

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 12, 2017

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, December 12, 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; Jasper Community Ambulance President Kim Drew & Vice President Jim Veldkamp; Community Members: Curt Johnson & Carla Conrad;

Mayor Baustian called the Public Hearing for the 2018 Budget and Tax Levy to order at 7:00 p.m. Curt Johnson and Carla Conrad were present to question why ELC Church is paying taxes on the vacant lots (Lots 1-5, Block 1) across the street where the parsonage garage sits considering the church should be tax-exempt. Conrad informed the council that the parsonage house is currently being taxed as a private individual is residing in the home. According to Conrad, the private individual does not use the garage as the church uses it for storage. The vacant lots are assessed at \$14,000.00 making ELC's annual tax payment \$300.00. Kounkel will visit with Janice Bauman regarding this issue prior to the Board of Appeal & Equalization Public Hearing in April;

Motion by Leslie, second by Johnson to approve the 2018 Budget for the City of Jasper with an operating levy of \$200,173.00, an increase of 2.5% from 2017, all ayes, carried;

There being no further business, the 2018 Budget and Tax Levy Public Hearing was adjourned;

Mayor Baustian called the regular meeting to order 7:10 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance;

Community Concerns:

Jasper Community Ambulance President Kim Drew and Vice President Jim Veldkamp were present to inform the council of their wishes to sell ambulance monitors. The Jasper Community Ambulance won a ZOLL AED last year so is no longer using the M or E series. After discussion amongst the Ambulance Board, the decision was made to put the items online to sell them. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to allow the Jasper Community Ambulance to sell the M and E AED series monitors, all ayes, carried;

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

Review and approve the December Claims to date: Annual Payrolls to Fire (net \$9,168.21) and Ambulance (net \$14,959.77); Randy's Pumping Service, Port-a-Pots '17, \$1325.00; NIHCA, Annual Membership Dues, \$399.00; MN Dept. of Natural Resources, Fire-2008 Ford F350, \$8,250.00. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the December claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted: MN Management & Budget, Fire Aid (\$18,296.11) & Pipestone Co. Fines (\$3.33); Jasper Fire Dept. Relief Association, Reimb. Fire-2008 Ford F350, \$8,250.00; Jasper Senior Citizens, Park Shelter Donation, \$1,000.00. Pipestone County Fines have increased from \$3.33 last month, to over \$600.00 in December;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Lingen informed the Council that the Jasper Area United Fund far surpassed their expectations and raised over \$5,000.00 this year.

Lingen presented the SWG Delinquent Report. Discussion was held regarding past due accounts. Kounkel will send notices to property owners who appear not to reside in the residence anymore to start getting their properties cleaned up;

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to approve Resolution 17-346A Designating Funds in the Money Market Savings Account, all ayes, carried;

Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to approve Resolution 17-346B, Business License Fees for 2018, all ayes, carried;

The Emergency Response Plan for the Water and Wastewater was presented to the council for review. If any corrections are needed, please notify Kounkel. The ERP will be voted on in January;

Rick Peterson from Powerlift Hydraulic Doors out of Lake Benton, MN contacted the Park Committee with a request to build an octagon shaped park shelter at the City Park. Rick sent a preliminary drawing to the park committee. Peterson is willing to donate 10% of the building cost in order for the shelter to be renamed after his dad, Carl Peterson. Peterson would be willing to donate up to \$30,000 if no other options are available. Discussion amongst the council members regarding Petersons request took place. It was mentioned that Peterson's plan is above and beyond the expectations of the council. The current shelter is rarely used so putting in a building of this caliber would be asinine. After further discussion, the council decided to solicit bids for a smaller design to fit in the existing location. Bid advertisement will be published in the newspaper with sealed bids being opened at next the council meeting;

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The request to switch the City of Jasper to mail-in voting was discussed. According to Tyler Reisch, Pipestone County Auditor, the City of Jasper has 90 days prior to the first election to decide whether mail ballots will be used. If the City of Jasper decides to use mail ballots and then switch back to regular voting, the City will be billed for the equipment. Motion by Lape, second by Damman for the City of Jasper to opt out of mail ballots, all ayes, carried. Kounkel will contact Tyler Reisch;

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

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

Thode obtained prices for the steel to finish the interior of the public works barn. Tinklenberg Lumber had lower prices than the other local competitor the last time bids were obtained. The price of steel has increased minimally over the past year. Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to purchase the additional steel to finish the interior of the public works barn from Tinklenberg Lumber, all ayes, carried;

The tile line by Houg's Service Station was fixed. The tile line on Burr Avenue was smashed due to large trucks driving on the street. With the recent street closure, the lines will be much safer;

The plow could use a larger blade;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Leaf pickup is done and went well. There was a struggle getting people to stop putting their leaves on the curb after the program was done;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Kounkel requested permission from the Council to extend the City Office hours on Thursday evenings until 5 p.m. This will allow people the opportunity to conduct city business after 3 p.m. Permission granted;

A resident who moved to town recently needs a letter reminding him of the designated truck parking areas. Kounkel will get this notice sent out;

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Training Attendance list was presented. The City of Jasper is currently in compliance;

Upcoming Meetings:

-Council Meeting January 9, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.;

-Personnel Evaluations, Wednesday, January 10 @ 7:00 p.m.;

-Personnel Evaluation Findings, Thursday, January 11 @ 7:00 p.m.;

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

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Baustian, Mayor

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