

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 12, 2018;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, September 12, 2018 at the Jasper City Office. Council members present: Mayor: Mike Baustian, Council Members: 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: Jeff & Lauren Carstensen, Sheila Brouwer & Todd Pieper;

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

Community Concerns:

Sarah Weinkauf was not in attendance for the matter of removing the stop sign at Spicer Avenue and 6th Street. This was discussed later in the meeting however;

Sheila Brouwer and Todd Pieper addressed the council regarding children's use of ATV's around town. Brouwer has witnessed young children riding on ATV's without wearing the required helmets. Brouwer does notify the police department whenever she witnesses this, however, she is unsure whether citations were written. Brouwer stated that minors cannot make the best decisions, especially toddlers. Kounkel informed the council that as a city, we can be more proactive on getting the rules and regulations out to the community. This may be done in the newsletter, water bills and flyers placed around town;

Jeff & Lauren Carstensen were present as Lauren will be getting married June 15, 2019 at the ballfield located in Jasper. Both Carstensen's wanted to address the council regarding some questions regarding the area. Jeff stated that some people may be using the truck parking area for their campers. He asked permission to hook up to the electrical post to feed the campers. Jeff will cover the cost of electricity during this time. Parking during the wedding may be an issue if it rains. A tent for the ceremony will be set up on the old baseball field on Wednesday, June 12, 2019. This will be monitored by the Police Department to deter vandalism. Olsen Electric will be set up portable electricity to feed the tent. The Carstensen's will be ordering port-a-pots for the weekend and will pick up all garbage to ensure the field looks exactly how it did prior to the wedding. Stonewall Bar will be serving alcohol at the location. Carstensen asked that the ballfields be mowed prior to the tent being set up. The wedding will not interfere with softball. The yard waste site will be shut down from Thursday, June 13, 2019 to Sunday, June 16, 2019. Notice will be posted in the newsletter, water bill and at the city office. Carstensen questioned whether the city would be interested in adding another electric pod. The closest power would be at the ballfields;

Motion by Lape, second by Damman to review & approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 14, 2018, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the August Claims to date: Mogen's Heroes, Quartziter Days Entertainment, \$1,000.00; Groove, Inc., Quartziter Days Entertainment, \$400.00; Playpower LT Farmington, Merry-go-Round/Swing, \$4,820.00; Skyberg Construction, Patching Roof at QCC, \$1,160.95; Ludolph Bus Service,

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Swimming Lessons Transportation, \$1,040.00; League of MN Cities, Final Audit, \$4,845.00; Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to approve the August claims as presented, all ayes, carried.

Receipts noted: Jasper Relief Association, ½ of ESB Payment, \$6,349.00; MN Management & Budget, Fire Department Training Reimb., \$2,266.67;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was discussed with the council. Twelve cities were contacted to determine their reconnection notices for sewer and water service. The city of Jasper currently charges \$30 for the reconnection. The surveyed cities ranged from \$25.00 per service to \$300.00. The last increase was years ago. The council would like to see if increasing the reconnection fee would defer people from having their utilities disconnected. Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to increase the reconnection fee to \$100 starting January 1, 2019, all ayes, carried. Notice will be placed in the newsletter and on the water bills;

WELLNESS CENTER/QCC:

An additional camera has been purchased for the QCC to face the pool table area. This camera will hopefully help defer vandalism to this area;

The cameras for the park shelter are scheduled to be installed next week. In order to get internet access, a Wi-Fi booster will be placed in the city shop that will reach the park shelter. Motion lights need to be installed in the bathroom as the lights have been left on. The fence on the north end of the park was broken but was already repaired;

NEW BUSINESS:

The Pipestone County Sheriff's Office 2019 Contract was presented to the council. This amount will be used for budgeting purposes;

The Fire Department has requested to purchase a new washing machine that would be capable of washing their turnout gear. Currently, there are 4 sets of turnout gear that will need to be retired unless they can be properly cleaned or turned into insurance. Hills, Luverne and Pipestone Fire Departments all have washing machines especially designed for turnout gear. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to purchase the washing machine for \$3,866.95 from Heiman, all ayes, abstained Johnson & Leslie, carried;

A request to participate in a bike share program was presented to the council. Kounkel is still inquiring about the details of the program. Cost may be a factor;

The Annual Fire Inspection Report for Jasper Sunrise was presented to the council for review;

An official with MN DNR recently visited the park. Notice was sent to the city detailing any deficiencies. The only thing request of the DNR was to replace the funding acknowledgement sign somewhere at the park. Kounkel explained that the sign was removed due to the park shelter demolition. The sign is in the public works shop and will be reposted;

No old business was discussed;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

No land use permits were issued during August;

Samples of AstroTurf were presented to the council for discussion. The AstroTurf will be used for the area between the basketball court and centennial rocks as well as between the basketball and volleyball court. The council opted to purchase the Newport Premium Turf Rolls for \$12.75 per linear foot. The AstroTurf will last approximately 15 to 20 years. 700 square feet will be needed. Motion by Johnson, second by Damman to purchase the AstroTurf as described, all ayes, carried;

Thode has discharged the ponds again due to the amount of rainfall recently;

Thode mentioned moving the stop sign located at the intersection of 3rd Street & Burr Avenue. With the street closure of Burr Avenue, the stop sign is no longer required at this location. Leslie mentioned the vehicles flying down 2nd Street. Leslie would like to see a stop sign placed at the 2nd Street & Spicer Avenue intersection. This would result in stop signs being at 3 locations on 2nd Street, causing drivers to stop at each intersection. Thode mentioned that the stop sign located at 2nd Street and Hill Avenue could not be moved because this area is a bus stop. Kounkel mentioned a concerned citizen's disappointment with moving the stop sign on 6th Street a block west. The council may consider replacing this stop sign in the future;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Keith Eitreim, property owner of Quarry Apartments, contacted the City Office regarding asphaltting his parking lot. Eitreim would like to cost share this project as part of his driveway is used for the RV park. Based off of Rock County's interactive property mapping, the city is using a portion of Eitreim's driveway to allow campers access to the RV Park. Kounkel will speak with Eitreim and have him obtain bids next spring and present them to council at an upcoming council meeting. Damman mentioned that the cost should be prorated due to the RV park being unused a portion of the year;

Upcoming Meetings:

Budget meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2018. Neither Damman nor Lape are able to attend;

The Jasper City Council then went into a closed session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss the property transaction for the former Jasper Bowling Alley. Johnson led the closed session as Baustian abstained from the discussion due to his involvement with the Jasper Development Corporation, the current property owners. Based off the current total invested in the former bowling alley, the Jasper Development Corporation would like \$30,000.00 for the property;

Regular council meeting was reopened by Johnson. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to purchase the former bowling alley property located at 116 Wall Street West from the Jasper Development Corporation for \$30,000.00 come January 1, 2019, all ayes, Baustian abstained, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Lingen addressed the council regarding the safety of the city office. Visitors are able to have free access to the entire city office building. Kounkel has had some eerie visitors lately that have put staff on edge. OSHA does provide 50/50 matching workplace safety grants, up to \$10,000.00. A secured access area with a window to communicate with customers would be ideal. The city office would have to be rearranged to make this possible. Kounkel asked the council if the park shelter fund monies could be budgeted for city hall renovations. This is \$5,000.00 annually. The council would like to see safety measures taken so will allow \$5,000.00 to be budgeted annually for city hall renovations. Kounkel will look further into the OSHA grant requirements;

Motion by Lape, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., all ayes, adjourned.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor