

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 20, 2022 (Rescheduled from December 13, 2021 due to inclement weather conditions)

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on Tuesday, December 20, 2022. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Kim Lape and Brian Sievert; Council members Dee Arp and Jeff Leslie – Absent; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson, Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Community Members: Tim Houg, Deb Plahn, Kyley Mills, Jerry Tower and Amanda Rouzer;

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

Community Concerns:

Kyley Mills, Stonewall Bar & Grill owner was present because of the recent invite from Council members regarding the renewal of her Liquor License for 2023. Discussions regarding her license at previous Council meetings occurred because the structural assessment for the building deemed it safe until May 2023. Questions were raised whether the liquor license should be issued for the year or only until May 2023 and whether another architectural assessment should be obtained. Mills informed the Council that if the building wasn't safe, she would not allow patrons in. Kounkel raised questions whether Mills would have to pay additional fees to the State of Minnesota if the license was only issued for a couple months. Would Mills have to obtain another background check or have to pay another fee for her buyer's card? Mills stated that she will receive another assessment in May 2023. Motion by Lape, seconded by Sievert to approve the 2023 Liquor License for Stonewall Bar & Grill from the period of February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024 with another structural assessment being obtained in May 2023, all ayes, carried;

Chef Omar Thornton from Adina Place requested to be placed on the agenda to ask for a Wine/Setup License. Thornton was not in attendance as Adina Place has recently closed their doors to all business ventures. Baustian stated another 16 nursing homes in the State of South Dakota recently closed;

Jerry Tower who sat on the Planning Commission in previous years had requested to be placed on the agenda as he feels the current City of Jasper Building & Zoning Ordinance requires updating. Tower mentioned that shouses and shops should be able to be constructed within City limits without having to obtain a variance. Tower believes that shops should be able to be built on bare lots. Tower also mentioned that businesses in town should adhere to the same guidelines of residential properties in maintaining the amount of junk that is stored on the property. If items cannot be stored in an enclosed building; an 8 foot fence should be erected. Tower also mentioned that he contacted MN Department of Health regarding varmints entering and exiting a house located on 8th Street. The MN Department of Health did not see any evidence of varmints in the area. Kounkel and Erickson will speak with the person overseeing the house and ask if volunteers could help clean up the wood pile near the rear of the property. This person has been very thankful for the volunteers who have previously gone and cleaned up the property. Tower also asked if the City

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

could clean the open area located at the intersection of Hwy 23 & Wall Street so semis can park in the area. Tower was informed that the property belongs to BNSF not the City of Jasper;

Amanda Rouzer was to address the Council regarding the truck parking area. Rouzer stated that many of her family members drive semis for a living. They are having a hard time getting into the truck parking area due to other residents using the lot as storage for items not being used in the winter months. Rouzer drafted a map to request the addition of a driveway on the South side of the truck parking area. Rouzer would also like to see the plug in's repositioned as it would be easier for the drivers to plug in during the winter months. The Jasper City Council will look over Rouzer's plans over the winter months and get something planned for the spring;

Rouzer also requested placement of stop signs near the intersections of 2nd Street and Poorbaugh Avenue. Rouzer stated that it is the only intersection on 2nd Street that is not controlled by stop signs. With the installation of stop signs at the t-intersection of the ballfields and Roberts Avenue, Rouzer believes the signs should have been placed at a different intersection, such as the one she mentioned. This request will be looked into by Council members;

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

Motion by Sievert, second by Lape to approve the minutes from the Special meeting of the Canvassing of Votes on November 15, 2022, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the November claims to date: Ambulance Payroll (Annual), \$12,505.50; Fire Department Payroll (Annual), \$9,406.49; Peoples Bank, Cash for WC Machine-FB Marketplace, \$450.00; Big Top Tent Rentals, Port-a-Pots at Ballfields and Campground, \$1,068.75; Newman Signs, Stop Signs, \$641.36; Hydro Tech Service, Lift Service at Sewer Lift Station, \$750.00; League of MN Cities, Workers Comp Audit, \$5,441.00; Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co. PLLP, Audit, \$6,850.00; League of MN Cities, 2023 Workers Comp, \$8,349.00; Stryker, Amb Lucas, Batteries and Power Supply, \$11,224.55 (Prairie Rose Grant Reimb); Motion by Lape, seconded by Sievert to approve the November claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted in November: Jasper Lions Club, Softball Field Upkeep, \$400.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

A brief discussion regarding the delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage accounts occurred. Resolution 22-313B Pipestone County assessing all delinquent sewer, water, garbage, property maintenance to the 2023 Payable Taxes was sent to the Pipestone County Auditor on November 30, 2022. A total amount of \$8,390.40 was assessed to the 2023 Payable Property Taxes. This includes \$337.50 for snow removal charges and \$495.00 for mowing and other property maintenance duties. Rock County did not have any delinquent accounts;

Wellness Center/QCC: Tammy Grubbs has requested to rent a classroom at the QCC for painting classes. Angel Garcia mentioned that a door would have to be installed in order to keep the daycare area secure. Kounkel informed the Council that Grubbs was also informed of Adina Place and Bauman Hall as potential rentals. The Council then mentioned that ELC Church may have some rooms for rent or that the JDC should be approached about the clinic building. Kounkel will inform Grubbs that the QCC room will not be available for rental as the daycare area needs to be secured;

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NEW BUSINESS:

The final Property Tax Levy for the 2023 Taxes was discussed. Previously, the City of Jasper had proposed a 26% increase in taxes. One resident voiced their concerns over this at a previous Council Meeting. No other residents have been in attendance; however, the City Office has received numerous calls regarding the increase. Kounkel proposes that the Council increase the levy by 7% due to the average inflation being 7-8%. The reason the Jasper City Council originally proposed a 26% increase is because they always want to start high as the preliminary levy can always go down, never up. Motion by Lape, second by Sievert to approve the 7% increase to the 2023 Property Taxes Payable, all ayes, carried;

OLD BUSINESS:

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 City of Pipestone is replacing their Daktronics Sign at the corner of Hwy. 23, 30 & 75 intersections. Kounkel contacted the City of Pipestone regarding whether they would be interested in selling the sign. According to the City of Pipestone, they are replacing the sign as Daktronics can no longer get parts for the sign. The sign

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Land would be unbeneficial to the City of Jasper if parts cannot be ordered; use permits issued in November: Jim Baustian, 209 3rd Street West, Deck & Ramp;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Extra Council Hours need to be turned into the City Office by Wednesday, December 21, 2022;

The City has received many, many compliments regarding the outdoor Christmas lighting;

27 residents participated in the Holiday Lighting Contest;

Rouzer mentioned that the City of Jasper should do a yard of the month to encourage individuals to clean up their properties. Kounkel mentioned that Maggie Erickson came up with the idea to use Memorial Hall for a community bean bag tournament or for a cooking competition. This would be done as a winter boredom buster;

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting & Final Levy: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Lape motioned to adjourn, Sievert seconded. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 7:56 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.