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to purchase the taxi bus from Pipestone County for \$1.00, all ayes, carried;

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The 2018 contract from the Pipestone County Sheriff's Office was presented. There was a 5% increase from last year due to staffing and insurance increases. Will plug into the budget and revisit next month;

ELC is requesting to close Spicer Avenue to the west of the church for a block party on Sunday, August 13. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to allow ELC to close the portion of Spicer Avenue for the block party, all ayes, carried;

Sewer debt service has been paid off. City residents should expect a \$16.00 decrease in their bill. Discussion led into the next project. Thode mentioned relining the sewer lines... The relining will cost approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 a block. The streets do not need to be dug up for this project. The USDA may be able to help with this. Thode will get bids for this project and revisit in the future;

Update on the park committee regarding the purchase of outdoor play equipment for Marilyn DeBates Park. The park committee met recently and decided on the purchase of the equipment. Motion by Leslie, second by Lape to allow the purchase of the playground equipment for the Marilyn DeBates Park, all ayes, carried. Discussion then led into the placement of the basketball court. The tennis court at the Marilyn DeBates Park would be ideal using ½ for the basketball court. There is a fence around the court which is a good asset. Kunkel will look into coating the court and will discuss this with Peoples Bank;

A quote for a Merry-Go-Round was presented. The city had one before but had to get rid of it due to the liability surrounding it. It appears more children are going to the ballfield park than the main one recently. Will revisit the subject in the future;

There are 2 dead trees that need to be removed at the City Park. One will be easy to take down and the other can be taken down when the shelter is replaced;

OLD BUSINESS:

Dust control in West Jasper was discussed. It will cost \$1.25 per running foot or approximately \$2,200 for the portion of gravel road in West Jasper. The chemical only lasts 3-4 months. The City of Trosky is also using magnesium chloride. It is too late in the year to consider this for West Jasper, will revisit next spring;

The Preschool Lease Agreement was sent to Pipestone Area Schools with one correction. The Preschool teacher will be cleaning the classroom so that was omitted from the agreement;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permits were issued to Brian Persing (108 Wall Street West) to install a door/wall from the restaurant to the former Wellness Center. Santos Rosendo (113 2nd Street East) received a building permit to install a fence. There is a neighbor squabble going on regarding the placement of the fence. Thode found the property pins but the neighboring resident does not believe this is correct. Rosendo is following all the guidelines outlined by the city. Property owners were advised to call a land surveyor;

Replacing the lighting in the Preschool Room was discussed. It costs approximately \$25-\$30 to replace just the lights. Some of the ballast out be taken out of the Preschool room and used in other classrooms.

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Motion by Leslie, second by Johnson to replace the lighting in the Preschool room, saving equipment that we need for the other classrooms, all ayes, carried.

Thode mentioned that he would like to start trimming the trees over the streets. He was advised to rent a threshing machine from Terry Skyberg to complete the project;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

The audit for the city was completed on Wednesday, July 23;

The budget meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.;

The League of MN Cities LGA amount for 2018 was presented;

The 2018 Proposed Levy form will need to be completed and sent to the county by September 30, 2017;

Another council drive-through was scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Council members will meet at the city office;

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting: September 12, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.;

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

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

Mayor, Mike Baustian reopened in a closed meeting to discuss a possible real estate purchase;

The real estate property is located at 220 3rd Street West (south of the Emergency Services Building). The property houses a building which could be used for additional storage for the Fire Department. The estimated market value of the property \$10,500.00. After further discussion it was determined to offer \$15,000.00 for the property at the auction which will be held on Saturday, July 15th. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to offer \$15,000.00 for the property located at 220 3rd Street West, Jasper, abstained: Johnson and Leslie; all ayes, carried. Leslie will attend the auction;

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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