

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 13, 2022

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Kim Lape, Dee Arp, Brian Sievert and Jeff Leslie; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson, Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Community Members: Dale McClure, Tim Houg, Karrie & Mya Johnson, Don and Deb Plahn, Sam & Chris Harris;

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

Community Concerns:

Hunter Robinson, DSI Representative was present to update the Council on the Home Improvement Grants. The City of Jasper was awarded \$667,991 to complete 16 home improvements. Each home is awarded up to \$25,000. No rental homes or commercial properties are included in this grant. The grant window closes September 30, 2023. Three homes are waiting on the Tier II Environmental Review. That review includes studies on endangered species, hazardous elements and the State Historic Preservation Committee. Before the Covid pandemic, studies were usually completed within 4-6 weeks. The review is now taking approximately 8-9 months due to the State employees working from different locations. All 5 of the employees need to sign off on the review so it is taking longer than expected. The lack of lead certified contractors as well as basic contractors availability in the area has also been an issue. DSI has enlisted 2 contractors to focus solely on the home improvements in Jasper. James Lozinski Construction out of Marshall and DK Construction out of Lake Benton will be submitting bids over the next couple months. Questions were raised whether the timeline could be met. Robinson explained that if bids are not received between June and August 2023, an extension through the State will be requested. There are no penalties for asking for the extension. State Representatives will allow a 1 year extension. After that, no more extensions will be granted. Any projects started as of the time of expiration will still be fully committed to financing as they are considered under contract. Any funding not used will either come back to the City or to the State of Minnesota. Robinson questioned whether the City would like to take on the financing of writing the checks to the contractors or if the City would like DSI to complete the task. DSI will complete the task;

Sam and Chris Harris were present regarding a notice from the City Office regarding 2 ducks on their property which is zoned residential. Ducks are not permitted in this area. Kounkel sent a notice to Harris' requesting the removal of the ducks. The Harris's are requesting permission to keep the ducks. The couple informed the Council that the ducks are kenneled in a 4' by 4' dog cage in their backyard. They do not attack, stay on the property, allow people to pet and hold them. The Harris's are raising the ducks as pets, not to consume. Harris's believe this should be permitted as cows are pastured across the road from their house. Councilmember Arp stated that since the ducks are described as pets, that the Harris's should be allowed to keep them. This may be opening the door to the potential of having other non-permitted animals in areas zoned as residential. The Council would like to consider rewriting the ordinance regarding animals in areas zoned as residential. This conversation will be continued at the October Council Meeting;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Maya and Karrie Johnson were present to request permission for Maya, 13 years old, to obtain her own membership to the Jasper Wellness Center. Permission granted;

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

Motion by Arp, second by Sievert to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2022 Budget Meeting, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the August claims to date: Jandl Construction, Concrete for Pickle ball Court, Playground Equip, \$450.00; Fuller Paving, Pave Alleys/Mill/Patch Work, \$19,635.00; Jim Roggenbuck, Removal of Tree, Stump, \$1,050.00; Jasper Soy, Calcium Chloride Flakes, \$962.88; Ludolph Bus Service, Swimming Lesson Transport, \$1,028.70; Pipestone Medical Group, Fire Dept. Physicals, \$1,142.00; Team Laboratory Chemical, Weed Killer/Wasp Spray, \$2,152.50; League of MN Cities, Property/Casualty Coverage 22-23, \$36,810.00;; Motion by Lape, seconded by Arp to approve the August claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted in August: Jasper Rural Fire Truck, ½ ESB Share, \$6,349.00; R. Quissell, Fence at QCC, \$1,000.00. The fence materials for the QCC have been purchased. The area inside the fence will remain grass and the Houg's will mow the area;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

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

Wellness Center/QCC: Angel Garcia would like to replace some of the equipment at the Wellness Center. He will be present at the October meeting with requested items and prices;

NEW BUSINESS:

The City of Jasper has elected to appoint a new City Attorney. Damain Sandy will be contacted for basic legal advice. If the City of Jasper has a larger case, he will refer us to Travis and Kayla Smith out of Slayton. Motion by Lape, seconded by Arp to appoint Damain Sandy as the Jasper City Attorney with larger cases to the law firm from Slayton, all ayes, carried;

The Handheld Meter Reader currently being used by the City of Jasper is approximately 13 years old. After recent issues with the reader, it was discovered that parts are obsolete. A new meter reader will cost approximately \$3,400.00. The new readers are cheaper and more user friendly. The replacement of the meter reader will work with the current meters in resident's homes so they will not be affected. Motion by Leslie, seconded by Lape to purchase a new Handheld Meter Reader, all ayes, carried.

Motion by Lape, seconded by Sievert to approve the MN BCA Joint Powers Agreement with Resolution 22-256, all ayes, carried;

OLD BUSINESS:

The Replacement of the Jasper Letters at the Boy Scout Display was discussed. Deb Plahn, Lions Club Secretary stated that the Jasper Lions Club would be willing to donate to this cause;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation – Max Your Community was again discussed. Ideas received at the City Office were as follows:

- Daktronics Sign;
- Ballfield Park Equipment;
- Ballfield Benches;
- Lighting for Basketball/Volleyball Court at City Park;
- Splash Pad on East Side of Park;

The splash pad was discussed briefly amongst residents and Council. Dale McClure stated that Beaver Creek installed a splash pad for \$120,000.00 which doesn't include the day-to-day maintenance and this option should not be considered;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permits issued in August are as follows: Abigail Drake, 126 6th St W, Install Portable Shelter; Phillip Waldron, 109 4th St E, Add to Wood Deck; David Smith, 511 4th St W, Erect Carport;

Thode informed the Council that the street sweeper has an oil leak and the hydraulic transmission is leaking out of the control. The City has owned the sweeper for 16-17 years. Sanitation Products has been contacted. It will cost \$6,500.00 or more to fix the machine but they are currently booked out for 2 months;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

City Wide Clean-Up has been scheduled for Saturday September 24 from 8a-2p;

Councilmember Lape mentioned that she has received complaints concerning the dust control at the ballfields. Thode explained that the product used was 3 times cheaper than other companies and was a trial basis. Placing a fence prohibiting residents from using the gravel drive was again discussed. The possibility of black topping the road was also discussed. McClure who lives next to the ballfields stated that a stop sign should be placed at the entrance of the gate for people leaving the ball diamonds. He also requested a stop sign be placed on 2nd Street and Roberts Avenue intersection. Motion by Lape, seconded by Leslie to approve the placement of the stop signs as discussed above;

The League of MN Insurance Trust will be completing a Slip, Trip and Fall Assessment at their upcoming visit on September 21, 2022;

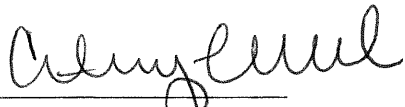
McClure was in attendance regarding the Council's decision to increase the levy by 26%. According to the McClure, this was excessive due to wages and other increases. It was explained that the proposed levy can always be decreased before the end of the year. This will be revisited at the meeting in December where the final levy will be approved;

Upcoming Meetings:

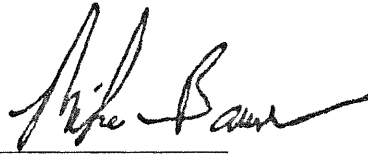
Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

Lape motioned to adjourn, Arp seconded. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.;

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.



Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.