JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – July 21st, 2026

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Tuesday July 21st, 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; Deputy Clerk: Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent: Brian Thode; Building and Grounds: Kevin Jennings

Pipestone Star: Kyle Kuphal;

Community members: Cynthia Jamison, Amanda Rouzer, Kim Drew, Karen Blom

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

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

Removed: None

Added: None

Community Input:

- None

Review and approve minutes from:

June 9th, 2026 Regular Meeting – **Motioned by: Plahn 1st/Houg 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 explained there was a glitch in the system when pulling over readings and it did not pull the information over. She has been in contact with ASYST and next month there will be double water consumption on the bills.

104 3rd St will not be returning to town and it sounds like they will be having an auction.

Wellness Center/QCC: A leg machine was chosen for replacement of the broken one because both are covered by insurance. Council reviewed the options and chose to go with the one offered on the fitness site, priced at $649.95. **Motioned to move forward with purchase by: Plahn 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Council also said to get rid of the treadmill that is not working and replace it with the extra one in the hallway.

New Business:

- SSUA EMS – Kim Drew and Brian DeHai presented the Telemedicine Project/Contract. Kim started by saying the ambulance board met and approved the contract with the company. Brian explained what their company does and the telemedicine help paramedics can receive in the back of their trucks for 4 years. He spoke about the grants that will help cover the cost during the duration of the contact. He explained they operate 24/7 and have certified qualified medical personnel on standby for each call that comes in. He also explained it is beneficial for reporting. Council was not required to make a vote on anything, it was just an information sharing opportunity about the program. The 4-year contract began already in March of this year. Brian said they are not sure what it will look like at the end of the 4 years as far as grant funding goes.
- July Water Rate increase – Resolution NO. 26-202 – It was brought up last year, but we needed the resolution for it. **Motioned to approve by by: Houg 1st/Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed**

- Request for changing table at city park. – Renae gave them different changing table options. Kounkel asked if they had to go into the bathroom. They have to be in both. Smith said she is concerned about children just breaking them. Renae let council know that they did now have to approve putting one down there. Kounkel asked if it was a resident who requested it. Maggie did not recognize the person who made the request. No changing table will be placed in the bathroom stalls at the park.
- Blowhard trailer donation to the city – Plahn said he came a couple of years ago and the city did not want it then because of insurance reasons. The condition of the trailer is unknows. It was discussed asking Bob if he wanted to donate it to a city club instead because the city does not want it.

At 7:30PM Mayor Kim Lape then requested the meeting be adjourned to open the PUBLIC HEARING ON REVISION OF JASPER ZONING ORDINANCE, Ordinance NO. 26-202.
Motion to adjourn regular meeting to open public hearing by Plahn 1st / Houg 2nd, all ayes followed.
There were no comments from the public provided.
Motioned to approve Ordinance NO. 26-202 by: Plahn 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.
Motion to adjourn public hearing by Kounkel 1st / Smith 2nd, all ayes followed.
Motion to op regular meeting back up by Smith 1st/Houg 2nd, all ayes followed.

- Pipestone County Mitigation Plan – Renae shared that there is an information meeting the next day at 1:00pm on zoom. Renae also asked if any councilmembers would want to assist in answering questions she was sent from the county. Lape and Houg said Thursday would be best for them. They are coming in at 2:30pm Thursday to go over the questions. Kim Drew asked if Renae had looked at the questions. She said she had and that is why she wants more than one person answering them.
- Property Casualty Coverage Premium. Renae provided them with the information LMCIT sent and the list of properties. Plahn asked about the building that is off of its foundation at the corner. Council discussed selling the building or offering it for free if someone comes to get it. **Motioned to approve listing the building for free with moving it themselves by by: Plahn 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed**
- Amanda Rouzer requested to have streets closed for a Touch a Car event on Sept. 2026 that will be held at the old school, where she leases the shop. Council encouraged her to speak to the neighbors that would be impacted by it. She also asked to use picnic tables and add the flyer to the city water bill. Plahn asked why not at the ballfields and Amanda said they want the community to see that Reclaim is doing things with the school and it is an opportunity for them to see the things happen. **Motioned to approve by: Kounkel 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed**
- Corner curb wheelchair accessibility responsibility – The city was contacted by a resident who has a corner curb that is not wheelchair accessible and they now have a child who is in a wheelchair. City needs to decide who is responsible for changing the curb. It was discussed to use the sidewalk program to get the curb ADA accessible. Maggie Said that if the homeowner has to pay, that United Funds would step in to help them. Karen Blom said that she has a daughter in a wheelchair and there is really no place in Jasper that they can walk and use the sidewalks. The homeowner will have to go through the sidewalk replacement program.

- Rea Estate Exchange Agreement for the property swap with LG. Lape let council know that the attorney has approved the agreement. **Motioned to approve by: Kounkel 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed.** Thode asked council what they plan to do with the land by the park. Houg said we need more parking. Some trees would have to be removed. Thode asked where the approach would be. He also suggested walking down there at the end of the meeting to see where they can put it. Council will go down there today.
- Minnesota State Flag – Lape said there had been some talk in town about going back to the old flag. She said Renae had reached out to the league. Renae said there are no laws on if a city has to fly the state flag. She also said there would have to be a resolution to change it back and let them know some cities in the state have changed it back without a resolution, but that it was early on when the flag was changed. Will add it to August agenda.
- Permanent disconnection request for 201 E 8th St. - **Motioned to approve by: Kounkel 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed**
- Kounkel asked to talk about something he forgot to add at the beginning of the meeting. He said Kevin Hunstad had him go look at his building and showed him signs of rats. He suggested having Plunkett's come check it out. City office will have them come out.

Old Business:

- **Camera Update** – Renae said they work and we did not get billed for it. Plahn asked how far we can go back. Renae said we can see everything before it went down but we can not get back what was lost while it was down.
- **Lead Service Line Replacement update** - They will begin calling people withing the next week or so. They plan on being wrapped up by the end of September.
- **Consession Stand Estimate from DD** – Renae explained that this cost is what Leanne has asked the city to cover for the replacement of the concession stand. Lape expressed the need to save money but that this is also a good thing. Plahn said that there is still a chance they could pull the program from Jasper like they did with the school. Maggie said it would be nice to have good bathrooms, but it was discussed that the new stand would not have a bathroom. There was discussion about having a community group do a fund raiser for the cost. Thode pointed out that the skid steer they asked for could have taken care of the project and they could have done the work for it. Council asked Thode to find the cost of renting a skid steer. Lape asked to keep this on the agenda for next month.
- **Veterans Memorial Update** – The city received the first check from insurance. Nothing has been done at the site. Thode said we are on the schedule to have the work begun.
- **Clean up days** – Plahn said that by next month we need a couple of dates. A few dates were looked at but nothing was decided at that moment. Plahn also asked about discussing doing curbside now. Thode said that VanDyke should be here. Plahn said he was here that night Maureen brought it up and that he didn't say anything. Lape asked about what they charge. Kounkel said people tend to put too much out when it is on the curbside. Thode also expressed the downside of it being curbside. Renae got the number for what it cost the city for the last clean-up days and it was $2,795.00, which included paying VanDyke, city employees and the cost of food. Renae said they had not heard back from VanDyke for doing it the other way. Plahn expressed that there are things people put out that others may want, but having it at the city shop means there is no chance for people to look at the stuff and everything just goes in the trash. Smith asked about putting a limit on the flyer for people and charge them if they have too much. Lape reiterated that we need a cost

from VanDyke. Plahn said if we don't do it in the fall, we have to do it in the spring. Pricing will be obtained from VanDyke for curbside.

- **City Code** – American Legal Publishing/ICC Code Solutions is providing a quote.
- **Pay Equity Act –** Keep on agenda.
- **Keith Eitrim Parking Lot** – Renae sent Keith the estimate from Fuller and he responded saying he can not afford it right now.
- **Geronimo Power – Expand Our Community Solar Subscription** – Renae resent another email because it is just credits getting applied to different accounts.
- Plahn asked to speak about the cash balance statement as it was forgotten about at the beginning of the meeting. Renae let her know that she is working with Stacie to get things in order because she met with the auditors today.

Public Works & Building/Grounds Report:

Thode said with Fuller Paving coming, he was thinking of having him do up near the ballfield to prevent it from washing out. Maggie said that Laurie Bell called and said it was washed out there too. Maggie said she was just asking for more gravel to be put down.

Upcoming Meetings:

Regular Meeting – August 11th, 2026 at 7:00

Council then walked to near the park to look at the properties they will obtain from LGE. Council discussed where the parking lot would be, where to put the approach, which trees may need to go, tearing the sidewalk out, and Kounkel suggested using the east side of the lots as a dog park. Lape asked for a motion to approve the location of the approach. **Motioned to approve by: Houg 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed. All ayes followed.** Council asked for pricing on fencing for a dog park area. Smith suggested Nespour out of Mitchell.

Smith motioned to adjourn, Kounkel seconded, all ayes, carried; regular meeting adjourned at 8:39PM

Renae Jennings, Clerk/Treas. Date

Kim Lape, Mayor Date