

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 10, 2017

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, October 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* Jen Burris; Pipestone County Sheriff Keith Vreeman; Community Members: Amanda Rouzer (via video conference), Brendyn Buehner, Aurora Rouzer, Judith Ann, Dale McClure, Trinidad Garcia, Jim Baustian; Matt Taubert and Britt Baustian joined later in the meeting;

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

Community Concerns:

Pipestone County Sheriff Keith Vreeman was present to speak with the Council regarding animal complaints as discussed in the September meeting. Officer Vreeman informed the Council that the Sheriff's Department has responded to every animal complaint received, although some people may not appreciate the outcome. Vreeman stated that each situation is handled individually and warnings are given; citations if it is a reoccurring issue. Vreeman has reported that Officer Hamman has been in town patrolling during the morning hours to determine if people are either not picking up after their animals or violating the leash law. There was an incident last week where a child was bitten by a dog in the city park; however, the dog has yet to be found. Vreeman informed the Council that they are 85% sure they have identified the dog but without 100% positivity, it is hard to pinpoint. Vreeman also informed the Council that in previous years the Department has picked up cats but with lack of space for them, they quit. Amanda Rouzer, who was present via video conference, stated that she has taken multiple pictures over the past month of residents in Jasper violating the leash law and not properly disposing of their animal feces. Rouzer was asked by Damman how many times during the past month these incidences were verbally reported to the Sheriff's Office, to which Rouzer stated none. Vreeman informed Rouzer that pictures do not do justice; the Department needs to catch the individual in the act or have it reported to the Department immediately. Rouzer questioned whether Vreeman wanted multiple calls per day to which Vreeman responded, yes. Vreeman also reported that in the past 1-1/2 years, Rouzer has not called the Sheriff's Office to report any issues regarding her neighbor to the Department. Aurora Rouzer then stated that she received her 3<sup>rd</sup> citation for her dog running at large over the weekend. Due to the expense of the citations, Aurora sold her dog. Aurora also voiced her concern over receiving a citation a couple of months ago when her dog bit a kid, when the kid was illegally on her property. Vreeman informed Aurora that if that was the case, the responding Officer would have taken that into consideration. Mayor Baustian then thanked Sheriff Vreeman for being present at the meeting to address the issue and thanked the Department for being responsive to calls;

Brian Persing did not attend the meeting to discuss a Bridal Fair. Issue not discussed;

Trinidad Garcia was present to inform the Council that she received 6 inches of water in her basement and garage after the last rain storm due to the drain behind her house being clogged with gravel running

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

off the alley. Garcia questioned whether there was a way to divert the water away from the drain. Thode will take a look at this drain and determine if there is an alternative solution;

Jim Baustian was present to address the drain issue on Burr Avenue near his garage. J. Baustian informed the council that during the last rain storm, mud covered the drain. Thode attempted to jet the area previously. It is believed that the tile line in the area may be smashed due to the heavy trucks going over the area. This will be redone in the future. J. Baustian also requested the railroad sign be removed considering the road was vacated;

Matt Taubert from Muelebroeck, Taubert & Co. was in attendance to present the City of Jasper's 2016 Audit. Taubert started his presentation with the Independent Auditor's Report. The Volunteer Fire Relief Association does not have actual reports included in the audit. Taubert reported that as of this time, there is no reason to recommend adding this. Taubert advanced to the detailed report of the audit. The General Fund, Ambulance, Street & Rec did better than the budgeted amounts. The water and sewer fund accounts saw a deficit for the year but that is mainly due to the depreciation of equipment. The Jasper Economic Development Authority is also getting out of the deficit that they were seeing the past couple of years. Taubert will work with Kounkel on looking into bank collateral on a quarterly basis. Kounkel will also input all of the adjusting entries. Taubert will be working with Britt Baustian on reconciling the bank statements for the EDA. Taubert also encouraged the Council to constantly be looking at the city's water rates to ensure the deficit depletes;

Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 12, 2017, all ayes.

Review and approve the September Claims to date: Malone & Mailander Trust Acct, Fire Dept.- Ike's Building, \$15,005.00; United Systems Technology, Annual Maintenance Renewal, \$999.10; League of MN Cities, 17-18 Dues, \$775.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wind Exercise Equipment, Nu-Step, \$3,525.00; Advanced Auto Parts, Fire-UTV Lights, \$457.92; Avera Heart Hospital, AED's & Cabinets, \$2,238.00; Motion by Damman, second by Lape to accept the September claims to date, all ayes;

Quarterly reports were included for the Council to review;

Lingen presented the SWG Delinquent Report. Brief discussion was held regarding the delinquent accounts;

Lingen presented the United Fund Budget to the Council for approval. The only difference from last year's budget is the addition of \$100 to the Pipestone Boy Scouts for delivering the letters. Motion by Damman, second by Johnson to accept the United Fund Budget as presented by Lingen, all ayes, carried;

Wellness Center/QCC:

The rental agreement for the Quartziter Community Center was discussed. The kitchen will most likely be used by a non-profit who is not required to pay a rental fee. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to increase the rental rate of the QCC Dining Hall to \$75, with a \$150 deposit, and only allow weddings receptions/dances to be at Memorial Hall, all ayes, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Thode informed the Council that the public works department has been working to fix water leaks in the hallway after the last rain storm. The leak has been found near the area where the flat roof meets the slanted roof. Roof has been repaired;

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The insurance for the taxi bus received from Pipestone County was estimated to cost \$3,500 per year considering it can carry multiple passengers. Jerry Brockberg from Kozlowski Insurance spoke with the League of MN Cities regarding this bus and explained that it would only be used during Quartziter Days. The League agreed to lower the insurance to \$2,000 for this time. It was also advised to not rent out the taxi bus to private individuals as it will be virtually impossible to determine if damage occurred at the hands of the person driving the bus. Kounkel will contact the Historical Society, Lion's Club and other groups to determine if they would be interested in the taxi bus. Money has not yet been exchanged with Pipestone County for the taxi bus;

Kozlowski Insurance presented Kounkel with the proposed health insurance premiums for 2018 for the covered employees. Nationwide, insurance premiums have increased anywhere from 11% to 43%. The City of Jasper received a 43% increase in premiums. Kounkel explained some of the other options that the Council could look into; however, each is either an increase in premiums or a decrease in options available to the covered employee. Kounkel also explained that the increase will contribute to an additional \$12,000 per year which was not but into the preliminary budget for 2018. This additional amount will have to be taken out of the reserves. After further discussion, the Council opted to remain with the same insurance;

Thode met with Danny Evans at the city park for a tiling estimate. Evans drew a diagram on how he thought the tiling would work. The tiling will go underneath the proposed location of the basketball court so the installation of the basketball court will be delayed until the tiling is complete. The next step is to receive bids to tear down the old shelter and build new. Damman and Kounkel will get a park committee meeting set up to discuss this;

The Wine/Strong Beer Renewal License for Brian's 19<sup>th</sup> Hole BBQ Pit was presented. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to renew the Wine/Strong Beer License for Brian's 19<sup>th</sup> Hole BBQ Pit, all ayes, carried;

The AED's for the Quartziter Community Center have been purchased;

The new playground equipment installation at the Marilyn DeBates park was postponed to Sunday, October 15 at 11:00 a.m. Kounkel will speak with Ryan DeBates to ensure this still works. The public works guys have started putting the equipment together with ¾ of the equipment assembled. A second date of October 21 was scheduled if rain or snow prevents the assembly on October 15;

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Pipestone County Sheriff's Office 2018 Contract was again presented. Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to approve the contact from the Pipestone County Sheriff's Office for 2018, all ayes, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The location of the basketball court was discussed. After meeting in the park after last month's meeting, it was determined to place the basketball court on the east side of the current volleyball court;

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Land use permits were issued to Ryan DeWitte, 202 North Sherman, Wreck current shed, install new; James Morrow, 100 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Install Fence; Dulce Guzman, 221 4<sup>th</sup> Street East, Install Fence; Maria Perez, 116 4<sup>th</sup> Street East, Wreck wood deck; Wes Mager, 405 Main Avenue North, Install Fence;

Fuller Paving will be in town on Monday, October 16 to fix problem areas on the streets and pave the previously discussed alleys. Thode will speak with Fuller regarding Trinidad Garcia's alley to see if he would have a solution;

Thode will be spraying city owned property after the first frost and will be discharging the ponds next week. Leaf pickup will also be starting next week;

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

The box elder tree near the picnic shelter at the Marilyn DeBates Park has been an issue with bugs. The tree will be removed;

The Quartziter Club is requesting to close part of Wall Street on Friday, October 27 for their Halloween Event. The street will be closed from approximately 4:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to approve the street closure for the Quartziter Club, all ayes, carried;

Pipestone County Planning Commission board member, Dave Hulstein's term expires on December 31, 2017. The City of Jasper requested that Dave Hulstein be re-appointed to the Pipestone County Planning and Zoning Commission in 2018;

The RV park pads will be done next month or so as time allows;

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Council Meeting: November 14, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Damman motioned to adjourn, Johnson second. All ayes, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

---

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

---

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.