

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 12, 2019;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in said city, March 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 Area Schools Superintendent Kevin Enerson, Pipestone Area Schools Representative Katie Weise;

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

### Community Concerns:

Pipestone Area Schools Superintendent Kevin Enerson was present to address the council regarding the Bond Referendum Vote that will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. PAS District residents will be voting on two questions; Question 1 totals \$26,800,000.00 and Question 2 totals \$930,000.00. The vote will determine whether the District will be able to build a new elementary school on the existing grounds of the Middle School/High School and improve the safety and security needs of the buildings. The current elementary schools are over capacity. If the bond referendum is approved, bids will be obtained and the design process will begin. Construction will take approximately 1 ½ years. Questions regarding the old elementary schools and new school were addressed to Enerson;

A resident who requested to be placed on the agenda was not in attendance;

Correction on Minutes from February 12, 2019: When speaking of the Verizon Wireless Tower Lease, the word “not” needs to be replaced with the word “now”. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 12, 2019 with the above mentioned correction, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the February Claims to date: US Bank, Street Bond, \$46,012.50, (1012.50 Interest); Pipestone County Medical Center, Fire Department Health Screening, \$1,210.00; League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, 2019-2020 Worker’s Comp Insurance, \$17,285.00; Softline Data, Inc., Public Alert Notification System, \$275.00; Heiman Inc., Swingout Valves-Fire Dept, \$971.46; League of MN Cities, MMUA Regional Safety Group Training, \$450.00; City of Pipestone, Cable Access Fees, \$500.00; Nordic Solar Holdco, LLC, Geronimo Energy Contract, \$577.13; Rock Co. Highway Department, 16 Ton Sand/Salt, \$480.00; Motion by Damman, second by Arp to approve the March claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted: Rock County, 1/19 Distribution, \$3,236.36; Pipestone County, 1/19 Distribution, \$2,282.38; C. Swenson, 5 Graves, 4 Perpetual Care, \$900.00; Peoples Bank, Transfer from MM to Checking, \$50,000.00;

### DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was briefly discussed with the council. When the weather starts to warm up and the Public Works Personnel have time, water will be disconnected to the delinquent accounts;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The Jasper United Fund has recently helped out a resident in Jasper who is traveling back and forth from Sioux Falls, SD due to her premature baby being hospitalized. The United Fund is keeping donations local;

Wellness Center/QCC: The Rental Agreement proposed for AMP was presented to the Council. The AMP Board Members are also looking through the rental agreement. Agreement will be presented at the next council meeting for approval with any requested changes;

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The Fire Relief Association Investment Report Card was presented to the council;

A bid on a Compact Loader was obtained by Leslie for the Public Works Department. The current tractor, which is a 1993 Case, has seen better days. The tractor may be too expensive to fix when the time comes. This could be used to move snow or for other purposes around the city. Thode explained that the current tractor is primarily used for clearing snow from intersection. It was used previously to scrape the snow off the street but ended up doing more damage than good. The city will assess our needs and consider this in the future if need be;

Lingen and Kounkel both mentioned during their employee reviews the safety and security of the city office. Everyone has full access to the city office which can make employees uneasy especially when we are by ourselves. Kounkel approached two contractors about obtaining bids for the city remodel. One was not interested in pursuing the remodel. Jandl presented a bid to remodel the city office by adding a security cove, replacing windows and updating the electrical. Motion by Damman, second by Lape to approve the bid from Jandl Construction for the city office remodeling project, all ayes, carried;

Motion by Damman, second by Arp to approve employee raises as discussed at the Personnel Evaluations;

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

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

The Public Works personnel have been busy clearing snow. Rosedell Township will be coming through town to help scrape the roads to free them from slush and ice. They are asking \$50/hr for the work to be completed;

A claim has been submitted to the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust for a tractor vs. car collision. Report included for council review;

Water leaks have been reported on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East and Sherman Avenue. The leaks are just average water leaks and not due to the cold weather. Jasper has not had any water main breaks thankfully;

The Public Works Department is also dealing with frozen water lines. Six lines were reportedly frozen and two were successfully thawed. Trinity Lutheran Church is currently without water. They have had issues in the past so they have been running the water to prevent this type of issue. Unfortunately someone turned the water off. This will be almost impossible to unthaw so will have to wait for it to do

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it on its own. In 2013 a machine was purchased to unfreeze pipes. The Public Works Personnel will be using this to help resolve the issues. Dell Rapids is interested in cost sharing this with the City of Jasper if the council would be interested. The total cost of the machine was approximately \$2,500.00;

The Public Works Pickup was again mentioned in this meeting. The state fleet deal is done through the dealership. According to other area towns, Herman Motors out of Luverne, MN is considerably cheaper than other dealerships. Lape will check into this for the city;

Thode had mentioned replacing the LED Street Lights on Wall Street. Olsen Electric is able to get street lights considerably cheaper than other companies we have looked into. The lights would be comparable to the ones installed in Pipestone and Edgerton. Olsen will be providing a bid for the council. However, they estimate steel poles that would bolt onto existing poles to be \$1842.00 each. Aluminum street lights go for \$2187. 22 street lights are needed. When the city converted to LED Christmas lights, the cost of electricity dropped to 1/3 of the cost. Estimates will be determined to see how the city will save. Xcel Energy may also have rebates available for this type of project;

Thode received the 2019 Wastewater Treatment Facility Award;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

The revised schedule for the 2019 Board of Appeal & Equalization Hearing was provided to the council;

A thankyou letter received from Paul Everett (St. Paul's Episcopal Church) was provided to the council;

According to the Jasper Zoning Ordinance, any sign which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted or a product sold shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building, or land upon which the sign may be found within ten (10) days after written notice from the Zoning Administrator. Currently there are 3 businesses in Jasper that have advertised for a business that is no longer incorporated. Kounkel will be sending these individuals a letter requesting that they remove the signs;

Kounkel will again ask Reclaim Community for a copy of their insurance on Bauman Hall;

Council drive-through was discussed. The same properties that have been issued warnings in the past will again receive letters this year. Thode recommended having the Pipestone County Sheriff's Office deliver the letters to each property owner;

Upcoming Meetings:

The Public Comment Hearing regarding ball pythons was cancelled due to the publication not being paid for prior to the meeting;

Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 9, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.;

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

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Baustian, Mayor

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