

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 12th, 2026

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Tuesday May 12th, 2026** at 7:00 pm.

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

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

Pipestone Star: Kyle Kuphal;

Community members: Cindy Jamison, Katie Walgrave, Vance Walgrave, Becky Walgrave, Jake Scepaniak, Amanda Rouzer, Deb Tillma, Tate Kavanaugh, Kennedy Hayhten, Maureen Bell,

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

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

Removed: None

Added: None

Community Input:

Amanda Rouzer asked about having water hooked up at the old school by using a water meter connected to the water tower. Lape asked if Reclaim was paying for it. Amanda said they wouldn't have an issue paying. Amanda said the water is for planting and having a community garden. **Motion to have a water meter installed by: Kounkel 1st/Smith 2nd.**

Deb Tillma presented a community project where manhole covers are painted with flowers. She spoke of the success it had in another community. It would be strictly flowers, no advertising or words allowed. She said to have a contest for it and do it during the summer. Lape suggested to bring it to the Quartziter committee to add it to their agenda for Quarry days.

Maureen Bell came to speak about city wide clean-up. She is frustrated about not being able to have the items picked up on the curb anymore. Lape said we have connections for people to pick up if she needs. Plahn said she agrees with Maureen and that the council is supposed to represent the people and majority of people would prefer to have it picked up. Smith said she likes the idea of doing at least one pick up. Kounkel said he had missed the last couple of years because he was gone. Lape said we can address it come fall. K. Jennings suggested having volunteers to pick up for those who are not physically able, in addition to the way we do it now. Plahn said the Lions Club offered to do it, but they stopped because it wasn't just people who couldn't do it, it was everyone. Rouzer said she agreed with the reasoning Zach had about being gone. Lape reiterated that it will be addressed when the fall clean-up day is scheduled. R. Jennings said she would add it to old business and keep it on the agenda until then.

Review and approve minutes from:

- **April 14th Regular Meeting –Motioned by: Houg 1st/Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed**

Review/Approve receipts and claims to date.

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

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage: R. Jennings pointed out that one location was listed for foreclosure this week.

Wellness Center/QCC: A paper was put up there to get suggestions on what the members would like to see and majority would like a leg machine. R. Jennings will get a couple options for next meeting.

New Business:

Zoning Ordinance Update by Chris Webb – He went over the major changes to the ordinances. Said most of it is just updated language and that it reflects the League of Minnesota Cities language. He asked if the city wanted to have short term rental language in there, council said no. He spoke about the 30-day requirement and that council would have to call a special meeting, unless the person says, in writing, that they wait until the next regular council meeting. He spoke about the height requirement for buildings not being higher than the home. Council did not want to change that ordinance. He spoke about if a property had a home destroyed, what would the city like to see be able to be build on the lot (just a shed, outbuilding, home, etc.). Said some cities allow manufactured homes because it is easier for property owners. Plahn said if it came down to having nothing or a manufactured home, it would be better to have a manufactured home. He then spoke about requiring a poured concrete foundation if a manufactured home is built on residential properties. He then spoke about “shouses” and if the city wanted to allow them to be built on residential lots. Council was in favor of allowing it because they are becoming more and more popular. Chris recommended that the structure not exceed the overall lot to avoid having a larger one build on a very small lot. Said it could say it can’t take up over 60%. Plahn asked is anything could be put in about the square footage of the garage compared to the living space above. Chris said it is not necessarily the space is above, but is the livable space smaller in square footage compared to the storage space, so whether if it is above or to the side, he didn’t think it would be a key factor, it would be the overall usage of the space. Chris asked if anyone had any questions. Houg said that he noticed the planning commission pay was \$10 and that didn’t seem like enough. It was decided to discuss that later. The last time the zoning ordinance was updated was 1998. Chris said he would get the changes in and send them to city staff to start the process to hold the public hearing/comment period.

Proposed Quarry – The Pipestone County Commissioners requested a recommendation from the City of Jasper – Lape went off of the names on her list and began with Katie Walgrave. Katie requested to not go first. Becky Walgrave was called. Becky said she was speaking for Paul Steen and read a letter verbatim from Paul. The letter spoke of Paul being against the proposed quarry due to health issues that he obtained from working at the Jasper Stone Company from 1964 – 1989. He was diagnosed with silicosis, caused by inhaling silica dust, which was from the quarry. Vance Walgrave said that if the quarry comes in, we would have it forever. He also said the other quarry in Jasper is looking at getting a crusher as well. He said he knew that because he spoke to their management about it and they told him that. He said that there would be nothing to stop that quarry from doing it too, so it would be from both ends. He spoke of other people who live by another quarry and that when the quarry is not operating, the dust still comes off of the quarry. Darlene Steen said she agrees with the dust issue, but also worries about the transportation on that road because there is not enough room. She said people walk out there as well. Lape called on the Everett family. She said they were not on the list but since they were there, Lape wanted to give them an opportunity to speak. They said they were just worried about the water. Tim Everett said all of the water is connected. Joe said she is worried about the value of her home. Tim said he is also worried about the noise he would hear from town. Katie Walgrave spoke and asked if council asked if they had a chance to read what she sent them via email. R. Jennings said they all have a copy of it. Katie spoke and said that since council has had a chance to review the packet and that it is a summary of the information they are dealing with for the proposed quarry. She said that 3

minutes isn't enough time to make her statement so she left them with this; "The danger of quartzite dust in the vicinity of humans is very real and scientifically documented. If the city of Jasper decides to recommend this quarry permit, it's with you forever, it's irreversible. Your names will be the ones that Jasper remembers. Stacie, Tim, Kim, Zach and Deb. A legacy of silicosis, cancers and other lung and organ related illnesses will rest on your shoulders". Jake Scepaniak then spoke. He is with the proposed quarry. He addressed the dust, water and noise concerns. He said the letter from Paul, that things are a lot different now than how they were in the 60s, 70s and 80s. He said every company/location they have has a Minnesota Air Emissions permits and there's 20 pages of rules they have to follow and they are inspected every year from the state to ensure they are following guidelines. It's an ongoing permit they have to follow and it regulates how much dust they can produce, how much noise they can make and all different aspects are heavily regulated by the government. He then spoke on the silicosis part of it, which is the fine particle dust. He said that dust is the same as what comes off of farm fields and also rock dust behind every car on a gravel road, it is not just from actual rock quarries. He said that part of pollution control, which is MSHA, has implemented a stricter policy about how much dust they can have, which is less than they used to be able to produce. So, to help with it, they have spray bars on the conveyer equipment as it transfers material from one point to another, which is where it would make dust, and out of the chamber where it cracks the rocks. The spray bars wet the material now, which if it is wet, you don't get the fine dust floating in the air. You still get dust, but it's all part of the unfinished product, so it is not flying across the field. He also said the haul road is where everything is proposed to come out of. Said it would come south to the county road, so it is a ½ mile road that they would do the dust control and would have chloride for big projects with a lot of hauling, or use water for smaller projects. He said that with it being a half mile stretch, trucks won't be doing 60mph down it and they couldn't even get up to speed with a loaded semi. Depending on the project they are working on, they would either go east or west on the county road. He said that with rock and what they are proposing to do, the blasting and using dynamite is part of the permit. He described the process of what they do to blast. He acknowledged that while the location is not in city limits, the city will be affected by it. He said they do larger projects and are not a retail place where people can just come get what they want. Gave an example of the county re-paving roads, they would come do a project for the month and be gone the rest of the year. It just depends on how big the project is. Lape said she heard they would be out there 24/7. He said that the permit says that because if they come in July, but it rains 5 days, there's a good chance they would want to get caught up on the weekend. He said their intentions are to work just 5 days a week like everyone else. He said it is just like farming and that if it rains during the week, you're planning on the weekend. Said construction season is only 6 months long, so you have to use the days you have. He said the benefit is the crew, 15-20 people, they will come to town to eat and use local places, including the campsite. It brings people to town to help things go better in town. He said the reason they are doing it to begin with, despite Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls already having quarries, the county or the city can get a better deal on products because the material is closer. He said there are always concerns no matter what anyone does for anything, but he thinks the ideas or big concerns may be blown out of proportion a little big just because of past things that maybe have happened that maybe weren't regulated, but now are. Tim Everett said he spoke to Luke in pipestone and he checked on their construction business and they have hundreds of fines for not following the rules. He also said it's a 5-ton road and that down on the corner where the spring is, they have frogs there after 40 some

years that he (Jake) is going to wash all of the stuff down through that spring, so council has to be aware of that. Katie Walgrave asked to offer rebuttal to Jakes statement. She said hundreds of violations is what it is, including wastewater dumping. The proposed area the water would go has no settling ponds, which means it will go into Split Rock Creed, which has the Topeka Shiner, which is a protected species. She said that often time with these violations, they are told to stop working for a certain timeframe, so the company just moves to a different quarry, so it doesn't really affect them. She said it is hard to trust someone who says "we aren't going to work 24/7, trust me bro" when you can go onto their Facebook page and see a video that say "we love to work 24/7 because then we can get a lot more done when the rest of the world is sleeping". She said one of the violations they had was they didn't have adequate berms and the MSHA guy took pictures and said it was very likely that this activity could result in death. She also said that just because the roads already have dust, two wrongs don't make a right and we don't need to add more poisonous stuff to the air. She also questioned about when they aren't working at the quarry for a month, what about the 11 months it won't be watered down and the dust in blowing and sitting on Jasper, where the average windspeed is 11mph every day. She said there is a zero percent chance the dust will just stay there and it will sit on the 818 people of Jasper, who aren't going to want to hear that it was recommended by the city council. She also said they hadn't even spoken about the damage to the water. Lape said they were going to move on. Lape said Dell Rapids was contacted and that their quarries do crushing. She said it was a cold call and they had said there were no complaints about the crushing rock. The only complaints their city had gotten was about truck traffic. Lape reiterated that while Jasper can make a recommendation, that it doesn't mean the Pipestone County Commissioners can't still approve it. She said council can either stay neutral, approve it or say no, but either way, Pipestone County still has the final say. Lape said there has been conversation with the community where the company is based out of and again, no complaint. Katie said that she would call MSHA violations a complaint, which Lape agreed. Lape said she expects they will follow the rules. She also said she can't take economic growth away from the city, which potentially could happen, but again Pipestone County has the final decision. Kounkel said he joined the council to back up the residents and said she (Jo Everett) has been there and she's retired now and enjoying life. Plahn brought up the concern of them using dynamite. She spoke of when her home and family were affected by a dynamite mistake from the current quarry in Jasper. She also said she is concerned about the wildlife, citing it is close to the state park. Lape asked about the DNR test. Katie Walgrave said there won't be one because they (Scepaniak) chose to do ½ of an acre smaller than what would require the DNR test. It could be asked to do. Plahn said she agrees with Kounkel. She asked why the people out there should fear the rest of their lives for that. Vance Walgrave said it will destroy the nearby wells according to the water hydrologist. Katies said the hydrologist gave a conclusive report done it cottonwood county, near Jeffers, and that everyone whose wells were within a certain distance, was damaged and destroyed. Jake Scepaniak said there are no wells close to the proposed quarry. Katie asked about their pond, which is spring fed. It was reiterated that there are no wells withing the 500ft. Many people started speaking at once and Lape said it was time to move on and make a motion. Smith suggested the council stay neutral and that she can see it both ways, but at the end of the day, they are the Pipestone County Commissioners. Houg said that it should be the commissioner's decision. Tim Everett said they did say the council had a chance to "vote it down". Lape it is ultimately Pipestone County's final decision. A person in the crowd loudly stated "ultimately, but staying neutral is never the right decision. That is

basically saying go ahead.” Smith again said she sees it both ways. The person in the crowd spoke again and said that the deaths are worse than the 30 people that may or may not be getting food. Lape said we are moving on. **Motion to tell Pipestone County Commissioners that the Jasper City Council is against the mining out there and crushing rock: Motioned by Plahn 1st, no 2nd. Kounkel aye, Smith and Houg nay.** Houg said they should let Pipestone county make the choice, Smith agrees. Tim Everett said their voice matters. Jake Scepaniak asked if Walgraves live in Jasper. Kounkel said they own the quarry out there for years. Lape said there is a tie with the motion and confirmed the side of Smith and Houg. Smith make a new motion. **Motion to stay neutral on the quarry: Smith 1st/Houg 2nd, Plahn and Kounkel were against it. Lape broke the tie and sided with Smith and Houg. The city will maintain a neutral position.**

The City of Ihlen requested that Jasper do their mosquito spraying this year. **Motion to approve spraying for them: Motioned by Smith 1st/Houg 2nd, all ayes followed.**

Ladies using the hall for exercise. R. Jennings said they requested to use it again while they do not have an instructor, just a space to gather a work out. She also asked if they would approve to allow them to have it in their off season so they don’t have to come back every year. **Motion to approve the ladies to use the hall for exercise during their off season: Motioned by Kounkel 1st/Plahn 2nd, all ayes followed.**

LMCIT renewal – liability coverage waiver form needed signed for the property and casualty insurance. Council was provided a copy to review. **Motion to approve by Houg 1st/Smith 2nd, all ayes followed.**

Townhome Survey – Parel was separated and they need council approval for it. **Motion to approve townhome survey: Motioned by Kounkel 1st/Houg 2nd, all ayes followed.**

Sidewalk replacement applications – Smith refrained from this because she is associated with the bank and the JDC, who submitted the applications. Houg asked how the program came to be. R. Jennings said it was not a grant, but that it occurred during a council meeting and by the next meeting, the administrator gave the agreement to that council and it was approved. Kounkel asked how much the city pays. Jennings said for the twin home, the city will pay \$5,250. Thode said it is per square foot. Kounkel said that a sidewalk near him is bad. Thode said they have to do the work and we will reimburse them for it and that the city is not involved with the actual construction of it. Jennings said the city covers up to half of \$7/sq ft. She said the one in front of the old bar is \$2,205, and the small part the bank did \$70 (reimbursement amounts) **Motion to approve sidewalk applications by Houg 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed. Smith refrained.**

Vehicle Speed Feedback Sign Resolution 26-132A. Jennings explained that after submitting the approved resolution last month, DOT said they made a one-word change on the resolution and it required a new one. She pointed out that they added “program” to it. **Motion to approve Resolution 26-132A by Plahn 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Appointing a responsible authority and assigning duties – Resolution 26-132 B. R. Jennings said it essentially makes our city attorney the one who oversee our data practices and makes sure we follow it, which we pretty much already do anyways. She also said he had already signed it. She included more information in their packet because it. **Motion to approve Resolution 26-132 B by Houg 1st/Smith 2nd.**
All ayes followed.

Long-term camping – R. Jennings said the city office was contacted and asked if we would consider doing a long-term camping fee and that someone requested doing June-September. Kounkel said he has camped a lot of places and has seen when they get rifferaff in there, and their RV ends up getting towed out. Kounkel and Lape agreed that it was not the best idea. Kounkel said it would be a bummer if all 4 spots were taken up all summer by long-term campers. No further discussion.

Old Business:

- **Citizen complaint – Vandyke/Kavanaugh** – Tate Kavanaugh said they had issues at their old house, but it wasn't significant. But now that they live out in West Jasper, it has gotten so bad. He said it got to the point where the recycling would get picked up, but the trash sitting next to it wouldn't. He said it went 3 weeks in a row, to which led him to contacting and working with Schaaps to pick up their trash. He said that was after they tried talking to Vandyke and all they got were excuses (such as it is too dark in the back, despite there being a light pole right there). Tate said he moved the cans down further because it was then too close to the corner. He said they asked Vandyke if they could put it next to Jays can, but was told no and was asked to put it on the highway, which he thought was unsafe. He said after that he got ahold of Schaaps and it was night and day difference. They got their garbage caught up and that Vandyke was good for a little bit and they were going to cancel Schaaps, but it went right back to them not picking it up. He said he had been working with Maggie in the office of notifying every time they miss. He said it was 3 or 4 times in the last 4 month. He said he doesn't call if it is his own mistake and doesn't take it out. He is tired of paying for 2, but it's not fair that he has to. Someone mentioned Craig and Nicole when they lived out there. Tate said they had issues too and that he met with them at the café to discuss it. Rick Vandyke spoke to Tate and said he went by his place today and said Tate did not have cameras back there. Tate said he does and he can pull it up on his phone if he has to. Rick asked if Tate realized their trucks have cameras too. Tate said that is good. Rick said the first time they moved into that home; Tate was upset. He said he told Terry (who works at Vandyke) to tell Tate to leave whatever extra he had next week, and that he would get it. Rick said when he got back the next week, Tate already had Schaaps dumpster. He said that is the only time he ever called their office. Tate said he called 3 times and why would he pay for 2 services and that it is throwing money away. Rick said he could go through the truck's cameras (which they go through this all the time in Pipestone with their recycling) and said if it had been brought up earlier, they could have pulled the video. R. Jennings said she did reach out to Terry about 2 weeks ago about inviting them here, so she was aware. Jennings said Terry did try to say she didn't get the emails, but she had forwarded the exact same emails to the exact same email address, to which she did all of the sudden have them. Jennings suggested maybe there is a communication error happening. Rick said there doesn't seem like anybody else in West Jasper has a problem. Jennings said that the office did receive another person complain about trash not getting picked up. Tate said they would have no problem sticking with Vandyke and that he has watched them pick up Jays, which is why he offered to bring it to that side of the street, but was told no and to put it on the highway. Lape asked where he is currently putting the trash can. The spot was described near by the mailbox. Lape asked if there was a happy medium. Rick said he tried to let

them know to put it out front if they don't like it that way. Rick said the problem is that he should have brought his brother Brad because they discussed too. He said he is about a half hour behind him every week and he asked Brad how often Kavanaugh sets out recycling, and Brad said rarely. Rick was asked if there was a better placement for it, to which he said it is fine where it is. Rick said in 30 years of doing it, he can't pick something up that is not out. He then said they did go back and look at the last week and it was out. He said when he goes under 5mph, his light goes on and you can see it plain as day. Tate said he has cameras too, to which Rick claimed Tate did not have them behind his house. Tate again offered to show him right in the moment and asked why would he waste time doing this if it wasn't happening. Rick said he has no reason to lie. Kounkel stopped them and said we need to find a solution. Rick said his solution is to have the garbage out. Tate said it does go out. Kounkel told Tate to cancel Schaaps and see if they do any better. R. Jennings said the city office did get a complaint from someone else nearby Kavanaugh's, but they don't want to complain about it because their trash is never full. Jennings said they do not want to be named, but it was just yesterday. Rick said there's a new resident out there that doesn't have it out all the time. Jennings said that person is her friend Matt and it is not him with the complaint. Lape asked if we give it 30 days. Tate said he is not trying to say VanDyke's are bad people or to screw their company, he just wants his trash picked up. Rick said that in the year and a half they have lived in that house, he can count maybe 15 times their trash has been out. Tate says it goes out every week with very seldom times not going out. Plahn asked if it goes out the right day, to which they said yes. Lape again said to give it 30 days and document it and call the city with every time. Discussion was over.

- **Peoples Bank Hall tables – Set price** – R. Jennings said Peoples Bank asked to have 7 of the old tables and said maybe we offer Lions Club some since they did each pay 1/3 of the cost. She also said we need a price for them. Plahn and Houg said Lions Club has no place for them. Plahn said marketplace sowed they were about \$10. **Motion to approve Peoples Bank getting 7 tables and sell the rest for \$10: Motioned by Plahn 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed with Smith refraining.**
- **Council Drive Around – letters sent** – Jennings said they have only gotten one response for the stuff between the garages where we were not sure which home it belonged to.
- **Summer Help** – So far, we have 3 applications. Kounkel asked if it was teenagers. Jennings described the 3 applicants. Kounkel asked Thode when they need them and Thode said tomorrow. Council reviewed the applications but made no decision.
- **Leanne Bloomenhall** - ongoing
- **Veterans Memorial Update** – Council was provided with the 2 bids that we had received.
- **DSI** – no new updates.
- **City Code** – pending
- **Pay Equity Act** – Keep on agenda
- **Keith Eitrim Parking Lot** – Ongoing. Thode said Fuller is doing a bid.
- **Geronimo Power – Expand Our Community Solar Subscription** – No updates.

Public Works & Building/Grounds Report:

Thode said he spoke to a semi-retired farmer who has a 2010 bobcat with about 3k hours. Ours is a 1998 with 32 hundred hours. Possible upgrade our machine and sell ours. Said this would go much faster, has a high flow which our sweeper recommends, ours has an aftermarket cab and gets cold but this one has a factory cab to keep it warm in winter. Has attachments that makes it easier. Said he also has a backhoe that he would trade with it. He wants \$25k and it's in the ballpark. Said we can get \$15-16k because they do hold value. Said the backhoe would be valuable and gave an example of having to hire Hawes to dig holes by the volleyball court. Plahn asked where we were for the budget. Renae tried to find the right report but was unable to find it in the moment.

Thode spoke about the pumphouse. Said the quarry and construction company hammer the water out of there. They are using the water to control the dust. Said the pump is about 50yrs old. Thode spoke to someone about an estimate and said it would be about 6k to a submersible pump. Said it is needed for the fire department and farmers. **Motion to approve pumphouse Houg 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Thode then spoke about the city park and the Splash Pad Committee offering to pay for 2 20X20 shades near the splash pad. Also said Erick Baustian will pick them up. There is no cost to the city.

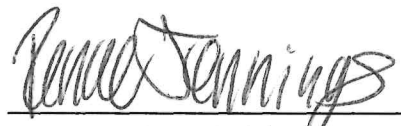
Council tabled the discussion about the bobcat because the numbers were not pulling up to be able to look at it.

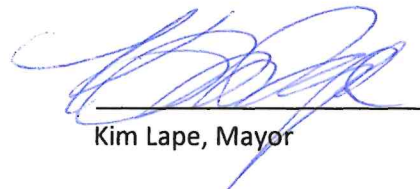
Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Meeting – June 9th at 7:00PM

Meeting to view applications scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00pm.

Smith motioned to adjourn, Kounkel seconded all ayes, carried; regular meeting adjourned at 8:44PM


Renae Jennings Clerk/Treas. 6/9/26
Date


Kim Lape, Mayor 6-9-26
Date