

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting-December 09, 2025

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Tuesday, December 09, 2025.**

Members present:

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

Employees present: City Clerk-Treas: Renae Thode, Deputy Clerk/Treas.: Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent: Brian Thode; Building and Grounds: Kevin Gum

Pipestone Star: Kyle Kuphal;

Community members: Cindy Jamison, Trinidad Garcia, Angel Garcia, Julie Foote, Kim Drew, Maya Garcia, Zach Bradley

Mayor Kim Lape called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance;

Agenda Approval:

Removed:

Added:

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

Community Input:

- LG Everest – Lape spoke for them as they could not make it to the meeting. She had done some research about what they were asking for. One was annexing a property on east side of town. City and township will have the final say on it. She recommended having the township come in January to the next meeting. She said we will have to go to Rachel Jacobs at Rock County to get it finalized. B. Thode said they would also like to close off one of the streets down by their property (Sherman and Burr). In exchange for that, the city would obtain the deeds for Marilyn Debates Park and two other properties near the city park. They would also get where the old springer well used to be.
- Julie Foote then spoke, first giving thanks to the council. She explained that MVTV wireless provides internet services to residents in the area. They have been using CHS as a place to have their equipment, but that is going away. Julie said if they were forced to abandon the equipment, they would no longer be able to serve the people. She said they looked for other structures and that the water tower was a good fit and they could continue providing services. She said usually with hosting partners, they offer service in lieu of rent. Their agreement states that they promise to do no harm and that they do not expect the host to take care of any of their equipment. She also said we could discuss rent as an option if the city did not want the services. She then also spoke about hot spot services at the city camp ground with no obligation to the city. Julie also said they do also provide camera services. Plahn asked if other towns use the hot spot. Julie directed her to a specific page with a list of other apartments and campgrounds in other places where they have a footprint in. Lape asked for confirmation of no fees, which Julie confirmed. Plahn and B. Thode how it would work with the water tower. He said it would be fine because they just put it on the railing. Smith asked what would happen if the water tower was replaced since we are working with Bollig. B. Thode said it shouldn't really affect it. Julie said they have worked with Bollig before and asked what the plans were for the water tower. Lape said it was to be determined. Julie said if the city does replace the water tower, it would be great if it was 30 feet taller. Julie asked if there was electrical to

the tower. Smith asked if they would need access. Julie said yes because they have 24-hour monitoring in case there is a problem. Plahn confirmed that the electricity used would be a cost to the city. Julie said it is equivalent to a 100-watt light bulb. B. Thode said he doesn't know who actually owns the building under the water tower. He said it is just the repeater for dispatch and that he believes Pipestone County owns it. Julie also said she wouldn't have a problem with MVTV putting up their own cabinet for their things. Lape said they would have to table it until next month. Julie said they were at the mercy of LG Everest because of the demolition they are doing. Julie thanked council for their time.

- Convergent – Lape spoke for them because they could not make it. Lape said she had a great call with them earlier today and that they were willing to put the project into phases and broke down what that would look like. Spoke about the return of cameras and servers with the servers being a significant cost, though we had no specific numbers at the moment. R. Thode said they were willing to split it up in 4 chunks over 6 months. Plahn suggested we really think about where we need cameras as some are not necessary. Smith said that maybe tonight we just decide what cameras we actually want and keep it on the 2025 budget. Kounkel said truck parking needs to keep a camera there. Smith said there is a camera and it would be on a USB drive. R. Thode asked if there was a way to keep the current camera and system that is at truck parking. Smith said Convergent would help guide using the current camera with a USB drive. Smith said that she spoke to Pipestone County Sheriff and they used to have access to our cameras, but because the system is so bad right now, they can't access it. Convergent would be able to get them set up again, providing extra security that we all want. Smith mentioned that if we push this out, it will go into the 2026 budget, which we don't want. Council chose to decide which cameras were necessary. Plahn pointed out the QCC cameras causing potential legal issues with the day care being there. Smith asked if they were really necessary in the hall (upstairs and down). Lape said that as long as there is one at the city office that is broad enough to catch some of main. It was stated that the one of the sides of the building is unnecessary. Smith then moved onto the Hall cameras. Gum said upstairs is a little necessary because of the alcohol use and it could be a safety issue in the future. He had no concerns about the meeting room not having a camera. Moved onto the park cameras, which everyone agreed were needed. The shop only had the one camera so no change was necessary. Smith suggested just one camera outside of the gym door. It was brought up that many people won't use the gym because of the camera inside of it. Plahn said that it cannot show the day care kids faces. It was decided that it would be in the hall, pointed west. EMS has 2 cameras currently. Kounkel said that maybe the park camera could pick up some of the back of the EMS building. Kim Drew said if there was more lighting in the back, the back camera wouldn't be necessary. B. Thode said we could put a light up similar to the one at the park and what was behind the old bar, through Xcel. Lape said we will have to re-submit the changes to Convergent and go from there. Plahn confirmed there are a total of 9 cameras. Smith asked R. Thode to ask about projecting the cameras to the sheriff's office.
- Kim Drew came to speak about what they have spend their funding and what it was spent on and aske about EMS building updates. She spoke about bringing doors up to code with funding they received with the city's approval. **Motion to approve building updates: Motioned by Houg 1st/Smith 2nd.** Kim was thankful and then offered to do the Emergency Plan – Safety Data Sheets.

Lape then said, speaking of the EMS building, they had a new plan for the irrigation rock to be used there. Lape gave photos of it. She asked to keep it on the agenda so it can be brought up in the Spring. It was \$18.92/ton from Hardwick Hardrock Aggregate.

- Lape asked Garcia's if they were all together. Angel said it was just him. He said that when the city plowed last, half of his street was not plowed. He said he told Kevin about it that day and that Kevin told him it may snow tomorrow so that is why. Gum said no, he said that may be a possibility. B. Thode spoke and said that this was bullshit. Angel said what was bullshit was that he didn't do his job. B. Thode said he is human and sometimes he forgets. Angel then asked why we had a part time person to do a job when there is a full-time employee. B. Thode said the city would have to pay him overtime if he did all of it. Angel then spoke about a machine at the gym that hadn't been fixed yet that he brought up last year. B. Thode asked which one and Angel said the leg press machine with the sign on it. B. Thode said all machines were fixed last spring. Angel said this is just a pattern. Many council members spoke and said they thought there was a guy hired to fix them and do an inspection. Angel said the sign is still there. Angel said his concern is that he has come just twice since he left and nothing has changed since he left and nothing has changed. Angel then said they have to pay taxes and try to be reasonable with the community. He spoke about the bugs and the spraying over the summer, saying it wasn't enough. He said he worked for the city and he knows there is plenty of spray, claiming there is always an excuse. Angel said when he worked for the city, a lot of things got done. Lape said she doesn't know how to explain the machine because the guy was there. Smith asked if he can come give a report. Gum said he would go check it tomorrow and see if he could fix it. Angel said there is a lot of things, not just one problem, and council ran to make the community better. Lape said that when he called her over the weekend, she did not answer because she was with her mother, but that she did reach out to the guys about the snow and that Gum had called her right back, so she knew it would get done. She continued and said she can't speak for B. Thode, but she does not believe it was intentionally done to forget to plow that side of the street. Angel then circled back to the machine and then said he went to put air in his tire and that Thode still had a personal camera up at the shop. Lape asked if they work and others said they do not. Angel said that he isn't trying to pick on Thode because it is the council's fault for everything because it is their job to monitor these things. Lape said she wishes she had an answer about the machine at least. Angel said it could just be the sign needs removed. Gum said again that he would check tomorrow. Angel then spoke about having to figure out what to do with the part time people. Smith said that is something that does need to be looked at. B. Thode said that he gets time and a half (overtime) going out on the weekends he has his 40 hours in. He said that during the snow emergency was two events at the QCC and Hall that he was also managing to keep clear. Plahn asked if Amy Johnson could get put on the snow emergency list to be notified. Erikson said she called and was added. Angel asked how it was justified to ask for a plow and mentioned that the buildings need tuck pointing and that is more important. He said he hopes he doesn't have to come back here. Lape said they would address the part time issue. Smith encouraged him to always come to them. Plahn spoke about when they went around town to look at the things that needed to be done. Angel said he did his job when he was here. Gum said that for the summer help, they were used to pull up the edging around the buildings because it was done wrong. Angel said it was just

because they wanted to. Gum asked why the proper materials were not used. Angel claimed they were and asked when they would be finishing it. Gum said spring. Trinidad said it was enough and that they were leaving. Everyone agreed and said there was no need to argue.

- Angie Raatz – R. Thode spoke for her and let council know she was interested in purchasing or renting the old tables at the QCC. Council decided to sell the tables for \$10/table. **Motioned by Plahn 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed.**
- Troy Kallemeyn – R. Thode let council know that he was asking to have permanent disconnect for his property. **Motioned by Houg 1st/Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Review and approve minutes from:

- Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025
- Budget Meeting on November 20th, 2025

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

Review/Approve receipts and claims to date.

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

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage:

Smith asked if they were applied to taxes. Erickson said yes.

Wellness Center/QCC: None

New Business:

- DSI – Wanted to know if the city would be interested in another round of grants. Erickson said they would come in January if they wanted to. They will be invited to the January meeting.
- JDC – R. Thode did some digging and it was paid for by the city, however it was never approved to be paid. Said it was around the same time the city approved waiving the fee for reconnecting services for new builds, but it did not include new lines being placed. Kounkel asked the cost for the ones they already did. Asked R. Thode will find new number for today's rates.
- Respect and decorum for during council meetings – R. Thode has been working with the lawyer to come up with something to have in place based on the last meeting. Plahn said they need to stick to 3 minutes. Everyone agreed. This will be tabled for now.
- 2026 council meeting dates – **Motioned to approve dates: Motioned by: Houg 1st/Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed.**
- 2026 city Holidays - **Motioned to approve holidays: Motioned by: Smith 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed.**
- Fee Schedule – tabled until next meeting.
- Overlay Plans for 2026 - **Motioned to approve dates: Motioned by: Plahn 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Old Business:

