

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 8, 2019;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, January 8, 2019 at the Jasper City Office. Council members present: Mayor, Mike Baustian, Kim Lape, Dee Arp, Karen Damman & Jeff Leslie; Employees present; Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Stella Lingen; *Jasper Journal's* Kyle Kuphal; Absent: Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode;

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

City Clerk Kounkel administered the Official Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member Dee Arp;

Community Concerns:

Reggie Gorter had asked to be placed on the agenda regarding her request to rent a classroom at the QCC for music lessons. Gorter was not in attendance. Kounkel will contact Reggie to determine if she would like to be placed on the February agenda;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 11, 2018 all ayes. Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to approve the minutes from the Truth in Taxation Meeting held on December 11, 2018, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the December Claims to date: Randy's Pumping Service, Port-a-pots, \$1,700.00; Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co, PLLP, Audit for City & Sunrise, \$6,050.00; Pipestone Co. Sheriff, 2018 Contracted Services, \$35,904.00; Ruitter Gravel Hauling, Hauling Gravel/Salt Sand, \$612.23; NIHCA, Annual Membership, \$399.00; Postmaster, Stamps, \$700.00; Jasper Sunrise Village, 2018 P/C Dividend, \$751.68; Stout & Evink, Install Modine Heater, \$2,010.00; Uline, 12 Laminate Tables, \$2,382.83; USDA Rural Development, Water Improvements Loan, \$29,450.00; Peoples Bank, End of the Year Transfer, \$150,000.00; Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the December claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted: Snow Removal, \$1350.00; Pipestone County Treasurer, November 2018 Distribution, \$57,682.81; Rock County Treasurer, November 2018 Distribution, \$35,850.72; League of MN Cities, 2018 PC Dividend, \$1,566.00; State of MN-Management & Budget, 2018 ½ LGA, SCA, MV Credit-Ag, PERA Increase, \$113,013.83; Ludolph Bus, Inc. Jan, Feb, March 2019 Rent, \$900.00; Jasper Sunrise Village, Reimb. 30% Audit Costs, \$1,815.00; Sexton Family Foundation, Basketball Court Donation, \$19,574.05;

Quarterly/End of the Year Financial Reports were distributed for the Council to review;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was discussed with the council. If a resident has services disconnected, a \$100 shut off/turn on fee will be applied before services resume. Residents who are 2 months or more delinquent on their accounts, will get shut off notices placed on their doors early next week;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The Jasper Area United Fund report was presented to the Council. Lingen informed the council that the United Fund collected more money this year and are paying it out more locally;

Wellness Center/QCC: No new business;

NEW BUSINESS:

FOR 2019:

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to appoint Leslie as Acting Mayor for 2019, all ayes, carried.
Kounkel will contact Peoples Bank to have Pete Johnson taken off of the city's checking account as an authorized signor and add Leslie;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve Committees as previously appointed, all ayes, carried.
Arp will be taking over Pete Johnsons previously assigned committees;

Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to appoint the Jasper Journal as the official city newspaper, all ayes, carried;

Motion by Damman, second by Leslie to designate Peoples Bank as the official depository, all ayes, carried;

Motion by Lape, second by Arp to approve the 2019 IRS rate for mileage reimbursement at \$0.58/mile, up \$0.035 from 2018, all ayes, carried;

Kounkel has been looking into subscribing to a mass alert notification system for residents to better inform them of snow emergencies, water main breaks, etc. Two companies were recommended by other cities in Minnesota, Nixle and Public Alert. The estimate received from Nixle was an annual fee of \$3,300.00 with a \$500.00 implementation fee. Public Alert was much cheaper with an annual fee of \$275.00 and no implementation fee. Public Alert is able to send 2000 messages under this annual agreement. The website for notifications can be accessed anywhere. If the city happens to send over 2000 messages, the cost would be \$0.40 per message, resulting in a \$40.00 charge if an additional 1000 messages are sent. Motion by Damman, seconded by Leslie, to implement the Public Alert system for residents of Jasper, all ayes, carried;

Vast Broadband has requested an extension on the franchise. Kounkel will obtain more information for the next council meeting and present to the Council;

OLD BUSINESS:

Pipestone County held the Tax-Forfeited Land Auction on December 27, 2018. Three properties within Jasper were put up for auction. The first building located at 201 Wall Street West (Bauman Hall) was purchased by Reclaim Community for \$10,100.00. The question was raised whether Reclaim Community has insurance on the building in case of incidentals. The orange fencing has been removed by Pipestone County immediately following the closure of the sale. Kounkel will contact Reclaim Community to determine what their plans with the east wall is and whether they have the proper insurance on the building. The second tax-forfeited property is located at 109 2nd Street East and was purchased by David Bryan for \$1,100.00. Bryan plans to demolish the house this spring. The third tax-forfeited property is

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located at 204 6th Street East. Steve Soldwich purchased the property for \$25,500.00. Thode has turned the water back on at the above mentioned property. All assessments have been paid to the county at the time of closure. The remaining amount will be returned to the local taxing authority;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Kounkel went through the Public Works report as Thode was absent. No land use permits were issued during the month of December;

Kounkel spoke with the property owner regarding their inoperable sewer. The property owner is going to obtain bids and present them to the council. The city is able to cover the costs with assessments being placed on the property owners property taxes;

The public works pickup was also discussed. Kounkel talked with Bocco from Jasper Motors regarding what would be available. Bocco informed Kounkel that he could purchase a 2018 pickup for \$30,000.00 to \$35,000.00. A 2013-2014 pickup would cost \$25,000.00. The 2018 would have fewer miles but would a new truck be needed? Baustian had mentioned purchasing a service vehicle that would offer Thode a lot more storage and mobile electricity. Kounkel will take with Thode to determine if this type of vehicle would be beneficial;

Martinez Concrete continues to be an eyesore. Kounkel will send them notice asking to clean up the property while the employees are laid off for the winter;

Another issue presented this winter is property owners pushing their snow from the sidewalks and driveway onto City streets. All residents will get notice with their water bills that this is illegal;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 12, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Personnel Evaluations were scheduled for Tuesday, January 22 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Employees will arrive in 15 minute intervals starting at 6:30 p.m. The last evaluation will be at 7:15 p.m.;

The tentative Board of Appeal and Equalization training calendar was presented to the council;

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

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

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