

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting –August 10, 2021;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on August 10, 2021. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Jeff Leslie, Trinidad Garcia, Kim Lape and Dee Arp; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Serrina Martinez; Planning Commission Members: Jerry Tower & Duane DeCroock; Community Members: Zack & Lisa Kounkel; Absent: Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson;

Mayor Baustian called the Public Hearing Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance;

Planning Commission members Jerry Tower and Duane DeCroock were in attendance for the public hearing regarding a home occupation permit request from Lisa Kounkel to open a beauty salon in her residential home located at 120 Spicer Avenue North. L. Kounkel stated that only 1 client would be present at a time so traffic would not be an issue. Z. Kounkel asked whether permission would be granted to cut the curb on the east side of the home. The entrance to the beauty salon will be on the east side with a handicap accessible access. Lisa and Zack plan on placing a driveway near this area for beauty salon clients. Lisa would also like to display a sign on the tree located on the east side boulevard. Kounkel will determine whether this is permitted or not. Tower and DeCroock had no opposition to the home occupation permit request from Lisa Kounkel. Based off of the Planning Commission recommendations, motion by Arp, seconded by Garcia, to approve the home occupation permit for Lisa Kounkel to open a beauty salon in her residential home located at 120 Spicer Avenue North, all ayes, carried;

Mayor Baustian called the regular meeting to order following the public hearing;

Community Concerns:

Thode mentioned to the council that he has had a request for a "shouse" to be built within city limits. A shouse is defined as a personal workshop and/or storage space that's connected to a house. Thode mentioned that this could cause issues in the future. Recommended to look into the City of Luverne and other surrounding communities to determine how they handle shouse requests in the future;

Motion by Lape, second by Arp to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2021 Council Meeting;

No council meeting was held in July, 2021;

Review and approve the June claims to date: Double D Gravel, Pavement Overlay-FEMA, \$159,448.11; Double D Gravel, Mini-Excavator/Set Valves/Screen Gravel, \$2,490.72; Fuller Paving, Mill Out & Remove Debris/QCC Alley, \$29,840.60; Stoltenberg Auction Service, Model 1812 Snow Blower, \$2,500.00; Motion by Arp, second by Garcia to approve the June claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the July claims to date: Midwest Training Associates, Firefighter training (6 members), \$1,753.00; Heiman, Inc., Fire Supplies, \$1,541.70; Martinez Concrete, Park Gazebo Concrete, \$1,600.00; Nordic Solar HoldCo, Geronimo Energy Contract (2 months), \$2,417.25; Peoples Bank,

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Quarter Craze Auction Quarters, \$2,000.00; Sue Grinde, Quarter Craze Auction Quarters, \$500.00; Sunnyside Greenhouse, Trees, \$2,750.00; City of Pipestone, Paint Parking Spots, \$2,020.00; Team Lab Chemical Corp, Weed Killer, \$1,994.00 Motion by Lape, second by Leslie to approve the July claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted in June: M. Baustian, Fire Call, \$800.00; Servicemen's Memorial Donations, Total: \$5,750.00; Pipestone Co. Treasurer, 2021 Fire Appropriation, \$780.00; Pipestone Co. Treasurer, 2021 Amb Appropriation, \$4,000.00; Pipestone Co. Treasurer, 6/21 Appropriation, \$74,712.17; Rock Co. Treasurer, 6/21 Appropriation, \$33,056.13;

Receipts noted in July: Rock Co. Auditor, 2021 Ambulance Appropriation, \$5,000.00; Sweet Township Mutual Insurance, Fire Call, \$400.00; Raatz Farms, Fire Call, \$400.00; Ludolph Bus Service, July, Aug, Sept Rent, \$900.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

A short discussion regarding the delinquent report occurred;

Wellness Center/QCC: Lisa Houg is interested in installing a fence on the West side of the QCC for an area for her daycare children to play. Houg is looking into grants or holding a fundraiser to generate funds needed to install the fence. Recently, Houg found exact knives in the sandbox located on the West side of the building. After a short investigation, Houg determined it was neighborhood children that left the knives in the sandbox. The children were reprimanded. A fence is needed to keep the neighbor kids out of the daycare play area. Once the fence is installed, it will only be used by the daycare;

NEW BUSINESS:

Recently, the city rented out the upstairs of Memorial Hall for what was described as a Christening. The event was actually a quinceañera which consisted of a large amount of alcohol being distributed at the event. Stonewall Bar & Grill was not contacted regarding the distribution of alcohol at Memorial Hall. The hall was left in a state only described as a catastrophe. Renters of the hall did not return to clean the area until Tuesday when their event was held the Saturday before. Garbage was strewn about in and out. Liquor was spilled in and out as well. The renting party did forfeit their deposit. It was then discussed to change the rental requirements. Numerous renters do not call Jasper their home. Therefore, there will be price differences between residents and non-residents; this deposit will increase no matter where the renter resides. It was also discussed to question renters on the amount of people they anticipate having at their event. If the renter is over numbers, the deposit may be forfeited. A camera will be purchased for the facility and will be monitored if and when the city has a problem. For non-dance events in the upstairs of Memorial Hall, the rental fee will be \$50.00 for residents and \$100.00 for non-residents. Deposit is increase to \$250.00. For the downstairs of Memorial Hall, residents will pay \$40.00, non-residents \$80.00 with a deposit of \$250.00 for all renters. Kounkel will draw up the new rental agreements and provide to the council at the next meeting;

Due to the dry conditions, dust has been an issue at the ballfields and in West Jasper. Dust control was discussed. If chemical is spread across the gravel roads, they cannot be graded as the chemical will wear off. Will discuss earlier in the year;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The Jasper Economic Development Authority has recently made bylaw changes due to the closure of Sunrise Village. The JEDA will diminish their board from 7 to 5 directors and hold meetings on a quarterly basis. The JEDA is only responsible for the townhomes, no day-to-day issues. Shannon Magnuson and Kristie Fjellanger have resigned from the board. Motion by Lape, seconded by Arp to approve the bylaw changes for the Jasper Economic Development Authority as stated above, all ayes, carried. Abstained: Leslie & Baustian;

The Small Cities Development Program has recently completed all 16 home inspections. According to DSI, we are in year 2 of the program. Kounkel spoke with DSI and was told that an extension could be granted from the state if required. Kounkel asked that DSI send the extension letter to the State of Minnesota;

Baustian informed the council that the Jasper Development Corporation is working with Kyley Mills, owner of Stonewall Bar & Grill to build and open a bar/restaurant on Wall Street. Baustian asked the council if they would be interested in swapping properties considering that the city owns the former bowling alley property. Baustian proposed that Mills obtains the bowling alley property while the city acquires the current bar property along with the building. Kounkel explained to the council that sightseers are coming to Jasper specifically to look at the collapsed bar. In Kounkel's opinion, this is the biggest blight issue on Main Street. Kounkel explained that the city could take on the bar property and demolish the building. The city is then able to put a lien on the property to help offset the cost of demolition if the land is ever sold for redevelopment. As of date, no demolition bid has been received. Discussion regarding the buildings located on either side of the former bowling alley property occurred. Members of the community made mentions that both buildings are in dire need of repair and wondered why Mills would build in that location. The council would like to visit with Mills about her proposed new restaurant/bar; therefore she will be invited to the next council meeting which is scheduled for September 14, 2021. The council did not make a motion on the swap of properties;

The City Office has received numerous inquiries from residents concerning the Jasper Family Medical Clinic and its closed doors. Kounkel will be drafting a letter to Pipestone County Medical Center to ask what their intentions with the building are;

Kounkel has requested to purchase two new vacuum cleaners, one for the ESB and one for the city office. Request granted;

The Certified 2022 LGA amount for the city of Jasper is \$228,621.00

OLD BUSINESS:

The Tax Forfeited Land in Rock County has hit a snag. According to Ashley Kurtz, Rock County Auditor/Treasurer, the tenant of the manufactured signed a contract for deed with the property owner. Therefore, the land is still going for tax forfeiture, however, the manufactured home would not be. Kurtz was going to consult with the Rock County Attorney regarding this issue. Kurtz recommended that once the city takes ownership of the land, we give the tenant a time limit on when to remove the manufactured home;

Kounkel informed the council that the Pickle ball Net Posts will be in stock in mid-September;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The Jasper Ambulance Association has offered to sell the city their refrigerator that is used at the ESB as they are purchasing a new one. The Ambulance is asking \$300.00 for the fridge. The fridge will be used in the park shelter kitchen. The city will be purchasing the fridge for \$300.00 from the Jasper Ambulance Association for our park shelter kitchen;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permit were issued to Todd Drake, 401 Main Ave N, Move in Chicken Coop, Blake Oelfke, 117 2nd St W, Build Utility Shed;

The embankment at the ponds had got bad due to the muskrats. Double D Gravel pulled the apron, put up clay and heavy rock on the banks of the pond. This was recommended to be completed by MN Pollution Control;

Thode mentioned that the three evergreen trees located near the Servicemen's Memorial at the cemetery should be replaced. Thode was thinking of replacing them with 3-6 ornamental frees in the future;

A resident approached Thode about cutting their curb so they can park their camper off of the street. Thode granted resident permission.

Sealcoating has been completed. The sealcoat will get more packed down with the heat. Semis don't seem to be making marks on the streets;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, Tuesday, October 12, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Lape motioned to adjourn, Arp second. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor