

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 8, 2022;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Kim Lape, Dee Arp and Jeff Leslie; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Attending via electronic means: Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Community Members: NA

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

Sealed Bids for the Sale of the 1992 Case 580 Super K Tractor were opened at 7:00 p.m. The bids are as follows:

- Gary Skyberg \$7,575.00;
- Dan Bryan \$5,250.00;
- John DeSchepper \$5,175.00;
- Mark Sievert \$4,000.00;

According to Thode, the trade in value for the tractor was about \$9,000.00 but that was years ago. With years of depreciation he feels the bids were adequate;

Motion by Lape, second by Arp to accept the highest bid amount of \$7,575.00 from Gary Skyberg for the sale of the 1992 Case 580 Super K Tractor. Kounkel will notify all sealed bid participants of the decision;

Kounkel informed the council that two community members contacted the city office in hopes to be nominated to the Jasper City Council to fill the vacancy left by Trinidad Garcia. Nick Baatz and Brian Sievert were the individuals. Kounkel made ballots for the council members to vote. Arp voted via text message. In a vote of 2-1 Brian Sievert was chosen to fill the vacancy on the Jasper City Council. Sievert will be sworn in at the March 8, 2022 Council Meeting;

Community Concerns:

The Public Participation and Comment at City Council Meeting sheet was provided. No community members were in attendance. However, the City Office did receive a complaint from a resident regarding a property dispute between the neighboring properties. Some discussion regarding this occurred but the city is to not get involved due to it being a property dispute between neighbors;

Motion by Lape, second by Leslie to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2022 Council Meeting, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the January claims to date: Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co, PLLP, Audit for City, \$6,450.00; Pipestone County Sheriff, 2022 Contracted Services, \$38,840.00; Visa, Welder for Shop/Office Supplies, \$3,301.14; WillyGoat, LLC, Playground Equipment (Bouncers x2), \$1,891.00; Further, 2022 VEBA Contributions, \$2,400.00; Motion by Lape, second Arp to approve the January claims to date, all ayes, carried;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Receipts noted in January: Ludolph Bus Service, Jan, Feb, March 2022 Rent, \$900.00; Jasper Town Homes, P/C Insurance, \$6,992.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

A brief discussion regarding the delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts occurred. Sixteen properties were on the list. All will be receiving disconnection notices if not paid by February 20, 2022;

Wellness Center/QCC: A. Garcia will be completing all of the required maintenance and cleaning at the Wellness Center. Kounkel & Erickson obtained pricing from area fitness centers. Most fitness centers in the area offer other amenities that the Jasper Wellness Center does not provide. Other amenities include gymnasiums, showers, tanning beds, pools, saunas, etc. Considering that the Jasper Wellness Center charges close to the other fitness centers it was proposed to drop the fee to \$15.00 per month with members 65 and over receiving a monthly fee of \$10.00. Motion by Lape, second by Leslie to change the monthly membership fee to \$15.00 per month per person, \$10 per month for members who are 65 years of age or older, all ayes, motion carried;

NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual Christmas Light sale is on through March 2022. Instead of replacing the Christmas Decorations on Main Street, it was mentioned to continuing adding to the display at the Jasper City Park. Brochures were left for the council to look over before the March meeting;

OLD BUSINESS:

The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water increase notification letter was presented to Council. LPRW has approved an increase in water rates from \$2.82 per thousand gallons to \$2.89 per thousand gallons effective July 1, 2022. The city typically increases our rate when LPRW does. The City of Jasper currently charges \$4.75 per thousand gallons of water. Erickson provided a comparison of water billed versus usage from the last year. Motion by Lape, seconded by Leslie to increase the water rate within the City of Jasper to \$4.82 effective July 1, 2022 which is a \$0.07 increase;

The American Tower Lease Extension which was discussed at the January meeting was again discussed. Kounkel contacted American Tower on behalf of the City of Jasper and request an increase in monthly rent from \$550.00 to \$1,000.00 with a 5% increase every year for the next five years. This was denied by American Tower. However, Kounkel received an email from American Tower with a meeting invitation to discuss the proposal. American Tower never attended the meeting. Kounkel will have more information at the March meeting;

The Tax Forfeited property located in Rock County was discussed. According the Rock County Auditor the land will be turned over to the City of Jasper at the Rock County Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The trailer house located on the property is required to be moved off the lot by March 1, 2022. If the trailer house is not removed from the property by the specified date, the trailer will also be forfeited;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

No land use permits issued in the month of January;

A Public Hearing regarding relining sewer lines within the City of Jasper will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Thode recently received a flyer regarding the relining. We will have to determine how many blocks are required to get a rough estimate. May be required to set up a fund for the next 25 years to help pay for the cost of relining the sewers;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Three members will be appointed to the Planning Commission at the March 2022 Meeting;

Kounkel informed the council that the Prairie Rose Community Fund Grant is open until March 25, 2022. Kounkel and Erickson will be applying on the city's behalf to place benches and a drinking fountain at the City Park;


Some discussion regarding the damaged Frontier Pods located around the city was discussed. Erickson drafted a letter to Frontier requesting that the pod boxes be repaired. Frontier Communications has not responded to the letter and have not fixed any pods around town;

The American Rescue Act funds could be used for the sewer relining to help offset the cost. Thode would also like to see concrete garbage containers placed on Main Street;

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Lape motioned to adjourn, Leslie seconded. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.;



Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Baustian, Mayor