

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 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; Newly Appointed Council member: Brian Sievert; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; 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;

Kounkel delivered the Oath of Office to Brian Sievert filling the Council Vacancy of Trinidad Garcia for the remainder of 2022;

Community Concerns: No community members were in attendance;

Motion by Lape, second by Arp to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2022 Council Meeting, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the March claims to date: Uline, Conference Chairs, Storage Cabinets, Gloves, \$2,442.44; League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, Worker's Comp Coverage '22-'23, \$8,349.00; Ashley Kurtz Rock Co Treasurer, Verizon Tower Property Taxes, \$958.46, Motion by Lape, second Leslie to approve the March claims to date, all ayes, carried. American Tower will be reimbursing the city for the property taxes. The city will pay the taxes each year and send the reimbursement form to American Tower;

Receipts noted in March: G. Skyberg, Case Super K Tractor, \$7,575.00; Jasper Lions Club, Playground Equipment Shipping, \$285.00; Pipestone Co. Treasurer, Jan. 2022 Distribution, \$3,871.23; The playground equipment was delivered to the City Park. The United Fund also contributed \$61.00 towards the purchase of the playground equipment. A small amount of concrete will be required for the installation of the equipment;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

A brief discussion regarding the delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts occurred. The list is significantly shorter than the previous month;

Wellness Center/QCC: The carbon monoxide pipe on the furnace in the utility room broke. WM Heating & Cooling fixed the issue. Public Works also cleaned the reusable filters in the furnace once they were found. Garcia will be looking into new equipment;

Lisa Houg has applied for a grant to place a fence on the west side of the QCC for her daycare. Houg's grant request was denied. A fence is being requested in order to place playground equipment and a sandbox. Houg did receive a bid of \$2,700.00 which only includes the material. She was hoping volunteers would help install the fence. The question was raised whether Houg would be able to receive a grant if she is occupying a rented facility. Kounkel and Erickson will obtain more information and ask Houg to receive written bids;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Leslie, seconded by Arp to approve the 2022 Committees as revised due to a conflict of interest with Sievert sitting on the Ambulance Board, all ayes, carried;

Notification will go out in the monthly newsletter requesting residents who are interested in sitting on the Planning Commission to contact the City Office. Persons will be appointed at the April council meeting;

The Rural Fire Board has requested assistance with paying for the air packs that were recently purchased by the Fire Department. Motion by Lape, seconded by Sievert to utilize the American Rescue Funds to offset the cost of the air packs, all ayes, Leslie abstained, carried;

The Bylaws of the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department were presented to the council. A member of the association may collect retirement benefits as long as their years of service amount to 10 years, regardless if those years were consecutive. City contributions were also discussed with the council. Motion by Arp, seconded by Sievert to contribute \$2,000.00 in 2022, \$2,100.00 in 2023, \$2,200.00 in 2024, \$2,300.00 in 2025, and \$2,400.00 in 2026, Leslie abstained, all ayes, carried;

Motion by Lape, seconded by Arp to approve employee raises effect January 1, 2022, all ayes, carried;

OLD BUSINESS:

The American Tower Lease Extension which was discussed at previous meetings was again discussed. The agreement will not be completed as of this time until the issue with the property taxes is corrected;

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 was required to be moved off the lot by March 1, 2022 and was not. Therefore, the trailer house is will also be conveyed to the City of Jasper. The Rock/Nobles County Sentence to Serve Program may be able to demolish the trailer home. Bids will be received for the demolition of the structure. A controlled burn may occur if certain studies are completed;

The Annual Christmas Light Sale good through March 2022 was again discussed. No Christmas items will be purchased as of this time. It was mentioned that a local individual makes metal decorations. The City of Hardwick has a tree made by this individual;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

No land use permits issued in the month of February;

Sewer Relining was then discussed. A public hearing was hold held due to a staff member's illness. Thode received bids from DGR Engineering who has completed/will be completing projects in Luverne, MN and Rock Rapids, IA. The bids are from the respective cities. The process costs approximately \$40.00 per foot for an estimate of \$16,000.00 per block. More competitive prices may be coming in a couple years as more contactors offer the service. Thode recommended doing 6 blocks per year. Kounkel will

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create a cost analyst for the next council meeting spreading the sewer relining out over a couple of years;

The snow removal season went well according to Thode. Thode plowed only 3 times this year;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

The Park Equipment donated by Peoples Bank (shipping paid for by the Lions Club) has been delivered. The park equipment is being stored in the park shelter;

Pipestone County forwarded a Resolution showing proposed Overlay plans occurring in Jasper in 2022. Pipestone County will be overlaying County Road 1 (1st Street). The Resolution's approval is required in order for Pipestone County to receive State Aid Funding. Motion by Leslie, seconded by Lape, all ayes, carried;

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 at the City Park; Fire Department for Rescue Augers and Thermal Imaging Cameras;


According to the cities contract with Van Dyke Sanitation, when diesel fuel exceeds \$3.75 a \$1.00 surcharge per cart will be added. The \$1.00 DFS will be added to next month's billing. This will also be revisited at the April meeting;

FYI: 2022 Open Book and Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting Notice for the City of Jasper were included. It will be held on April 1, 2022 at the Pipestone County Court House;


Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Lape motioned to adjourn, Arp seconded. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.;



Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Baustian, Mayor