

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting - April 14, 2026

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Monday, April 14, 2026** at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Mayor Kim Lape; Council members: Stacie Smith, Deb Plahn, Tim Houg;

Employees present: City Clerk/Treasurer: Renae Jennings, Deputy Clerk: Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent: Brian Thode; Building and Grounds: Kevin Jennings

Pipestone Star: Kyle Kuphal;

Community members: Cindy Jamison, Katie Walgrave, Vance Walgrave, John Baustian, Jim Baustian, Naomi Drake, Jason Drake

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

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

Removed: None

Added: None

Community Input:

Katie and Vance Walgrave – Katie Walgrave handed out packets to council regarding the proposed quarry that Pipestone County is considering, not within city limits. Katie's family owns the pond (former quarry a century ago) that is near the proposed quarry site. One page showed photos of the location then showed the water runoff for the proposed quarry and that it would eventually go into Split Rock Creek. She said the packet had scientific data encouraged councilmembers to read it at their leisure. Said it is important to council because it is only ¼ mile away from Jasper and the dust that could come from it can have adverse health effects on humans and gardens, aquatic life and soil. Claimed there is proof of it near Hardwick. Said Jasper in the center of the dust radius. Said they would be using dynamite and would work 24/7, including crushing. Said that in the proposal, there is no limit on time for them. Showed a photo of one of their current quarry's emitting dust. Said that the company said that dust would not be a problem, but they have been fined for air quality issues in the past. Said the person from the company told them (at a zoning committee meeting for Pipestone County) to trust him and that dust would not be a problem and that that committee responded by saying they did trust him. She showed another photo of their quarry with dust coming from it. Mayor Lape stated that she did visit a little with Kyle at the zoning office and that she was informed that the city of Jasper has no say or vote in the determination of the proposed quarry and could provide comment, just like everyone else (during public hearings). Katie said that Pipestone County Law states that if a proposed quarry is within 2 miles of a municipality, the municipality must recommend to go forward with the quarry and that they can't say no. Katie said it is in their ordinance and they didn't bother talking to Jasper about it because they (Pipestone County) thought nobody would notice. She then cited the ordinance. Lape said that at the meeting she attended, they were bringing someone in. Katie said they brought in two pieces of paper, which was 2 photos of quarry's that are not theirs. Lape said she also spoke with the city of Holdingford, where the company is based out of and asked about the company. She was told there was never a complaint about the company and they have two locations within their city limits, including one near their city hall. Lape asked when it goes to county commission and Katie said the 28th. Lape asked if council had concerns and said she has a hard time stopping economical growth in Jasper, saying Jasper is used to semi traffic, the current quarry and the elevator. Plahn asked if we were sure they would do their business in town. Katie said that they won't, but maybe they would. She then went on to say that

one issue they have is if the mining operation drained their own pond, which she was told by a hydrologist from DNR that it will most likely happen, what would their resale value be. Katie said that other people in the area asked what the company would do if their wells were damaged by it. She asked council if anyone would consider purchasing a house right next to a quarry or if they felt it could be kind of stressful. One person from the audience said no. Renae Jennings suggested comparing the homes that are next to the quarry already in Jasper. Plahn said that quarry didn't go 24 hours a day. Katie showed evidence of a Facebook post from the company bragging that they because they are limited to sometimes 35 weeks, they find it efficient to run plants 24/7. Katie said they have friends ½ a mile from the quarry in Hardwick whose property is constantly covered in dust from that quarry. Claims there is no conditions imposed about the dust, with the exception of water being on the crusher itself. Vance stated that quartzite is carcinogenic in the air and that it is toxic until it hits the ground. Katie stated that the quarry in Jasper already does not crush or haul crushed quartzite. Cindy Jamison said that her father ran the Jasper quarry for many years and that while they do not crush, they ground the rock in a big tube and then MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration) came in. She said her father created a collecting device to temp down the dust. She suggested that if they are sincerely concerned about it that they need to include MSHA. Katie said DNR told them they have a free service in MN that they can do to do a water test to see where the water flows and see if wells are protected. Lape said that she doesn't feel they will get the information they need before the next commission meeting on the 28th. Katie claimed that there is a reason for that. Vance claimed that they are "jamming it through real fast." He continued and said that DNR asked if they had drilled any holes and that the mining company said not and that they did not plan to. Claimed the company turned down DNR multiple times when offered to drill holes for free. Plahn said the first mistake is that Pipestone County did not come to the city. Katie claimed the reason was because they wanted to smash it through and not bother with it. Vance claimed they did not put notices in the paper. Lape said that we will have to follow up and see what our next steps are. Plahn said she is personally not keen on the idea and said there are older people in town that it will affect them. Lape said she would like to know if LG Everest is truly crushing or not because she has heard different things. R. Jennings said she would email Chris Kein about it. Vance said that if that quarry opens up there, we will have them forever, but he could leave at any time because they do not live on that property. He continued that it is irritating that it is happening and that he feels bad for Jasper because the mining company gets the money, but Jasper just gets the dust. Lape said there hasn't been a lot of information going around about it. Vance said they have been snaking it through quickly. He said he could not believe there was nobody from Jasper at the meetings. Lape said she was there at the first one but had prior obligations during the second meeting. Katie said one of the zoning people claimed that they had spoken to the neighbors and they didn't care, but all neighbors at the meeting did not talk to him. Lape said the plan of action was to follow up with Pipestone County and LG Everest and go from there.

Naomi Drake – Came to speak about the no engine break sign request. She said they wanted the cities support to put a no engine break sign on the county road where lots of semis frequent and use engine breaking. She said they contacted Nick Burgmann, highway engineer. They are willing to pay for and install it but need the cities approval to do it. While it may not stop all semis from doing it, even partial compliance is better than nothing. **Motioned to approve by: Plahn 1st/Smith 2nd. All eyes followed.**

Review and approve minutes from:

- **March 10th Regular Meeting/Public Hearing** – Plahn had a question about verbiage in the regular meeting minutes. Plahn said that it needed more clarification on how many people would be in town and how much time Thode would need to spend with them. Plahn said she read it as needing 3-4 city people for it. It was changed, prior to approval:

From: Plahn asked how many people we should expect in the town and how much city workers will have to contribute. Jordan said maybe 3-4 people. Thode said the biggest thing will be the locates and Jordan agreed.

To: Plahn asked how many people we should expect in the town and how much city workers will have to contribute. Jordan said maybe 3-4 of contracted people. Thode said the biggest thing will be the locates and Jordan agreed.

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

- **Local Board of Appeal Meeting – April 6th**

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

Review/Approve receipts and claims to date.

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

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage: Maggie said notices went out and that April 15th is when we can turn water off.

Wellness Center/QCC: N/A

New Business:

John Baustian – Was asked how he was liking his job. He said it was very well. Lape asked if he wanted to take on a few more things. He said he liked the idea. Lape said they were thinking about raising his pay. Lape asked about him doing the QCC and possibly the hall. K. Jennings said just the OCC. Jim Baustian said they needed to provide a list of expectations for John. Lape asked what he currently makes, R. Jennings said \$15/hr. R. Jennings also asked if he would be moved to being a regular part time employee or remain contract. The pay increase was discussed and decided on \$20. hr. **Motioned to increase the wage to \$20/hr. by: Plahn 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Citizen Complaints – Lape began with Tate Kavanaugh not being happy with Van Dyke. Lape suggested inviting Van Dyke to the next meeting because there is obviously a problem with them not picking up the bin. Plahn asked what size he had and M. Erickson said he used to have a big one but because they weren't picking it up, he switched to a small one and hired Scaaps as an additional trash service (meaning he pay both companies currently). Lape said to invite Brad and Rick to the next meeting. Erickson said that when Tate had called Van Dyke about it, they claimed they could not see his trash can due to the darkness, they still pick up the neighbors across from him on that street. After that, he switched the can to the other street (highway), but they refused to pick it up from there as well, despite them picking up another neighbor's trash that is also on the highway. Van Dyke will be invited.

The second complaint form was about trees needing to be cut down on private property. It was said it is expensive but also the homeowner's responsibility. R. Jennings mentioned a program for getting rid of green ash tree, but it is not available in pipestone county yet.

Jasper Bar liquor license renewal - **Motioned to approve by: Houg 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Jasper Bar liquor license renewal – 2am - **Motioned to approve by: Houg 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**

D's liquor license renewal - **Motioned to approve by: Smith 1st/Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Vehicle Speed Feedback Sign – We can get a free sign, but the first step is getting the resolution passed. **Motioned to approve Resolution 26-104 A by: Houg 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Fire Escrow Account Resolution – Adds Jasper to the list to make insurance companies reach out to the city to ensure homes/properties have been cleaned up/repared after a fire. They will hold up to 25% of the insurance pay out. **Motioned to approve Resolution 26-104 B by: Plahn 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Veterans Memorial Update – Getting bids in but it will be quite a while before it happens. They will pay for replacement, but we will likely have to cover the installation of reinforcement. The league asked for exact replacement bids and bids that include reinforcements as well.

Old Business:

- **Council Drive around** – 38 properties identified – R. Jennings said letters had not been sent out yet due to needing clarification. She said that 19 of the identified properties were only for expired vehicle tags and that her understanding is that there is nothing the city could really do for those, so she did not want to waste time, energy and money on it. It was suggested that they get a small reminder in their water bills.
- **City wide clean-up day** – May 2nd – 8-1
- **Summer help wage** – Lape said Pipestone pays water department people at \$15 and Part time parks and street people is \$12.34. Erickson said they have a handful of kids and we will only have one. Lape asked what it was last year and Erickson said she believes it was \$15.50. It was agreed to keep it at that wage. **Motioned to approve \$15.50 wage for summer help by: Plahn 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**
- **Leanne Bloomenhall** - still a work in progress.
- **DSI** – Interest statements going out in the mail. It will still be a while before they do any actual work.
- **City Code update** – No Update, Still pending. Renae said the gentleman updating the zoning codes will be here next month.
- **Pay Equity Act** – Keep on agenda
- **Keith Eitrim Parking Lot** – Ongoing. Lape asked if we heard anything. Erickson and R. Jennings said that the city is supposed to be getting bids for it.
- **Geronimo Power – Expand Our Community Solar Subscription** – No updates.

Public Works & Building/Grounds Report:

Thode showed two options for the rocks around the city hall and memorial hall. Council all thought the bigger option was best. Lape asked when it would be done, Thode said it would be the maybe the next few weeks.

Thode said the volleyball court is dug out and got the sand in there. The open area where the last one was is still open because of the bench that will be going there. He said they did need to add some sand to it.

K. Jennings said there was an issue in getting the tables and asked to go through Amazon instead.

Motioned to approve going through Amazon by: Smith 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed.

Lape said that she like what they did with the Jasper sign. Houg asked if there was any way to prop it up just a little bit so see better. K. Jennings said he will check to see if anything can be done.

Lape asked when the park would open up and Thode said it would be a bit because of the temperatures.

