

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 9th, 2026

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Tuesday June 9th, 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: Nichole Cross, Cindy Jamison, Katie Walgrave, Vance Walgrave, Stella Lingen, Cynthia Gillen, Jo Everett, Kim Drew, Chrissy Harris, Sam Harris, Derik Everett, Tim Everett

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

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

Removed: None

Added: Park Shelter Fans, Website, Skid loader, City Cameras, ESB Update, Next month's meeting date.

Community Input:

Leanne – came for follow up if the city would help with getting new concession stand ready. The main thing they need is water and demolition of the old building. Council will get a bid for the water from Double D.

Chrissy Harris expressed concerns about her neighbor. She said he revs his engine, made his own driveway, currently has 7 vehicles on his property, questioned the ownership of the property, said the guy is a sex offender out of South Dakota (which was a concern because the home is near a day care), may be running a junk yard on the property, and their property values have been affected. Lape said to contact the attorney and law enforcement about what we can legally do.

Review and approve minutes from:

- **May 12th Regular Meeting –Motioned by: Plahn 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed**

Review/Approve receipts and claims to date.

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

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage: Maggie will be sending it in an email.

Wellness Center/QCC: Leg machine options were presented. It was requested to be sure insurance will cover the options.

New Business:

- **Park Bench Update – Nichole Cross – Benches were supposed to be done in May, but delayed due to now doing 2 benches and the concrete pad not being started yet. The game plan is to have them done in June. They will be made out of glass fiber reinforced concrete.**
- **Zoning Ordinance – Council was asked to discuss increasing the wage for zoning members. Motioned to increase wage to \$50.00 by: Houg 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.** Before scheduling the Public Hearing, Renae said she was not available for July 14th meeting and was wondering if it could be pushed out to July 21st. **Motioned to change next meeting date to July 21st by: Kounkel 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.** The public Hearing was scheduled for July 21st, at 7:30pm.

- Ambulance Contract with Stryker – Kim Drew presented the contract options for maintenance to council. Said Casey Sievert also recommended doing one for the cot system. Presented the cost for the contract options. The preventative maintenance option cost is \$2,595.00 per year. That one covers the batteries, which is the main issue. The other contract covers everything and the cost is \$5,975.00 a year. Kim said her and Jim Veldkamp agrees that the batteries are the most important and they would be happy with the preventative maintenance contract. Smith spoke with Casey and Cole and said they did recommend the preventative maintenance option. **Motioned to approve the preventative maintenance contract by: Houg 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed**
- Update on EMS building – Kim Drew said the flooring and two inside doors are installed. One of the outside doors are done. She said the mini-split is still on back order, but the Fire Department can use the AC they had before. There is hope it would be here by the end of the week. Smith asked if we still had the baseboards, which we do not because the mini-split will heat and cool. Smith said that looking at the minutes from the meeting it was discussed, they were supposed to go back on. Kim said it was never discussed. Smith expressed worry that it was back ordered and said the electrician has not had contact since February from Rieke and Houselog had not submitted a bid at all. Smith is worried about miscommunication in all of it. Kim said the bid was inclusive with the electricity (Houselog). Smith confirmed that the amount of \$7,998 is for the mini-split and the electrical, to which Kim confirmed. Smith said the minutes from January do state that Kim said that cost was before electrical. Smith then presented another bid she had gotten and they were not back ordered on the mini-split, so she was not sure why this one was. Their bid was \$5,851.03, saving \$2,146.987 and they could do it next week. Lape asked if the ambulance was locked in with the people who were doing the work and Kim said yes because they had to use those funds and had to present it to the state. Renae said that in the January meeting, the grant money was being used for the flooring and the other parts and that Kim said the ambulance association voted to use their own funds for the mini-split. Renae then asked how it was tied in with the grant if it was not part of it. Kim said they used their funds so they could enter the information in for the grant. Renae asked if the people doing the work were paid already then and Kim said yes. Kim said she would follow up the next day. Smith expressed that she does not want the ambulance to get hurt in this. Kim said she is not concerned about it not getting it done.

Bollig – Lead Service Line Replacement update. A bid from Ellingson drainage Inc. was accepted by Bollig and needs the city to formally award the contract. **Motioned to approve by: Plahn 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed**

- Terry Skyberg – came in to discuss the proposed quarry. He spoke about his arctician well. Said in the 80's, students from Duluth college, tested wells including his. Said the test results were that he had no nitrates, no concerns for pollution, fit for a 6-mo old baby to drink from. Said it is in an aquifer. He is concerned about the proposed quarry breaking through the seal due to dynamite being used. He said destruction of the aquifer could result in a lawsuit for the City of Jasper. Terry then spoke about the dust concerns from the trucks that would be using that road. He expressed that he is not in favor of the proposed quarry.
- Fans at park shelter -Lape said she was asked to check about adding fans to the park shelter kitchen area. **Motioned to approve by: Smith 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed.**

- **Cameras** – Kounkel asked if they were working and said there were children driving on the splashpad with a 4-wheeler. He then asked who can all see the cameras. Renae said only her and Maggie can see them on their computers. Kounkel said Thode and K. Jennings should also have access. It was stated that there is no mobile access. He then asked how far back they can go. Renae explained that a few of cameras have been having issues that only allow us to go back one hour, and that she has been working with them to get it resolved. Renae explained that Convergent has struggled with our IT person communication. Kounkel asked about the cost of them coming out and Renae said that it is about \$700.00 per visit. Kounkel said that was not the agreement. Renae said we also get charged from our IT person as well. Smith said she had also spoken to Cole and he was looking over our contract. It was suggested to find a new IT person. Renae pointed out that a good IT company is costly and the current one is affordable. Renae explained that she was told it is a storage issue causing the short recordings. Plahn asked if the sheriff's office got it to work on their end. Renae will follow up with them. Renae said Convergent would be here on the 15th to meet with IT.
- **City Website** – Plahn asked about updating some of the pages on the website, such as the community events, newsletter and the calendar. She said we are paying for it and need to keep it updated. Renae will check into it and get it updated.
- **Skid loader** – Was sold. Renae mentioned meeting with Lape about the budget. Plahn said they requested a quarterly budget report. Renae said ok since they have to have a budget meeting soon.

Old Business:

- **Proposed Quarry** – Lape opened the floor for people to speak about it if they wanted, beginning with Stella and Cynthia. Stella said her biggest concern is the dust. Cynthia shared the same concern. Katie Walgrave brought a handout regarding the dust. She cited the silica that is in the dust from a quarry is not the same as dust from a field or gravel road and that Sioux quartzite dust contains more than 95% silica. She said that if she lived in Jasper and had children, she would not allow them to play outside and would not let them play at the Jasper baseball fields if they had a game there. She encouraged council to read up more about silicosis. Vance Walgrave spoke about economic development. He said the quarry employs nomadic employees. He said the tax-based money would go to the county. He also said the quarry has a low tax advantage. He acknowledged there is a little money in it, but once they are done, they are gone and the money is too, but the damage is still here. Tim Everett asked council if they knew about mile limits Kris Rodman had drawn up about no hog houses in city limits and asked if a quarry was in the same thing. He asked that we check with the attorney about it. Thode said it would be just for hogs because we already have a quarry. Derik Everett said the quarry would affect both his families' residences. Said it could disturb a lot of people's peace of mind. Lape reiterated that the final decision is up to the county. During the last commissioners meeting, it was stated that no property values would be impacted. Someone else said that there was doubt in that meeting about that being valid. Jo Everett said that council needs to think about what Katie has told them about the dust and the impact it would have on everyone. Plahn mentioned the stone that came through her house from the current quarry. Vance said that on a windy day, you can see the dust coming from Hardwick. Kounkel asked what LGE had to say about the new quarry and Renae said they provided no comment. However, they did say the company has a great history with them and they have hired them to do the crushing for them in Jasper in the past. Renae said she asked them directly if the new quarry would have an impact on LGE, either negative or positive, and did not get a response. Vance asked where they would put their big mixing plant. Smith verified he was talking about asphalt and he was. Smith said she spoke with a commissioner about it and it was just crushing they were doing. Plahn then spoke about the

company not helping Jasper economically. Plahn and Kounkel made it clear their vote is a no for it. Houg said he trusts the planning commissioners and can see both sides of the situation. **Motioned to support the quarry by: Smith 1st/Houg 2nd. Plahn and Kounkel responded nay. Mayor Lape broke the tie with a yes.**

- **Veterans Memorial Update** – Insurance chose the big to go with and we are very close to the number we expected.
- **Clean up days** – on hold until August.
- **City Code** – pending
- **Pay Equity Act** – Keep on agenda
- **Keith Eitrim Parking Lot** – Ongoing. Thode said waiting on the email. Smith said if they don't hear from Fuller for the bid to check with Cody Ihlen.
- **Geronimo Power – Expand Our Community Solar Subscription** – No updates.

Public Works & Building/Grounds Report:

Thode said the rocks along the office and hall are there and everyone agreed that it looks good. Asked about the community center and doing it there too. Pump house is wrapped up. Lape asked about the splash pad button, which has been replaced. Thode said the button is \$1,100.00 to replace. Lape asked if Dale was doing ok, and he is.

Thode reminded that with moving the date of the next meeting, we should talk about Quartziter Days and their requests, such as porta-pots and blocking streets. Plahn asked if we have approval to use the vacant lots, which we do not have at this point. There is also the option to put inflatables on the street.

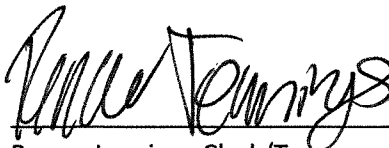
Motioned to approve street closures, trash cans and porta-potties by: Houg 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.

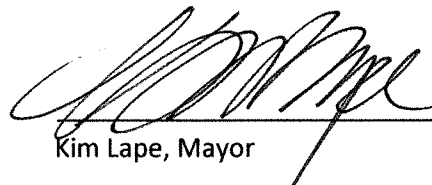
Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Meeting – July 21st, 2026 at 7:00

Public Hearing – July 21st, 2026 at 7:30

Kounkel motioned to adjourn, Smith seconded, all ayes, carried; regular meeting adjourned at 8:29PM

 7-21-26
Renae Jennings Clerk/Treas. Date

 7-21-26
Kim Lape, Mayor Date