

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 13, 2018;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, February 13, 2018 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 Jane Schiefelbein & Bruce Schiefelbein;

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

Community Concerns:

Jane Schiefelbein along with Bruce Schiefelbein, attended the council meeting to inquire about the city's policy to extend water & sewer services to properties located outside of city limits. The Scheifelbeins own property located just west of Jasper. The property is split in 3 separate parcels, each Schiefelbein child owning one part. Jane owns the east portion of the property. The council informed the Schiefelbein's that the city has connected water and sewer to properties located outside of the city limits in the past. The property owners were then required to pay for all expenses to make the connection as well as the standard connection fee. Discussion regarding the location of lines occurred as well. Thode mentioned that elevation in the area would be an issue. Thode recommended putting a small lift station in the area to help move sewage. Jane is also interested in moving into the Townhomes owned and operated by Sunrise Village or building a home in West Jasper under the Development Corporation. With the provided information, Jane will weigh the pros and cons of each move;

Issues with Frontier Communications were then discussed. Frontier Communication customers have reported severe interruptions with phone, cable and internet service. Customers claimed they were advised the problem was on their end but the possibility at every occurrence of this happening is highly unlikely. It was established that the issue was not the customers' computer or the wireless connection but an issue on Frontier Communications part. Technical support tickets were created but closed by Frontier Communications staff without resolving the issue leaving customers without service for days on end. Frontier Communication customers are not receiving the service they are paying for and numerous attempts to resolve the issues have proved to be unsuccessful. Another area of concern within the City of Jasper is the cable pedestal boxes. Several pedestal boxes owned and maintained by Frontier Communications are in dire need of repair. Numerous pedestal boxes are missing the covers which lead to exposed wires. This is a safety hazard to not only the community but pets as well. Thode has provided maintenance on the boxes by zip-tying the exposed pedestals to ensure wires are not visible. This is not the responsibility of the City of Jasper. In recent years, the only maintenance completed on the pedestals was done by City Personnel. Kounkel will send a letter to Frontier Communications Corporate Office to discuss these complaints;

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

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Review and approve the January Claims to date: M&H Communications, Fire-Mobile Radio/Install Light Bar/Install Siren, \$847.00; Rock Co. Highway Dept., 15.8 Ton Sand/Salt Mixture, \$474.00; Double D Gravel, Inc., Backhoe for tile line on Burr and West Jasper, \$3,815.72; Ewert Recreation Center, Free Motion Treadmill, \$350.00; Core & Main, Meters/Adapters/Installation Materials, \$1,443.46; US Bank NA, Street Bond Principal & Interest, \$41,912.50; Motion by Damman, second by Johnson to approve the January claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted: Ludolph Bus Inc., Jan, Feb, March 2018 Rental Fee, \$900.00; Peoples Bank, Transfer in from Money Market, \$75,000.00; Pipestone Co. Treasurer, 1/18 Distribution, \$10,272.46; Stonewall Bar & Grill, Liquor License Fee/Memorial Hall Rental, \$1,050.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was discussed with the council. The list was considerably long. Lingen sent shut-off notices to residents on the list 2-1/2 weeks ago. They were advised to pay their bill by February 5, 2018 to avoid disconnection. Two people came in to pay their bill after receiving the notice. Nine residences will be shut off on Wednesday, February 14, 2018;

Lingen would like to follow the guidelines of Pipestone Co. Ministerial Association when it comes to the Jasper Area United Fund. The Association offers vouchers to people in need, which means the person does not get a check or cash directly from the Association but can get gas, food, etc. and the Association will cover the bill. The Association also limits helping individuals a maximum of 2 times per year. This helps defer people from taking advantage of the program;

WELLNESS CENTER/QCC:

A Jasper resident will be donating an exercise bike to the Wellness Center;

5 new members were recruited over the past month;

Lape informed the council that she has heard many requests to purchase another Nu-Step. The current Nu-Step offers a circular motion while the requested machine has a skiing motion. Kounkel will look into pricing and present at the next council meeting;

NEW BUSINESS:

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water will be increasing their water rate to \$2.56 starting 6-1-18. Lingen mentioned the delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts that were assessed to property taxes, are being covered by the city currently. No matter if the water is shut off, the city still pays to required fee. Motion by Johnson, second by Lape to add \$0.10 starting 7-1-18, all ayes, carried;

The Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water User Agreement & Meter Installation Notification was presented to the council as an informational sheet;

CHS Eastern Farmers has requested a permanent disconnection of water and sewer services at the property located at 221 3rd Street West. Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to grant the permanent disconnection of services at 221 3rd Street West, all ayes, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

FYI: The Pipestone County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on March 7, 2018 at 9:00am to obtain input from other local governments and the public in order to formulate a program for the utilization of available Federal, State and Local funds for road improvements and bridge replacements and to obtain input on the proposed rehabilitation work of the Historic Stone Arch Bridge located near Split Rock Creek State Park south of Ihlen;

OLD BUSINESS:

The Rural Fire Board Meeting was held on January 20, 2018. According the Leslie, the meeting went fine although only 3 of the 6 board members attended. The Rural Fire Board approved the proposed raises for the Volunteer Fire Department members. Kounkel will look into the Relief Association and see what the city owes them. Will have for next month;

Motion by Damman. Second by Lape to approve Resolution 18-44, increasing wages for the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department members, all ayes, carried. Abstained: Leslie & Johnson;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

No land use permits were issued during the month of January. Thode was approached about moving a house into West Jasper on the lot located just south of the property owned by Mark Baatz. The home will be a ranch style mobile home. The home is required to have a foundation and Thode would like to see pictures of the home before approving. This is still in the beginning stages;

The number of cars located in the apartment parking lot has been creating problems during snow alerts. During the last snowstorm, Thode noticed it was not as bad as originally thought. There are 2 cars in the parking lot that have not moved in a couple of months. Kounkel will speak with the property owner and have them rid of the inoperable cars;

Christmas décor is currently on sale. Kounkel presented the council with different styles of skylines to replace the fresh greenery on Wall Street. The city currently has five lines that go across the street, four being fresh greenery. The greenery is \$1.25 a foot and is very time consuming. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to replace one line with the purchase of the Doves of Peace Skyline. Each year, the council will discuss replacing one line as the decorations go on sale;

The city of Jasper will need to address ways to receive money to reline the sewers. Thode thinks the project will cost \$10,000.00 per block. The lines in West Jasper will not have to be replaced. Kounkel will look into establishing a sewer debt fund and present at the next meeting;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

A Jasper Economic Development Authority members term has expired. The council will have to approve the new members term at the next council meeting;

Upcoming Meetings:

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.;

The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2018;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The meeting was then closed by Baustian to continue discussing employee evaluations. Damman motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, Lape second. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.