

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting-January 16, 2024

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

Members present: Mayor Les Nath; Council members: Deb Plahn, Brian Sievert, Tim Houg; Employees present: Trinidad Garcia Clerk/Treasurer, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Maggie Erickson (Not Present); Public Works Superintendent: Brian Thode, Asst Public Works: Angel Garcia

Pipestone Star: Kyle Kupal;

Community members: Butch Evink, Nichole Rieck, Julie Meyer, Kim Drew, Jerry Scholl, Paula Sanow, Peter Luehmann, Kiley Milles, Steve Toth Jr., Kevin Hunstad, Carloserial & Joanncrystal Perez-Garcia

Mayor Les Nath called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance;

Community Input:

- Council Vacant Seat – Council received interest from three residents (Paula Sanow, Leroy (Butch) Evink, & Nichole Rieck) Each Resident submitted to Council a letter of interest and in the Council meeting each individual shared some information about themselves. Council made a motion to appoint the vacant Council seat to Nichole Rieck.
Motioned by: Plahn 1st/ Sievert 2nd. All ayes followed.
- Caroleriel & Joanncrystal Perez-Garcia (minors) – Requested approval from Council to attend the Wellness Center will out the present of their parents to workout for Wrestling. Council granted approval.
Motioned by: Plahn 1st/ Sievert 2nd. All ayes followed.
- Kim Drew – Addressed Council with the request to add cameras at the Emergency Service Building. Kim shared a situation that some Ambulance members encountered at the ESB that if cameras were present, it would have benefitted the safety of our volunteers. Along with adding an additional protection factor to the building for the number of materials and tools present in the building. Jerry Scholl from 3D Security accompanied Kim to present to Council his bid for the ESB for three cameras. Jerry went through the options and recommendations on his bid. He recommends top notch equipment as it is a wiser choice. Equipment has a 5yr warranty. He does have an alternative bid that is used for other area Cities that he supports. Council question if the current lighting will work with the equipment. Jerry explained that his equipment has the ability to capture video in the evening but the lighting will determine if the imaging will be black and white vs in color. Council asked if his equipment can tie into our current equipment. Jerry answered that it would be its own entity. Council asked who would have access to the cameras. Jerry explained that the City would have admin rights and the City would setup access with

logins/passwords and individuals can login in on a pc, smart phone, tablet, etc. Jerry shared the information on a ban on certain cameras that fall under Governmental funding. He mentioned that boxes can be swapped out and actual cameras don't have to be changed. Kim Drew addressed her concern that the lighting is not very good and maybe switching the lighting out to LED's. Public Works shared that the lights have been switched out to LED's. Mayor Nath thanked Jerry and Kim on the information and advised them that Council will discuss this later in the meeting and will follow back up with Kim.

- Steve Toth Jr – Came to address Council regarding the \$2,140 invoice that he received from the City to cover the cost for the street repair on sewer work that was performed by Steve Toth Sr and Steve Toth Jr's home. Steve shared that Roto-Rooter had come out to do some work at his dad's house and the problem had always been from the lot to the City line. The manhole cover was removed and it was full of roots, 4ft up. Steve states that Brian told him that they will dig it up, change connections, and split the cost. Steve received his bill from the City and was told by the City Clerk that he and his dad are responsible for the cost. He explained that his dad is on a fixed income and he already paid for the replacement of the "Y" of \$3K and now will have to incur additional cost. Public Works Sup explained that Double D did the work and said the problem was in the service line and the City has to go by their word. Steve explained how the water backed up in the manhole. Public Works Sup did state that the City jetted out the lines which could have performed a suction which would bring water in the manhole, but if it was an issue neighbors would have had a problem too and they didn't. It was also explained that a 2ft roots were pull out of the service line. Steve said Roto-Rooter chopped up the roots with a trench hole shovel and replace 4ft of pipe. Mayor Nath thanked Steve for coming to the meeting and let him know that Council will discuss and follow back up with him.
- Kevin Hunstad – Shared updates on the project for the Jasper Museum. Working on putting in sister joists to secure the building and talking to a company for the tuck pointing work. Pipestone Museum is working with the group to discuss the arranging of material in the museum and updating information too. Kevin asked Public Works if they have any more items to close off the southside of the museum as it is written in a report to address to eliminate liability to board members.
- Kevin Hunstad – Also shared information on a NL Grant that is offered in Rock County. This may assist the City on city projects. Grant monies is giving out tot EMS type items first. City Clerk will look into this.

Review and approve minutes from: December 12, 2023 Regular Meeting

- Council approved with the correction of the Mayor's name on the TNT minutes.
Motioned by: Plahn 1st/ Sievert 2nd. All ayes followed.

Review and approve December claims and receipts to date.

Motioned by: Houg 1st/ Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed.

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage:

- No Report for the month of December

Wellness Center/QCC:

- QCC Floor project – After reviewing the prep work needed to start the floor project it was identified that the hallway had tiles underneath the carpeting. An additional request was made to Vander Stoep to provide a bid to remove and install new flooring to the hallway and eliminate placing flooring in the furnace room. Council discussed that it would be better to do the whole project at one time to eliminate another project down the road and the need to remove/dispose of the asbestos tiles. Council received a bid to remove/replace the hallway flooring, skim coat the furnace room after removal of tiles, and tiles ordered for the furnace room will be used in the hallway, and the cost of the additional tiles. Council made a motion to move forward with the additional bid of \$7,641.67.

Motioned by: Houg 1st/ Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed

New Business:

- Employee Evaluations – Council discussed dates to meet first and review employee information on January 23, 2024 at 7pm and then meet with employees. It was decided to meet with employees individually on January 30, 2024 at 7pm.
 - City Fee Schedule – Council and City Clerk reviewed and discussed current City fees. Clerk proposed changes on various fee rates. The following rates will be updated:
Peddlers License \$15, Water \$4.87/1000-gal, Sewer will increase with water trialing \$2.00 behind. Rates increase annually in July, eliminated dance rates for hall rental, QCC hall rental \$50, 3.2% malt liquor off sale \$50.00, set-up stays at \$40, copies stay at \$0.25, jetting sewer lines \$150 per hour, dirt \$2.00 5-gal bucket, and snow removal for Jasper Clinic JDC to 150ft. Council agreed to the changes.
- Motioned by: Houg 1st/ Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed**
- Unused Sick time payout for 2023 – Clerk reminded Council of the change to the sick time policy and ask Council to review the payout amounts during Employee Evaluations to finalize to have amounts paid out by the end of the month.

Old Business:

- Liquor Licensing Ordinance Section 4.52(8) – Clerk read to the public the new amended Ordinance 24-01:

Liquor Licensing Ordinance Section 4.52(8) – No license shall be granted for any building within 300 feet of any public elementary or secondary school structure or within 100 feet of any church structure with the exception of the General Business District (B-1).

Mayor Nath asked Council if they had any concerns, Council member Sievert's had a safety concern with children living next door. Mayor Nath addressed that they currently live across the street from the bar and if the Bar relocates it is actually a separate building from the others. Julie Meyer asked to say something and Mayor Nath explained that public comments were addressed at the public hearing. Julie Meyer wanted to address the comments about the kids. Mayor Nath lets Julie speak. Julie shared with Council how she has told kids that the bar is a safe haven. If kids are at the park that they can come to the bar as a safe haven and they will be protected. Council approved Ordinance 24-01.

Motioned by: Plahn 1st/ Houg 2nd. All ayes followed

- Conditional Use request for Stonewall Bar & Grill – Council discussed the next steps for the Bar to move forward with the relocate. A Conditional Use request will need to be filled out and application fee paid. Council member Plahn questioned the renewal of Stonewall Bar & Grill Liquor License that is up for renewal on 01/31/2024. It was shared that the License renewal is for the current establishment and can be transferred to the new establishment if the Conditional Use is approved. Discussion took place amongst Council, Zoning Director, and Clerk as to the requirement to own the location prior to requesting approval on a Conditional Use. Mayor Nath advised Kylie Mills that we will get back to her.
- Camera Bids for the Emergency Service Building and Memory Hall. Council member Sievert shared that he thought the cameras need to all be on one system. Council reviewed the bid requests from 3D Security for 3 cameras at the ESB and Intelli-Pro's bid for ESB for 2 cameras and 2 cameras for the Memorial Hall. Mayor Nath shared that it makes sense to keep cameras all under one company. Council member Plahn shares her thought on the placement of the cameras and coverage for the building. Public Works touches on the need to cover the entrances and feels the lighting is adequate for the building. Council continues to discuss the placement and lighting for the building. Council made a motion to accept the bid request from the City's existing camera provider Intelli-Pro for 2 cameras on the ESB on the SW/NE corners and 2 cameras for the Memorial Hall.

Motioned by: Plahn 1st/ Sievert 2nd. All ayes followed

- Local Board Powers to be Reinstated/Resolution 24-16 – To reinstate the Local Board Powers back to the City of Jasper from the County of Pipestone. In order to meet the full requirements Council will need to have one Council member complete the online training by February 1, 2024. Mayor Nath shared that this will allow the Local Assessor to come to Jasper instead of residents having to go to Pipestone. This request came from residents from the City's TNT/Budget meeting in December 2023. Council approved Resolution 24-16. Plahn will be the City's representative.

Motioned by: Plahn 1st/ Sievert 2nd. All ayes followed

- Rose Dell Township property Swap – The City’s attorney has the paperwork ready for the property swap between the City and Rose Dell Township. After the Clerk talked to Rose Dell, the City was asked to have a lease agreement with Rose Dell to cover the time that they will need to continue to use the current Rose Dell Township building until they have a new property built on the open lot that will be swapped with the City. Rose Dell Township will address in their Council meeting the status of the property and agreement, along with having an Open Hearing meeting to gather feedback from town residents. The Clerk will continue to keep Council informed on this property transaction.

Public works Report:

- No land use permits or sidewalk replacements.
- Dump truck purchased on December 14, 2023. Public Works shared that the truck is in good condition, a few dings, door closes, and they will build some side boards to it in the next few weeks.
- Toth – Public Works and Council discussed the concern that Steve Toth Jr. had with the cost for the street repair for the repair of the sewer lines. Mayor Nath states that a payment plan can be offered for the payment of \$2,140 for Steve Toth Sr. and Steve Toth Jr. Mayor Nath addresses that going forward more pictures need to take place and documented to cover the City. Mayor Nath advised Clerk to follow-up with Toth to offer a payment plan for the year.
- GPS software – Public Works shared that he did some investigating of the GPS software and that GPS tracking is not that accurate and will only get you 10-20ft. He talked to Luverne, Pipestone, Edgerton, and LPRW. City of Luverne uses a GPS tracker for \$12,000 and a metal detector. If MN Rural water information would be added that would be another \$15K-\$16K. City of Edgerton just took their recipe (curb stop) cards and put them in a excel spreadsheet with addresses along with a picture so they can search the sheet to find the curb stop (they gave a sample). Currently the Cities recipe cards are at the pump house. Discussion took place as to what the project would take to put this together. Other suggestions would be to go through an engineering group to update and put the information on a map. More discussion took place on what can be done to update our mapping information. Public Works Sup can help with this project during his down time and we can look at getting a summer intern for the office to assist.
- QCC Floor project – Mayor Nath asked for an update. Clerk shared that VIM in Pipestone will take the rest of the books and dishes that we have. St Leo had interest in the double oven and coffee maker but wanted to take a look at it first. If St. Leo is not interested Theresa Raack had interest for the Hardwick Legion. The Legion has interest in the coffee maker. After project is complete a sit-down meeting will take place to discuss the rental of the QCC and Daycare maintenance. The large double sink will be taken out due to corrosion and the two cabinets on the

side of the sink. If the area is opened up, a table can be placed in the kitchen for feeding the children. The City may need to add more safety features to the kitchen and the area will need to be more maintained to allow for rental of events. The bathrooms will be revamped to be one stall and handicap accessible. Lisa Houg provided a paint sample for the hallway walls and possibly the kitchen in order to paint before the floor project begins.

Additional Items Added to the Agenda:

- Gym equipment – Smith machine on the altar is in need of repair. Asst. Public Works tried to find parts to repair but the parts are too old. He went to Scheels and got pricing for a new machine for \$1,400 with 2yr warranty. It has 6 machines in one and is Commercial duty equipment current machine is residential. New machine has racks to hold weights. This is a highly used machine by members. Council recognizes that the machines in the gym are used and have a life span on them and over time will need repairs and on occasion replacement. Council approved the purchase of the new machine.


Motioned by: Sievert 1st/ Houg 2nd. All ayes followed


- Memorial Hall Rental Liquor Licensing rules – Asst Public Works asked if Council will look into changing or defining the rules for having events in the hall with Liquor. Council advised that more research will be done before a decision can be made.
- Purchase Order Books – Implementing process for Public Works, Ambulance, Fire Dept, to assist with identifying services, repairs, and cost. This will be cross referenced when invoices are received and will assist with budgeting cost.

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Plahn motioned to adjourn, Houg seconded all ayes, carried; regular meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.


Trinidad Garcia Clerk-Treasurer


Les Nath, Mayor