

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting –June 8, 2021;

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person in said city on June 8, 2021. Council members present: Mayor Mike Baustian, Jeff Leslie, Trinidad Garcia, Kim Lape and Dee Arp; Employees present: Clerk-Treasurer Cortney Kounkel; Public Works Superintendent Brian Thode; Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Maggie Erickson; Pipestone Star's Kyle Kuphal; Planning Commission Members: Jerry Tower & Kurt Jandl; Community Members: Brendyn & Aurora Rouzer, Angel Garcia, Paul Krapf, Todd Drake;

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

Planning Commission members Jerry Tower and Kurt Jandl were in attendance for the public hearing regarding a variance request from Todd Drake. Drake is proposing to build a garage on an empty lot located at 120 6th Street West. The reason for the hearing was to ask for a variance to build an accessory building on a lot that does not contain a primary building. Three neighboring residents were in attendance, all opposed to the variance. Neighbors raised concerns regarding semi-truck traffic, placement of "junk", storing items outside of the garage, increased traffic, etc. One resident mentioned that Drake moved trusses onto the property before the public hearing which left a sour taste in all the neighbors' mouths. Drake informed all residents that he intended on building a garage much like a residential garage, using the same materials as he would with a residential build. Drake also informed the neighbors that he does not own a semi-truck and will not be operating his business out of the property. The garage will just be used to store his pickup truck and trailer which are used for his construction company and do not exceed the weight limit for the city streets. The neighboring residents were still not in agreeance regarding the request as they do not want to see a commercial property located directly between residential properties. Drake informed the neighbors, committee and council that commercial properties are not available for purchase within city limits that he was aware of. Motion by Planning Commission member Jerry Tower to deny the request from Drake to build an accessory building on a property that does not have a primary structure present, seconded by Kurt Jandl. Based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the council denies the request made by Drake. Motion by Leslie, seconded by Lape to deny the variance request from Todd Drake, all ayes, carried;

Mayor Baustian called the regular meeting to order following the public hearing;

Community Concerns:

Keith Eitreim, owner of the Quarry Apartments, was not in attendance regarding cost-sharing the replacement of the apartment/campground driveway;

Motion by Leslie, second by Arp to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2021 Council Meeting;

Review and approve the May claims to date: WM Heating & Cooling, QCC Water Heater, \$658.60; Double D Gravel, Water Leak 412 Hill Street, \$550.00; Benjamin Denton, Legal Services, \$550.00; Double D Gravel, Pea Rock, \$282.87; Old Dominon Brush, Shop Parts, \$442.06; Synthetic Turf Solutions MN, 420

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Sq Ft Turf, \$1,894.75. Motion by Lape, second by Garcia to approve the May claims to date, all ayes, carried;

Receipts noted: Appliance Pickup from Clean-Up Days, \$417.00;

DELINQUENT SEWER/WATER/GARBAGE:

A short discussion regarding the delinquent report occurred;

A resident questioned whether the late charges could be forgiven on his account as he was unaware that the landlord was not paying the bill. Late charges remain on the account per council;

Wellness Center/QCC: Lisa Houg is interested in installing a fence on the West side of the QCC for an area for her daycare children to play. Houg is looking into grants or holding a fundraiser to generate funds needed to install the fence;

NEW BUSINESS:

Kounkel provided the council with the Inspection Report for Stonewall Bar & Grill. Based off of the report, business may continue as usual. Kounkel mentioned that public safety walking or driving down the street is the main issue. Garcia believes that the front entrance should not be used at all. Baustian informed the council that the Jasper Development Corporation is interested in helping Stonewall Bar & Grill get into another facility. The JDC has considered the former bowling alley property for the location of the new bar/restaurant;

Rock County sent a letter detailing that the property located at 121 Spicer Ave S. is up for tax forfeiture. Motion by Lape, second by Arp to obtain the property located at 121 Spicer Ave S. for redevelopment as the current structure is classified as blight, all ayes, carried;

Erickson had posted a property notice on a resident's door asking that the weeds beside their house be sprayed or mowed. The resident then came into the city office and used vulgar language towards Erickson which ultimately made her feel threatened. Kounkel contacted the resident with new guidelines. The resident is only allowed to have verbal contact with Kounkel when she is present in the office Tuesday through Friday. Resident is to not communicate with Erickson. Resident was told about this and agreed that all communication regarding city business will go through Kounkel;

OLD BUSINESS:

The Lion's Club is willing to donate funds towards the placement of the pickle ball court at the tennis courts;

The basketballs for the city park and volleyball nets have been ordered;

The volleyball courts need maintenance. Discussion whether our part-time seasonal employee could do this was held;

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.

Land use permit were issued to Rita DeWitte, 204 6th Street East, for the installation of a chain link fence;

Fuller Paving completed the patch work around town;

The Free Pantry has not been installed yet due to the public works department waiting on paint from Kounkel;

ITEMS ANYONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.;

Arp motioned to adjourn, Lape second. All ayes, regular meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Cortney Kounkel, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Baustian, Mayor

The aforementioned minutes have been drafted for approval.