

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – August 14, 2018;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, August 14, 2018 at the Jasper City Office. Council members present: Mayor: Mike Baustian, Council Members: Kim Lape, Pete Johnson & Jeff Leslie; Employees present; Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel,; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; *Jasper Journal's* Kyle Kuphal; Absent: Karen Damman; Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Stella Lingen;

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

Community Concerns:

Benjamin Denton was present to address the council regarding his run for county attorney. Denton informed the council that it would be a conflict of interest for him to serve as county attorney and city attorney. The incumbent has previously offered the services to Jasper for free; however, Denton would not be able to do that. Denton could take on the criminal work for Jasper but not the civil work;

Evangelical Lutheran Church has requested to block off Spicer Avenue from Wall Street to 1<sup>st</sup> Street on August 19 for a block party. Approval granted;

Motion by Johnson, second by Leslie to review & approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 10, 2018, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the July Claims to date: Martinez Concrete, Curb & Gutter Work, 206 Linear Feet/Sidewalk Replacement, \$11,650.00; City of Pipestone, Grass Matting/Stump Removal, \$798.00; Double D Gravel, Backhoe by Park, Extra Man, Parks, \$1,769.47; US Bank NA, Street Bond Interest, \$1,012.50; Hawes All Construction, Park Shelter/Concrete, \$24,986.62; Houselog Electric, Inc., Electrical Work at Park, \$9,973.92; Mike Baustian, Snow Removal Truck Rental '17-'18 Season, \$540.00; Team Laboratory Chemical Corp, Terminator Weed Killer/Glass Cleaner, \$1,856.00; Action Training, Fire-Training Videos, \$2,266.67; WM Heating & Cooling, Park Shelter, \$3,684.52; Motion by Lape, second by Johnson to approve the July claims as presented, all ayes, carried.

Receipts noted: Ludolph Bus Service, July, Aug, Sept Rent, \$900.00; Rock Co. Treasurer, Ambulance Appropriation, \$1,300.00; Rock Co. Treasurer, 6/18 Distribution, \$40,034.40; State of MN, ½ LGA, PERA Rate Increase Aid, \$107,866.50; State of MN, Small City Assist, \$4,804.50; Jasper Lions Club, Donation Fire/Ballfields \$700.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was discussed with the council. It was proposed to increase for reconnection fee for sewer and water disconnections. Currently, the city charges \$30 to reconnect services. Trosky has their reconnection fee set at \$300.00; Leota is set at \$250.00. Kounkel will contact other area cities to find their reconnection fees and present at the next meeting;

Bauman Hall has gone up for tax forfeiture. There is still an outstanding SWG bill. The council wishes to keep the water on at the property an assess charges to the property taxes in November. If the building is

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purchased by an individual at the auction, the deed will not be recorded until assessed amounts are paid;

A listing detailing the amount of theft from the individual who bypassed the water meter was presented to the council. The total amount of the water theft and reconnection charges amounts to \$436.06. Considering that this amount is under \$501.00, Denton is allowed to prosecute the case. Denton explained to the council that some of the charges are related to the theft, while the other charges are related to the reconnection fee (i.e. water meter and meter lock). Denton advised the council on how to handle the situation if the resident does not pay. Denton informed the council that a case could be presented in small claims court for a \$75.00 fee and proof of the claim. Motion by Lape, second by Leslie to charge resident with \$436.06 towards the theft of water services, all ayes, carried. Water continues to be disconnected at this property;

#### WELLNESS CENTER/QCC:

The Summer Lunch Program ends Friday, August 18, 2018. The plan is to relocate the lunches to the city park next year as children were not obeying themselves at the QCC. Parents were not supervising their children which lead to vandalism and unruly behavior. The window near the QCC rock is broken. It is unknown if a child or lawnmower caused the damage;

The leak in the hallway of the QCC was fixed. Extra shingles were added. No issues have been noticed since the repair;

Carl Hellem is working out a deal with Ihlen for rental space for his wife's massage therapy business;

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The property nuisance located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street East was discussed. Kounkel will send the resident a list detailing the items that will need to be removed from the property. Denton educated the council on how the cities of Luverne and Pipestone deal with property nuisances. Pipestone will send the resident a notice along with pictures detailing what areas you want compliance with a deadline. The city of Luverne will send a city official and office staff to the residence to determine what needs to be removed and why it hasn't happened. It was determined to allow the property 2 weeks to clean it up unless they can prove that they are trying to become compliant with the city;

The League of MN Cities Property & Casualty Site Visit occurred recently. This is an annual visit that offers the city recommendations on how to prevent accidents and injuries with staff members as well as with community members. This was presented for informational purposes;

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Thode will be installing the Merry-Go-Round at the city park in the coming weeks;

With the LMC Property & Casualty Site Visit, Kounkel gave the agent a tour of the park after the recent renovations. The park is about 95% compliant with ADA regulations. The only recommendation would be to install a pathway to the basketball court. The agent informed Kounkel that rubber mulch could be used or concrete, depending on what the council chooses. Thode measured the area from the nearest

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sidewalk. He estimates the cost to be around \$1,000.00 for the pathway which would be cheaper than rubber mulch. The rubber mulch has also created an issue with getting onto the basketball court. This will be removed next spring. It was recommended to replace the rubber mulch between the basketball court and rocks with Astroturf. This could be completed next spring. Astroturf samples will be ordered to determine which would work best. The 3 point line on the basketball court was painted recently. Unfortunately the court is moving around as it is not anchored down. Pipestone has a 3 inch lip over the edger and has it tacked down at 2 inches in. Thode will visit with Pipestone public works and see if they can lead us to a solution;

The cameras for the park and truck parking area will be installed in late August. The company is currently working to get the schools done before the new school year;

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permits were issued to:

- Chris Hoogland, 120 6<sup>th</sup> Street West, Demolish House;

Brad Gillinham from Minnesota Pollution Control will be doing a site visit to overlook the ponds;

MJ Electric will be putting in an old pole at the yard waste site for the camera;

Property Maintenance Notifications for resident's who need to mow their lawn or take care of weeds and yard waste are now posted directly on the resident's door. There have been issues lately of people not receiving the notice in adequate time;

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

FYI: Council Candidacy Filing period is open from July 31 to August 14. The council seats that are up for election are Mayor and 2 council seats currently filled by Johnson & Leslie. The filing period has ended;

Johnson praised city personnel for their time and effort at the QCC and during Quartziter Days;

#### Upcoming Meetings:

Next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018. Due to a scheduling conflict, Kounkel asked if the meeting could be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. All council members present were agreeance. Notice will be posted at the Jasper City Office;

Budget meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2018;

Motion by Lape, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m., all ayes, adjourned.

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Baustian, Acting Mayor

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