

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting –February 9, 2021;

In accordance with the requirements of Minn. Stat, Section 13D.021, Mike Baustian, the Mayor, has determined that an in person meeting is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under Chapter 12 of the Minnesota Statutes;

Because of the emergency declaration it has been determined that attendance at the regular meeting location by members of the public is not feasible. Therefore, some or all of the City Council members may be participating by telephone or other electronic means;

Members of the public were invited to monitor the meeting via invitation or were invited to attend in person;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met via in-person/phone/video conference in said city on February 9, 2021. Council members physically present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Jeff Leslie, Trinidad Garcia and Kim Lape; Council members attending via electronic means:, Dee Arp; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal via phone conference; Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson-Absent; Community Members: Amanda Rouzer, Karen DeSchepper & Todd Drake;

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

Community Concerns:

Amanda Rouzer was present to address the council regarding offering personal training at the Jasper Wellness Center. Rouzer stated that she has been approached by Wellness Center members to offer consultations on how to properly use the machines and to give a general tour of the facility. Rouzer states that she lives across the street from the Wellness Center so training there would be ideal. According to Rouzer, she is currently providing personal training services at the Ewert Center and Anytime Fitness. Rouzer stated that having a personal training at fitness centers help retain memberships. As previously discussed with Rouzer and the council, insurance should not be an issue for Rouzer to obtain as she would also have members sign a release of liability clause to defer her or the Wellness Center from getting sued if a member was to get hurt. Rouzer asked the council for a members list so she could independently contact them to provide personal training services. Baustian informed Rouzer that this would be a privacy concern as some members may not want their information shared. It was recommended that she could make flyers to be placed at the Wellness Center and members could contact her. Rouzer also stated that all new members would receive a free consultation from her but the city would be expected to pay her \$10 per consultation. Kounkel informed Rouzer that we have never previously paid any one for providing services at the Wellness Center. Previously, a personal trainer from the Pipestone County Medical Center was doing private training with a few members. This personal trainer was required to provide insurance, a membership and the members who utilized him paid him directly. Nothing was paid out from the city. Rouzer then questioned why the City of Jasper would require her to obtain insurance when she is currently doing personal training at the Ewert Center in Pipestone, which is also municipally owned. Kounkel informed Rouzer that all private contractors

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

(which she would be considered) are required to hold this type of insurance. Garcia informed Rouzer that the Wellness Center is not the cities sold source of income, therefore, paying someone out would not be feasible. Kounkel will check in with the cities insurance provider and also visit with the Ewert Center and Anytime Fitness about their requirements for personal trainers;

Todd Drake was present to address the council regarding a letter his sister-in-law received due to the placement of a chicken coop in West Jasper. Drake is the owner of the chicken coop but not the owner of the property. Kounkel sent a letter out in December detailing that a building permit would be required for the chicken coop, a fine issued for not obtaining the building permit prior to the installation and verbiage from the Zoning Ordinance detailing that the chicken coop is not placed in accordance to the ordinance. According to Drake, he was not aware that a building permit would be required for the chicken coop. Drake stated that he does construction for a living but figured since the building was prebuilt that a permit was not required. He stated that the coop is 27' from the side road while the fence is 17' from the same side road. The coop is approximately 3' past where the primary building (house) is. Drake questioned why the corner intersections regulations are the same for the front and side yards. He also stated that there are other buildings in the neighborhood that are not in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance. Thode did not have the Zoning Ordinance readily available so Drake was asked to come back to the March 9, 2021 council meeting;

Motion by Leslie, second by Garcia to approve the minutes from the Meeting on January 12, 2021, all ayes, carried;

Review and approve the January claims to date: Erik Skogquist, Local Assessing Services (1 of 2), \$4,000.00; Nordic Solar HoldCo, LLC, Geronimo Energy Contract, \$3,807.24; League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, Worker's Comp Coverage 2-9-21 to 2-9-22, \$8,599.00; Ninety-Four Services, Inc., 2021 Ford E450 Life Line Superliner Ambulance, \$216,593.00; G&S Body Shop, Repairs on Amb, \$3,004.66; Motorola Solutions, Amb Handheld Radios, \$6,426.00; Pipestone Co. Sheriff's Office, 2021 Contracted Services, \$37,347.00; C&B Operations, LLC, John Deere Loader 324L, \$94,378.68;; Motion by Arp, second by Leslie to approve the January claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted: Prairie Rose MN Community Fund, Amb Grant Reimb, \$2,062.00; Prairie Rose MN Community Fund, Fire Dept. Grant Reimb, \$7,229.85; Bayer Fund, Amb & Fire Donation, \$2,500.00; Bayer Fund, Fire Donation, \$2,500.00; League of MN Cities, Insurance Claim Reimb, \$2,504.66; Peoples Bank, Transfer in from MM, \$300,000.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

Discussion regarding the delinquent report occurred. Disconnection notices were sent out to accounts listed on the bottom of the delinquent report;

Wellness Center/QCC: It was suggested to place a concrete pad on the South Side of the QCC near the entrance for the daycare. The area has got a large amount of ice and ice melt has killed the grass. All daycare parents have been issued a card for the front entrance to defer them from parking in the alleyway. This discussion will be tabled until spring when the weather warms up;

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The Wellness Center has approximately 70 members currently. Currently, Angel Garcia is available for any member who is curious about the operation of machines. His phone number is posted near the entrance of the Wellness Center. A. Garcia is not compensated for this therefore insurance is not required;

NEW BUSINESS:

The City of Jasper would like to commemorate Jim and Pat Dreesen for monetary donations made to the City of Jasper for various projects around the community. The Dreesen's did not want to be recognized for their generosity. Unfortunately, both have passed away within the past 6 months. Kounkel visited with their next of kin and asked if the city could commemorate them for their many donations. The next of kin said the idea was acceptable. Plaques will be placed at the City Office, Emergency Services Building and at the Quartziter Community Center;

Stonewall Bar & Grill has requested to use Memorial Hall on February 26 & 27 for a pool tournament. Bars do have different regulations than private parties. However, the city is not able to ensure that all guidelines pertaining to us will be followed. The request was denied;

Kounkel has requested to close the City Office on Fridays from April 2, 2021 to June 5, 2021 as she will be on maternity leave. Erickson currently has Friday's off. Kounkel informed the council that April 2 is Good Friday so the office is closed regardless. Motion granted to close the city offices on Fridays from April 2, 2021 to June 5, 2021;

OLD BUSINESS:

Employee reviews will have to be scheduled with the council. Arp will need to fill out the evaluation forms. Kounkel will have them ready for her by tomorrow morning. Employee Evals are scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 with the council meeting at 6:30 p.m. followed by individual employees;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Land use permit was issued to Steve Toth, 420 2nd Street East, to remove an old garage and build new;

The Rural Water Meter Pit located on the north end of town will eventually be enclosed in a shed. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water mentioned to Thode that the current pit is rusting and aging. Minnesota Department of Health is recommending that all meter pits be enclosed in a secured area. The cities of Lake Benton and Trosky have already placed their pits in secured areas. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water has agreed to cost share as the price will be close to \$15,000.00. The shed will have a pea rock floor and a barn heater installed;

As discussed at the previous council meeting, Thode has been looking into resurfacing the city streets with a new product called Slurry Seal. The City of Sioux Falls, Hartford, Harrisburg and other communities within South Dakota are current participants who apply the Slurry Seal on their streets. All of the communities seem happy with the product. The Slurry Seal has been known to last about 2 to 3 years longer than the seal we have used in previous years which typically lasts approximately 6 years. This would increase the longevity of the streets. The bids for the other communities will come in on February 25 and this information will be shared with the council at the March meeting;

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The John Deere Tractor was delivered to the city 2 weeks ago. Thode will be using the old bucket and is having the City of Edgerton weld new brackets on so it can be used on the new tractor;

The final street projects through FEMA have been approved. Work will be completed this summer. Thode also visited with Double D regarding the previously repaired streets and why they are sinking;

It was mentioned by Baustian that water lines have been freezing out in West Jasper. Thode has not heard from the residents who commonly have issues with frozen lines. However, once the temperature drops, those residents who have had issues in the past will be contacted and advised to run their water at a trickle;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

The Pipestone County Preliminary Schedule for 2021 Open Book Meetings and the Local Boards of Appeal and Equalization were presented to the council for informational purposes only;

Leslie mentioned that the Jasper Fire Department has been approached by Ryan Riley to join the Department;

Going back to the discussion on the chicken coop, the City Code book does specify that this property would consider the side yard the front yard. Documentation will be provided to Drake as well as the council at the March meeting;

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Leslie motioned to adjourn, Lape second. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor