

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 12, 2019;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, February 12, 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; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; *Jasper Journal's* Kyle Kuphal; Pipestone County Sheriff Keith Vreeman; Pipestone County Officer Quentin Johnson; AMP Presentative Regina Gorter; Community Member Heather Mattern;

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

Community Concerns:

Regina Gorter, AMP representative, approached the council regarding renting a classroom at the Quartziter Community Center. Gorter's nonprofit organization is geared towards providing music, dance and art lessons to under privileged kids in the area. Kids of all ages are welcome. The council has approved allowing the room to be rented for a 3 month period for \$100.00 per month. Every 3 months, this price will be reevaluated. Gorter may also use the fellowship hall for larger events. Gorter plans on having classes 3 to 4 days a week during the evening so wouldn't necessarily interfere with the preschool. Gorter is also a substitute for Pipestone Area Schools so it would not be an issue if she was their during school hours. Gorter will be obtaining her own insurance as required by the City once a move in date is established. She is thinking of potentially moving into the room in March. Items to be moved into the room include a piano, drums and other musical instruments. Classes may start in April 2019. Kounkel will have a draft lease written up for the next council meeting;

Heather Mattern was present to address the council regarding Ordinance #91 in the Jasper City Code Book. Subsection 3 of the Ordinance currently prohibited the keeping of poisonous or constrictor snakes within city limits. Mattern asked the council to consider changing the ordinance to allow for her to keep these types of animals in her home as she would like to become a snake breeder and sell the animals online. This would not create any additional traffic to the home. Mattern informed the council that she had 18 ball pythons in her home but was forced to relocate them due to the ordinance. Mattern explained that ball pythons are popular and docile pets and cannot cause harm to others. She also stated that if a ball python were to get out of the home, it could not survive due to the frigid temperatures. Mattern informed the council of the ball pythons breeding habits. She does not have an idea in mind of how many snakes she would like to have. Sheriff Vreeman was present to address the request. Currently, the City of Jasper has 2 ordinances that prohibit the keeping of this type of animal. MN State Statute also prohibits changing the ordinance IF it makes the public feel uncomfortable. The Council would like the decision to be made by the public. A public hearing regarding this matter will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 if Mattern pays for the publishing of the notice. Mattern will be in attendance at the public hearing to answer questions from area residents;

Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 8, 2019, all ayes, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Review and approve the January Claims to date;;Motion by Leslie, second by Damman to approve the January claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted:

**DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:**

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was briefly discussed with the council;

Wellness Center/QCC: 106 active members. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to increase age limitations to 16 years old, all ayes, carried;

Paul Everett contacted the Jasper City Office regarding the lights that were taken out of the former Catholic Church. Everett would like to obtain the lights for the remodel at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pipestone. There are 4 lights total that have sat in a storage closet since the remodel of the former Catholic Church. All lights will be donated to St. Paul's Episcopal Church at no cost. Kounkel will contact Everett;

**NEW BUSINESS:**

American Tower has requested the City of Jasper extend their lease for the Verizon Wireless Tower located on the South edge of town. The current lease is set to expire in 2038. The Council opted to now sign a new lease at this time;

Jasper Sunrise Village has inquired whether the city would be willing to complete their snow removal. The issue with this request is Sunrise is considered private property, as well as the townhomes. Request denied;

FYI: Pipestone County Highway is holding a public hearing to discuss roads and bridges. The Council is invited to attend if they choose;

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Public Alert Notification System is up and running. Kounkel will add all Council Members to the alert list;

Vast Broadband has requested an extension on the franchise. With the amount of available technology and services, the council would like to extend the franchise agreement on an annual basis. Kounkel will contact Vast Broadband to see if this is feasible;

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

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

The public works pickup was again discussed. Lape looked into Amdahl Motors and DeBoer out of Edgerton. The City of Dell Rapids is also part of a cooperative purchasing agreement and have purchased brand new pickups for around \$16,000.00. This will be looked into further;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Thode received bids to remove the trees located at the Jasper City Cemetery. Davis, out of Luverne, quoted the citing at \$3,375.00 which includes the stump removal. Skyberg Construction quoted the city at \$3,750.00 which does not include stump removal. Motion by Lape, second by Damman to approve the bid received from Davis for the removal of trees and stumps at the cemetery, all ayes, carried. Ornamental trees may be planted in the cemetery in the future;

Spring Cleanup is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2019;

The Council was presented with a letter from the Rock County Sheriff's Office giving credit to the Fire Department and Ambulance on their last fatal call;

The Prairie Rose Grant application is open. If the council would like to apply, contact Kounkel with the project;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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

A closed meeting was then opened to discuss personnel evaluations. Meeting adjourned after discussion. Results will be presented at the next council meeting for approval;

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Baustian, Mayor

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