

## TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing – December 14, 2021

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on December 14, 2021. Council members present: Acting Mayor Jeff Leslie, Trinidad Garcia, Kim Lape and Dee Arp; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel; Community Members: None in Attendance; Absent: Mayor Mike Baustian;

Acting Mayor Leslie called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This public hearing was held to discuss the 2022 Levy for the City of Jasper. No members of the public were in attendance. Changes to the 2022 City of Jasper Budget from 2021 are as follows:

- Local Government Aid increased from \$226,680 to \$228,621
- Transfer in from MM Savings increased from \$8,746 to \$18,474
- Pipestone County Police Contract increased from \$37,347 to \$38,480;
- Total Revenues for 2022 General Fund: \$569,172
- Total Expenses for 2022 General Fund: \$569,172

Motion by Arp, seconded by Lape to approve the 2022 Budget with a levy of \$200,173, all ayes carried;

There being no further business, Acting Mayor Leslie motioned to adjourn, all ayes, carried.

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Jeff Leslie, Acting Mayor

## JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 21, 2021;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Kim Lape, Jeff Leslie, Trinidad Garcia and Dee Arp; Employees present: Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Community Members: Angel Garcia; Donna Straw; Absent: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel;

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

Community Concerns:

The Public Participation and Comment at City Council Meeting sheet was provided. Community Concerns were as follows:

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Angel Garcia: Angel would like gym prices changed. See attachment he went out got different rates from surrounding area. Council agrees we need to change prices. Mike-we aren't looking to make a profit from the center. Angel -couple of machines not working up there. Would like to replace or get rid of machines. Kim- wants us to look into getting new treadmill and butterfly machine. Angel would like mirrors, council isn't sure about that. Next meeting discuss new prices and we need to get prices for the new machines;

Donna Straw: Donna Wants to know what will happen to Stonewall when Kyley builds. She is worried that Kyley won't keep insurance on that building and wants to know what we plan on doing about it. Trinidad/Dee suggested that she needs to talk to Kyley as it is her property. There is nothing we can do.

Motion by Lape, second by Arp to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2021 Council Meeting, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the November claims to date: Benjamin Denton, Legal Services, \$1,995.00; Clean 'N' Clear, QCC Carpet Cleaning, \$950.00; Double D Gravel, Water Leak – 4<sup>th</sup> Street, \$768.50; Fire Payroll \$11,040.00; Amb Payroll \$15,227.00; Astech Corp, 2021 Slurry Seal, \$293,954.01; Dan Bryan, ESB-47.72 Ton Rock Hauling & Leveling, \$573.38; Steve VanderBrink, LLC, DOT Inspection on Plow Truck, \$3,749.32; Harmony Gardens & Gift Shop, 400' Christmas Greenery Garland, \$600.00; Motion by Lape, second Garcia to approve the November claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted in November: Peoples Bank, Transfer in from MM, \$250,000.00; MMB – State of MN, American Rescue Plan Funds, \$1,044.76;

#### DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

A brief discussion regarding the delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts occurred. No disconnection notices will be sent this month. Resolutions 21-313A (Rock County) and Resolution 21-313B (Pipestone County) assessing delinquent Sewer, Water, Garbage & Property Maintenance Bills to taxable properties in the City of Jasper were presented to the council. Resolution 21-313A only lists a property maintenance bill for the tax forfeited property located within Rock County. Resolution 21-313B lists eighteen accounts with delinquent Sewer, Water, Garbage and Property Maintenance;

Wellness Center/QCC: NA

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Arp, seconded by Garcia to Approve Resolution 21-348 ADOPTING THE PAYABLE 2022 FINAL PROPERTY LEVY AND BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JASPER;

Motion by Arp, seconded by Lape to Approve Resolution 21-348A (Business License Fee for 2022);

Motion by Lape, seconded by Arp to Approve Resolution 21-348B (Designate Funds in Money Market Savings Account);

The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water increase effective 7-1-2022 will be discussed at the January 2022 Council Meeting;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Peoples Bank provided the city with a Pay it Forward Donation to purchase additional playground equipment for the Jasper City Park. Unfortunately the product that was picked is no longer available. The office staff will look into different options;

Frontier Communications received a letter from the City regarding Pedestal Boxes that are in dire need of repair. Photographs were included with the letter. Arp also took pictures of some of the boxes and sent Frontier a letter. Neither the city nor Arp has received a response;

The 2021 Jasper United Fund Distribution Report was provided to the Council for informational purposes only;

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Stonewall Bar & Grill has requested to hold the sole liquor license in the City of Jasper for five years. The council would offer the sole liquor license to Stonewall on an annual basis, not for the requested 5 year time span;

As discussed at the November Council Meeting Benjamin Denton, Jasper City Attorney, proposed changes in his compensation structure beginning January 1, 2022. Denton is requesting an annual payment in the amount of \$5,101.00. This will make him eligible for PERA benefits. Denton has not contacted the PERA administration to determine if he is even eligible for PERA benefits. If the city was to not accept this new contract and needed Denton in the future, \$5,101 would be payable up front plus the hourly rate of \$120.00 taken from the \$5,101 and any unearned part of the \$5,101 is non-refundable. Denton understands if the city would choose to contract with another law firm. Eisma & Eisma out of Luverne, MN currently has a couple municipal clients. They are willing to take on the city of Jasper if requested. The council would like to know if Eisma & Eisma charges a retainer fee and what their hourly rate of compensation is. The council would also like to obtain another quote from another attorney. Kounkel will present the information at the January Council Meeting;

The American Tower Lease Contract should be looked over by the City Attorney before entering into any agreement. Kounkel will also provide other cities rates at the January 2022 Council Meeting;

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permits issued in the month of November were Mark Stromberg, 220 8<sup>th</sup> Street East, Build Shed; Matt Jansen, 312 6<sup>th</sup> Street East, Install Chain link Fence;

A resident cut their curb to make a driveway without obtaining permission from the city. Martinez Concrete will be reminded to obtain a permit prior to cutting any curb within city limits. The council will also look into adding a fine if the permit is not obtained;

Sped Forms presented a request to the City to have designated parking spots on Wall Street. The city is not able to designate parking spots on Wall Street. Sped Forms will have to find different parking alternatives;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Thode mentioned that he would like to sell the loader tractor. Thode will get it cleaned up within the next couple of weeks. Council would like to sell the tractor on a sealed bid process. Ads will be placed in the Pipestone Co. Star and on social media platforms;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

A compliment received concerning the Christmas Lights within the City of Jasper was presented to the Council;

Upcoming Meetings:

Employee Reviews, Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.;

Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Lape motioned to adjourn, Arp seconded. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned;

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Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Baustian, Mayor