

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 12, 2022;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on Tuesday, June 12, 2022. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Kim Lape, Dee Arp, Brian Sievert and Jeff Leslie; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel, Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Community Members: Luke Sievert, Dale McClure, Deb Plahn, Kim Drew, Doug Nagel, Paul Krapf, Trinidad Garcia, Stella Lingen; Absent: Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson;

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

The City of Jasper held a Public Hearing regarding setting up a sewer maintenance fund in order to reline the clay sewer pipes located within the community. Every resident in Jasper received a notice regarding the public hearing. However, there was a misprint regarding whether the fee was \$14.00 per month or year. The fee is \$14.00 a month per resident. Thode explained the process to the Council and community members present that the current sewer pipes will be relined; manhole to manhole without having to dig up the streets to complete the project. The existing sewer pipes will be cleaned from manhole to manhole prior to relining. The contractor will dip a cloth like material in very cold resin. Once the cloth is damp, the cloth will be blown into the sewer lines expanding the cloth to same size as the existing pipes. The cloth then forms as the new pipe which molds hard like PVC. Tree roots are not able to penetrate the lining. Any existing tree roots will be removed with the root cutter prior to infiltrating the existing sewer line. Holes will be cut into the pipe to eventually complete the same project with service lines. Two videos were shown to the Council and attending community members. The 1st video was displayed by error. The 2nd video explained the process of relining the sewers and provided information pertinent to the project. Community members expressed frustration due to the city not having considered this years prior when the previous sewer debt was paid off. The previous sewer debt was bonded out and residents paid an extra \$16.00 per month. Thode mentioned that doing it the proposed way would eliminate hiring an engineer which would save money. Community members would rather have it done all at once versus piece by piece. Questions were raised why the City has not looked into other financing options. McClure would rather see the debt bonded out over 15 to 20 years so the entire sewer system can be relined at one time. With the current proposal, the City would only be allowed to do a couple blocks per year once enough funds are generated to begin the project. McClure questioned whether the \$14.00 per month fee would be increased every year due to supply and demand. Thode informed McClure that more and more contractors are doing this type of work; therefore, he has seen the price drop over the years. More information will be shared at the July Council Meeting as other financing options will be considered;

Community Concerns:

The inspection report for Stonewall Bar & Grill was presented for the Council to review as 1 year has passed. Per the architecture assessment, the buildings lifespan in its current condition was 1-2 years. Kiley Mills, Stonewall Bar & Grill owner, was asked to attend the June meeting to update the Council on the condition of the bar in its current state. Mills was unable to attend the meeting. She will attend the July Council Meeting;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Doug Nagel is running for District 2 County Commissioner. He was present to introduce himself to the Council. Nagel has been a Pipestone County resident for 47 years and lived in the same home located between Pipestone and Ihlen for the past 38 years. Nagel recently retired from the Pipestone County Highway Department as the Road & Bridge Superintendent. Under this position, Nagel supervised 13 employees, worked closely with the County Engineer, received FEMA funding as well as MN Disaster Funds for 7 major floods within the County. Nagel also has a great relationship with MnDOT as well as most county department heads. Nagel is familiar with County system. Once Nagel found out that Les Nath was no longer running for County Commissioner; it peaked his interest. Nagel reminded the Council of the Primary Election on August 9 and would appreciate support from the Council;

Kim Drew who is also running for District 2 County Commissioner was present to introduce herself to the Council. Drew has lived in Pipestone County her entire life. She has spent the last 39 years as a resident of Jasper. Drew started her career out lifeguarding at the Pipestone Pool. She completed her nursing degree and worked as the ER Trauma Coordinator for Pipestone County Medical Center for 33 years. Drew recently retired to venture into traveling nursing. Drew is running for County Commissioner due to encouragement from the public. Drew's main goal with running for County Commissioner is to represent everyone in our District and have their voices and concerns heard;

Stella Lingen was present to address the council regarding water running down the curb and gutter which is accumulating in her yard. DGR Engineering engineered the dip. The rain water runs down the south side of the road and up Lingen's driveway. In previous years, the alley located behind her house was an issue. With the installation of a grate, the issue in the alley was resolved. Lingen requested to install a berm or place retaining walls near the curb to defer it from pooling in her yard;

Luke Sievert was present to ask the Council permission to join the Jasper Wellness Center. Sievert is under the age of 18. Sievert was allowed to obtain a membership with Councils permission;

Motion by Lape, second by Leslie to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022 Council Meeting, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the May claims to date: Uline, Dog Waste Stations (3), Garbage Cans (2), \$3,279.58; Rieck Plumbing & Heating, ESB-Water Heater, \$832.93; Municipal Emergency Services, Thermal Cameras (4), Charging Station, \$2,964.96 (Reimbursable-Prairie Rose Grant); Sunnyside Gardens, Spring Snow Crab Trees (6), Prairie Rose Fire Trees (4), \$1,699.90; Display Sales, Flags, \$815.00; Berkley Risk Administrators, LMCIT Claim, \$500.00. The evergreens at the cemetery will be taken down and the ornamental trees that received damage from the deer will be replaced. Motion by Arp, seconded by Lape to approve the May claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted in May: Pipestone Co. Treasurer, 2022 Fire Appropriation, \$780.00; Pipestone Co. Treasurer, 2022 Ambulance Appropriation, \$4,000.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

A brief discussion regarding the delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts occurred;

Wellness Center/QCC: The fence for the daycare has been ordered by Hougs. Jandl Construction is working on replacing the overheard windows in the dining hall to prevent future leaks. The League of

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MN Cities Insurance will be doing an assessment of the QCC Roof due to a claim being submitted after recent storms;

Property Nuisance letters were sent out over the past month. Speaking with the residents directly has shown results and efforts made by the residents to clean up their properties. The City is offering each resident the resources available to help with the cleanup. Kounkel has requested additional time with some properties as she will be knocking on their door and personally giving them options on how to clean up their property without getting the City or Courts involved;

VanDyke Sanitation has again asked for a \$1.00 increase for the Diesel Fuel Surcharge. With the price of diesel over \$5.00, per the contract we could add another \$1.00 making the surcharge \$2.00 per residential household. Motion by Lape, seconded by Arp to approve the additional \$1.00 diesel fuel surcharge, charging \$2.00 per month per residential household, all ayes, carried;

Trinidad Garcia was present at the meeting to remind the Council of the Luverne Area Community Foundation (LACF). Garcia was a member of the Council in September 2022 when Emily Crabtree visited with the Council regarding the Foundation. Garcia felt that the potential funding was lost in the shuffle of everything else going on within the City. Garcia reminded the Council that all monies donated to the LACF directed towards Jasper will be matched and used within the community. Since mailing out the brochures last fall, 6 residents have donated around \$600. The funds will not be turned over to the city until a \$5,000 goal is reached. Garcia mentioned that the ballfield playground has been forgotten over the years. Most of the equipment is from the former Jasper School and is in dire need of replacement. Garcia would like to promote the LACF in order to replace the park equipment at the ballfields. If funds were not designated towards the ballfield playground, then what is another need for the community? Council member Arp mentioned that benches would be ideal in the ballfield area for people who walk. Notice will be placed in the newspaper, possibly the radio and newsletters explaining the program and how the City of Jasper could benefit from peoples donations. If enough ideas are presented to the city, council will make the decision on where the funds should be donated;

Dale McClure stayed present at the meeting to discuss dust control at the ballfields. Many vehicles and all-terrain vehicles use the ballfield gravel road as a shortcut to get onto the county's gravel road. Dust has been a constant issue. The Council mentioned blocking off the entire driveway with snow fencing from the ballfield entrance to defer people from using the road. Discussion then led to other ways people will get into the ballfields or yard waste site. Calcium Chloride, made of soy oil, is typically used to help defer dust. The product does not dry but does help keep the dust at bay. Thode will check on pricing on Calcium Chloride and present at the next meeting for approval;

Recently, the tetherball rope and ball were vandalized at the City Park. With the way the cameras are placed, motion was not captured of the incident. Kounkel requested to place a camera on the Caisson building located on the NW corner of the park. A booster or relay will be required to get serve to the cameras in that area. Kounkel will speak with the camera technicians to find a resolution to place cameras on the NW side of the park;

The Quartziter Club has requested permission to block off some streets during Quarry Days July 22-24. Neither the county road nor State Highways will be blocked;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The State Demographer 2021 Population and Household Estimate were presented to the Council for informational purposes;

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance claims for recent hail damage was turned into the League of MN Cities. We are currently waiting for the insurance assessor to visit the community and inspect all city owned buildings;

OLD BUSINESS:

The City is still waiting for the Deed to the property located in Rock County that was recently obtained due to fax forfeiture. Once the Deed is received, a sealed bid notice will go into the newspaper for the sale of the garage;

Fall Clean-Up Days were again discussed during the meeting. Kounkel visited with VanDyke regarding the proposal to have an on-the-curb pickup option in the fall. VanDyke stated that the City of Pipestone also does a curb-side pickup and another one where residents bring their items to a designated location. According to VanDyke, residents will hoard all of their junk items until the curb side pickup date. VanDyke is fine with either way the city chooses. The issue will be revisited at the July meeting;

The City of Jasper turned in insurance claims for recent hail damage to City owned buildings. The League of MN Cities will send down an assessor when they have time, approximately 2-3 weeks out;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

The following land use permits were issued in May: -Butch Evink, 500 Robert Avenue North, Build Garage & Install Privacy Fence; Luis Barboza, 300 8th Street East, Build Wood Deck; Bob Bell, 104 Greenwood Ave, Install Wooden Steps; Sarah Warren, 408 6th Street East, Install Fencing in Backyard; Shannon Kuyper, 215 Dean Ave, Move-in chicken coop;

Thode mentioned that some residents who receive lawn mowing notices are not adequately completing the task and leaving tall weeds. Per the Council, if the lawn is not mowed and weeds removed, that the city completes the task after the 1st notice was given;

Olsen Electric will be removing the old electrical poles at the ballfields in July;

Thode mentioned that the water tower inspection was completed yesterday. The tower is filling up with water now;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

FYI: Summer Lunch Program June 13 – August 4 at Jasper City Park;

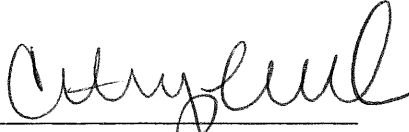
Swimming Lessons July 11-July 21;

Upcoming Meetings:

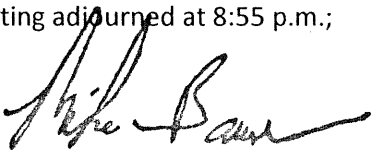
Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.;

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Lape motioned to adjourn, Arp seconded. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.;



Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Baustian, Mayor