

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – July 14, 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 July 14, 2020. Council members physically present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Kim Lape, Trinidad Garcia, Dee Arp & Jeff Leslie; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel; Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Stella Lingen; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Jasper Ambulance Association members Kim Drew & Jim Veldkamp; Planning Commission Members: Jerry Tower & Duane DeCroock; Community Members: Terry Rodman, Don Plahn & Richard Otten;

Mayor Baustian called the Conditional Use Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Public Hearing was held in regards to a request from Richard Otten, owner of the property located at 109 8th Street East, Jasper, to convert the single family home into a multi-family residence. Planning Commission members Jerry Tower & Duane DeCroock were in attendance. Both questioned Otten whether ground water was an issue with the house. According to Otten, ground water is not an issue. Otten installed four egress windows in the basement. Each residence will have three bedrooms, kitchen and laundry. The home is virtually new. DeCroock questioned whether there would be adequate parking for the tenants. According to Otten, he placed a granite base in the rear for 5 vehicles. If finances allow, Otten will add two spaces to the front. Based off of Otten's description of completed work, the Planning Commission recommends that the council approve the Conditional Use Application. Motion by Arp, second by Garcia to approve the Conditional Use Application to convert the property located at 109 8th Street East to a multi-family dwelling, all ayes, carried;

Mayor Baustian called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.;

Community Concerns:

Hunter Robinson, representative from Development Services, Inc. will not be present at this month's meeting;

Jasper Ambulance Association members Kim Drew & Jim Veldkamp were present to inform the Council of their plans to purchase a new ambulance. Every 15 years, the Ambulance Association acquires enough funds from fundraising and call to purchase the new Ambulance, This Ambulance Association has received a new ambulance in 1975, 1990, and 2005 and now this year. Kounkel will help the Ambulance Association in applying for a grant through the USDA. Drew mentioned that the Ambulance

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Association is also looking for at least five additional members. Motion by Lape, seconded by Arp to approve the purchase of the new ambulance by the Jasper Ambulance Association, all ayes, carried;

Terry Rodman was present to ask the Council permission to place windmills in city limits. Rodman owns the property located at 208 Burr Avenue North, along Highway 23. Rodman would turn the building into a windmill museum to help attract individuals to Jasper. Most of the windmills will be placed inside the building. Three or four of them will be placed on the west side of the building where the current lumber yard building is located. According to Rodman, the lumber yard building will be moved from the property. Thode mentioned that the city's building code has a height regulation of 35'. Rodman stated that the windmills will be under that height. However, a variance could be applied for if needed;

As discussed in previous months, an individual has requested to close Wall Street directly in front of Stonewall Bar & Grill for a wedding/street dance. Based off of the COVID-19 numbers in Pipestone County, as well as the increase in cases due an event held at a campground in a neighboring county, Kounkel advised the Council to not approve this request;

Lions Club members Don Plahn and Jerry Tower approached the Council regarding the maintenance at the ballfield. Plahn explained that the Lions Club is having difficulty obtaining new, younger members, so a lot of the tasks taken on by the Lion's Club in previous years would not be completed. Plahn and Tower informed the council that they spent approximately 10 hours in 90 degree weather pulling weeds from the ball diamonds to get the fields ready for play. Thode informed the Council that public works personnel have not completed maintenance on the fields for 18 years. The individuals who oversee the softball team were always in charge of the maintenance. However, Tower informed the Council that he has personally maintained the fields for the past four years, while on city time. The softball team now has a manager. Plahn is concerned with the lack of maintenance; teams will not want to play in Jasper. Baustian stated that the city will be the ones to spray the ball diamonds for weeds and drag the field as needed. Lape will contact the area 4-H club to see if they would be interested in maintaining the property. In April, 2021, the city will touch base with the Lyon's Club to ensure the area is being maintained and drug after mowing;

Motion by Lape, second by Arp to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 9, 2020, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the June Claims to date: Michaels Fence & Supply, City Park Fence, \$7,055.00; Development Services, Inc., 2020 Small City Development Grant Billing for Professional Services, \$2,810.11; Motion by Arp, second by Garcia to approve the June claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted: Jasper Area United Fund, Reimbursement-Fence at City Park, \$7,000.00; Stonewall Bar & Grill, Prorated Liquor License '20-'21, \$541.67, Private Donation, Stonewall Liquor License, \$250.00; Pipestone Co. Treasurer, 6/20 Distribution, \$77,901.72; Rock Co. Auditor, 2020 Amb Appropriation, \$1,300.00; Rock Co. Auditor, 6/20 Distribution, \$38,452.01; Pipestone Co. Auditor, PNP Election Reimb, \$700.68;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The delinquent sewer, water and garbage report was discussed with the Council. A property located in West Jasper, has the entire lawn covered in items removed from the home. There is a dumpster located on the property which is empty. Kounkel will make contact with the property owner to ensure the property gets cleaned up ASAP;

Lingen informed the Council that she transferred two graves from one owner to the next;

Wellness Center/QCC:

Midwest Alarm and Olsen Electric provided bids for the installation of the fire alarm system at the QCC. This is a requirement from the State Fire Marshall to operate a daycare out of the facility. Motion by Arp, seconded by Leslie, to approve the bids from Midwest Alarm and Olsen Electric for the installation of the fire alarm system, all ayes, carried;

As suggested by Midwest Alarm, Kounkel included bids on electric stoves for the replacement of the gas griddle and burners at the QCC. Due to the age of the hood and lack of a fire suppression system, the State Fire Marshall suggested the capping of the gas line, which has been done, until the system can be updated. Replacing the gas stove with an electric stove will be less expensive in the long run. Motion by Lape, seconded Arp to purchase the Amana electric stove for \$499.00 from True Value Hardware in Pipestone, all ayes, carried;

Kounkel mentioned installing a fence on the west side of the QCC. Lisa Houg will check to see if it is required through her insurance. Once the daycare is more established, the installation of the fence will be revisited;

NEW BUSINESS:

Kounkel presented the City of Jasper COVID-19 Preparedness Plan as required by Minnesota Department of Health. This is a policy for staff to adhere to in order to return to the workplace;

OLD BUSINESS:

At the June Council Meeting, the Council voted to move the entire city to mail-in voting to the COVID-19 Health Pandemic. Kounkel drafted a resolution declaring this which will be sent to the Pipestone County Auditor. Motion by Leslie, second by Arp to approve Resolution 20-196 opting to go to mail-in voting for the 2020 elections, all ayes, carried;

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:

Jerry Aaland, 111 12th St. E., Utility Shed;

Robin Leslie, 100 8th St. E., Utility Shed;

David Anderson, 612 Spicer Ave North, Utility Shed;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Cleanup day expenses for the year were obtained. The City of Jasper spent about ½ of what we typically do on disposal fees. The cleanup process went well. Lape mentioned that we should consider having another one in the fall or possibly placing a wood dumpster in town. Expenses for the past 3 cleanup days are as follows:

2018: \$2,526.45;

2019: \$2,733.08;

2020: \$1,308.16;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Kounkel has had several requests by the public to open the park shelter for use. However, the city does not have enough employees or the time to disinfect the picnic tables and bathrooms after every use. Kounkel recommends keeping the park shelter closed;

The Unsung Heroes Dedication Plaque has ordered;

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 11, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Budget Meeting, Tuesday, August 11, 2020@ 6:30 p.m.;

Arp motioned to adjourn, Leslie second. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor