

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 9, 2020;

In accordance with the requirements of Minn. Stat, Section 13D.021, Mike Baustian, the Mayor, has determined that an in person meeting is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under Chapter 12 of the Minnesota Statutes;

Because of the emergency declaration it has been determined that attendance at the regular meeting location by members of the public is not feasible. Therefore, some or all of the City Council members may be participating by telephone or other electronic means;

Members of the public were invited to monitor the meeting via invitation or were invited to attend in person;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met via in-person/phone/video conference in said city on June 9, 2020. Council members physically present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Kim Lape and Trinidad Garcia. Council members present via phone/video conference: Dee Arp & Jeff Leslie; Employees present at physical location: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel; Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Stella Lingen; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Development Services representative Hunter Robinson;

Mayor Baustian called the regular meeting to order 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Community Concerns:

Hunter Robinson, representative from Development Services, Inc. was present at the Council Meeting to introduce himself and to give the Council an update on the Small Cities Development Grant. The City of Jasper and City of Magnolia have been awarded the full amount requested of \$599,991.00. The City of Jasper will receive \$400,000.00 to fix up 16 homes within the city. The City of Magnolia will receive \$199,991 for 5 homes within their city limits. Robinson is currently working on the environmental review which is required due to the program being State driven. DEED may update regulations but Robinson is not expecting any major changes. Robinson will return at the July Council meeting to update the council on approvals for citizen participation, request to release funds, environmental review and start up documents. Robinson reiterated that the full application will be on a first come, first serve basis. Residents are reminded to include all required documentation such as Income Verification, Site Inspections, Canvassing, etc. in order for their application to be considered;

As mentioned at the last Council Meeting, the requested to block off a portion of Wall Street for a street dance if Memorial Hall is not available due to the Covid-19 Health Pandemic. The Council will revisit this request at a later date;

Motion by Lape, second by Garcia to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 12, 2020, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the May Claims to date: Jim Roggenbuck, Tree Removal/Trimming at Park, \$3,225.00;; Motion by Arp, second by Garcia to approve the May claims to date, all ayes, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Receipts noted: J. Aaland, Servicemen's Memorial Refurbishing Crosses, \$1,000.00; Private Donor, Cover Cost of Trees at Cemetery, \$1,846.88; Township of Elmer, Amb Donation, \$500.00; Cash from Pump House, \$545.55; Jasper Soy Processors, Reimb. Patching on Wall St. W., \$1,540.00; E. Johnson, Fire Call, \$1,200.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was discussed with the Council. Due to the global Health Pandemic, Thode has not been able to fix 4 meters due to having to enter resident's homes;

Wellness Center/QCC:

The Wellness Center is opening its doors to members on Wednesday, June 10;

Midwest Alarm is working on a quote for replacing the fire system in the QCC. Kounkel has not received the quote as of the meeting;

According to Midwest Alarm, the City of Jasper could purchase an electric stove and not have to worry about all the requirements of having a gas stove at the QCC. Kounkel will obtain bids on electric stoves and present at the next council meeting;

AMP plans on conducting music lessons every Wednesday. When the daycare goes in, Reggie may either move to the 3rd classroom or the basement as that area will be up to code after the fire system is installed;

NEW BUSINESS:

The MN State Demographic Center calculated the population for Jasper at 546;

Quartziter Days originally scheduled for July 17-19, 2020, has been cancelled due to the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 Health Pandemic;

OLD BUSINESS:

The State Primary Election will be held in August. Kounkel visited with Tyler Riesch, Pipestone County Auditor regarding holding in-house elections due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. According to Riesch, the State is adamant that we need to hold the election despite the uncertainty with the pandemic. However, we would have the option to go to mail in voting BUT we will have to continue this for at least 4 years. If we decide to conduct the election as we have in previous years, the City will have to supply protective shields, gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and wipes. Motion by Lape, second by Garcia, to move the City of Jasper to Mail-In Voting for the next 4 years due to the Covid-19 Health Pandemic;

The wording for the "Unsung Heroes" Plaque was presented to Council for approval;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permits issued during the month of May were as follows:

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Nick Madtson, 105 6th Street East, Install Utility Shed; John Haack 518 4th Street West, Install Fence & Gazebo; Trinidad Garcia, 109 6th Street West, Install Chain Link Fence;

The City of Ihlen has again requested for the City of Jasper to spray their community for mosquitoes. We have done this in previous years;

Bids for the replacement of the QCC roof were not obtained;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

FYI: The Jasper Fire Department and Ambulance Association were both awarded the Prairie Rose Community Fund Grant;

Clean up days completed on June 6 went very slick. Total cost of cleanup days has yet to be determined. Kounkel included forms to deem a property in Jasper a public nuisance. A letter was drafted and delivered to the resident by the Pipestone County Sheriff's Office. The letter asked that the resident comply with cleaning their property and mowing the lawn by a certain date. Kounkel directly spoke with the resident who agreed to allow volunteers to help clean up the property. During clean up days, Kounkel as well as another Jasper resident volunteered time to help the resident comply with the city's request. Two loads of items were taken off of the property. Some items still need to be removed but a huge dent was made on the property. For the record, this was done on volunteer time and not at the city's expense;

A resident in West Jasper has requested that their lot pins be located. In the past 6 months, Thode has located the front pins on this piece of property at least 5-6 times. The front pins were the only ones located as the back pins do not exist. The reason for the property pin requests is clearly a property dispute between the neighbors and Thode believes this will be an ongoing issue. Motion by Lape, second by Garcia to allow 2 pin locates within a years' time; any locates completed after the allowable 2, will be charged at \$75.00 per locate to the property owner, all ayes, carried;

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, Tuesday, July 14, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Open Book Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearings for Pipestone & Rock County Residents;

Arp motioned to adjourn, Lape second. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.