

Jackson, Minnesota
April 16, 2019

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Wayne Walter. On the roll call, the following persons were present: Mayor Wayne Walter, Aldermen Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Jeffrey Gay and Dave Cushman, City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Community and Economic Development Associates Community and Business Development Specialist Thomas Nelson, Shannon Sweeney of David Drown Associates, Engineer Maria Tiegs of SEH, Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken, Jackson Assistant Fire Chief Dave Bond, Jackson Ambulance Director Mike Muchlinski, Ken Temple, Luke Ewald, Interim Pastor Bob Stover of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Jackson, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff, Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot and Dave Schmidt of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (Aldermen Matt Madden and Donnie Schoenrock were absent.) (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Wayne Walter called the regular meeting of the Jackson City Council to order. He noted the roll call showed all Councilmembers present except Aldermen Matt Madden and Donnie Schoenrock.

There were no Public Hearings, Bid Lettings or Open Forum.

CONSENT AGENDA

ANDERSON/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Unscheduled Guests

Ken Temple of the Jackson Garden Club

Ken Temple said he was appearing before the City Council as a representative of the Jackson Garden Club. He explained the Jackson Garden Club takes care of the flowers and shrubs in the community.

Temple said the Garden Club was requesting the City waive the shelter house fee for the Garden Club's annual plant and flower sale on Friday and Saturday, May 17th and 18th at Ashley Park. Temple noted the City Council has waived the shelter house fee in past years.

CUSHMAN/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to waive the shelter house fee for the Jackson Garden Club's Plant and Flower Sale on Friday and Saturday, May 17th and 18th, 2019 at Ashley Park.

Temple thanked Mayor Walter and the City Council.

Council Discussion Items

2019A GENERAL OBLIGATION UTILITY REVENUE BOND BIDS

Shannon Sweeney of David Drown Associates explained about a month ago the City Council set into motion the process for a competitive sale of general obligation bonds to finance the 2019 utility reconstruction projects including the rehabilitation of Lift Station Number Four.

Sweeney said David Drown Associates went to the market, prepared an offering document and went through the credit rating process. Sweeney reported City Administrator Matt Skaret and City Finance Officer Deb Mitchell did a terrific job responding to a variety of questions from the rating agency. He explained questions the rating agency asked in particular about the City's finances including the budget process, documents provided to the City Council for review, a host of finance questions with regard to the City's ability to understand where they're at with regard to budgets, investments, things like that along with questions regarding cash balances, budget practices and projects in the future.

Sweeney said the rating agency reaffirmed the Double-A-Minus Stable Outlook Credit Rating of the community which is a great rating for a community the size of Jackson. Sweeney said the City of Jackson also had the State of Minnesota's Credit Enhancement Rating. He explained for a fee of \$500 on utility projects, the State provides a limited guarantee that they'll step in and make the debt service payment in the event that the City doesn't. Sweeney said for that, the City gets a little extra bump in credit rating which produces a slightly better interest rate and attracts additional bidders on occasion. He said that's what he expects is the reason why the low bidder in this instance is IFS Securities, Incorporated out of Atlanta, Georgia.

Sweeney said four bids were received on the purchase of the City's bonds. He said the low bid, as he mentioned, was from ISF Securities based in Atlanta, Georgia. Sweeney said ISF Securities also has offices in Raleigh, North Carolina, Chicago, Illinois and probably others.

Sweeney explained the bid spread ranged from the low bid of 2.8682 percent to a high bid from Stifel, Nicolaus and Company of 2.9797 percent. He noted it was a very narrow spread in the bids received which is good. Sweeney said the market knew what the City of Jackson was worth on April 16th. He said those were the interest rates that were bid for the purchase of the City's bonds.

Sweeney said the only wrinkle in this process is that IFS Securities is a new bidder for David Drown Associates as well. He explained Sue Goodspeed in David Drown Associates' office is the person who confirms there's a good faith deposit that's wired on the day of sale into the City's account. Sweeney said the low bidder is required to wire to the City's account a good faith deposit of about \$42,400 or something like that.

Sweeney said David Drown Associates gave IFS Securities wiring instructions but they did not receive confirmation even with three voice mails and a couple of emails.

Sweeney said David Drown Associates would recommend the award of the sale to IFS Securities conditioned on the prompt receipt of that good faith deposit because that was part of the bidding documents. He said he's never had an issue with this. Sweeney said he contacted his boss on his way to Jackson who said he's never had a problem regarding the good faith deposit in the 35 years he's been in the financial consulting business. Sweeney noted IFS Securities has purchased other bonds in Minnesota so this isn't there first time of doing business in the State. He said IFS Securities has purchased bonds for projects nationwide. Sweeney said it's anticipated the IFS Securities good faith deposit issue will be resolved first thing in the morning. He said in the event something weird is going on, David Drown Associates recommends a conditional approval of the resolution that was provided to the Mayor and City Council.

Sweeney said David Drown Associates' preliminary estimate on the interest rate was about 3.05 percent. He noted the 2.8682 percent interest rate is a little bit beneath what they were estimating and reflects sales in the market. Sweeney said David Drown Associates sold bonds for the City of Little Falls, Minnesota on April 15th and thought the sale of bonds for Jackson would do slightly better and they did. He noted it was a little bit longer term but it did well. Sweeney said David Drown Associates would recommend awarding the sale of the bonds on condition of the prompt receipt of that good faith deposit from IFS Securities.

Sweeney said he would be happy to answer any questions that the Mayor or Council would have.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the recommendation from David Drown Associates to accept the bid of 2.8682 percent interest rate from IFS Securities, Incorporated of Atlanta, Georgia on condition of the prompt receipt of the good faith deposit from IFS Securities.

Sweeney explained David Drown Associates expects to close on the bonds on May 21st, 2019 so that's when funds will be available to pay for project costs.

Sweeney said if there's any irregularity in the bid or the receipt of the good faith deposit, David Drown Associates works with all three other companies that submitted bids including the next lowest bid, which was from Robert W. Baird and Company. He said David Drown Associates has sold Baird and Company lots and lots of bonds so their confident they will get it done one way or the other. Sweeney said David Drown Associates just wants to make sure the City receives that good faith deposit from IFS Securities, Incorporated.

Mayor Walter asked Sweeney if the City Council will need to meet if IFS Securities doesn't make the good faith deposit.

Sweeney said the City Council will need to meet.

Mayor Walter noted the next regular City Council meeting isn't for another two weeks. He asked if Robert W. Baird's bid would be good for that long or would he need to call a special City Council meeting.

Sweeney said that would need to be determined. He explained David Drown Associates hasn't had a conversation with Robert W. Baird and Company yet to see if they're willing to hold their bid. Sweeney said he can't tell the City Council for sure that Baird and Company is willing to do that. He noted they are a very good reputable company.

Mayor Walter recalled that the City has worked with Robert W. Baird in the past.

Sweeney said Robert W. Baird has been a bidder on probably just about all of the City of Jackson's bond issues. He said they may not have purchased them all but they probably have been a bidder.

Mayor Walter thanked Sweeney for his presentation.

MEMORIAL PARK PHASE I BIDS

City Administrator Matt Skaret said the long-awaited bids for Phase One of the Memorial Park Project were submitted on April 8th. He said the two bidders were Holstein Excavating of Edgerton, Minnesota and Svoboda Excavating of Jackson.

Skaret explained the project was bid with basically five different components. He said there was the base bid which entails mostly the grading, seeding, dirt work, the trail extensions and tree planting. Skaret said that part of the project came in with Svoboda's bid at \$419,477 and Holstein's bid at \$446,228.75. He noted the engineer's estimate was \$425,283.

Skaret said they also did four different alternate bids for the Memorial Park Project to be added on if the budget allows for that. He explained Alternate One was the Kayak/Canoe Launch on the far southern end of the park. Skaret said Alternate One came in quite a bit higher than what the engineer had estimated. He noted the bid for Alternate One from Svoboda Excavating was at \$62,850 and the bid from Holstein Excavating was \$64,104. Skaret the engineer's estimate for Alternate One was \$15,294. He pointed out what was bid was a limestone type material and that came in quite a bit higher than what the engineer estimated. Skaret said that's a very high price and the Park Board felt that's something that could be looked at later down the road. Skaret said Svoboda's indicated that as the Memorial Park Project progresses they could revisit that and look at a more affordable option for the Kayak/Canoe Launch.

Skaret said Alternates Two and Three were concrete pad squares for picnic tables with a canopy. He explained the Alternates were just the concrete pad itself and those came in higher than what was anticipated at \$6,490 for one and \$5,685 for the other from Svoboda's. Skaret said Holstein's bids were actually about half of that for both of them.

Skaret said Alternate Number Four was the Splash Pad. He said as the Mayor and City Council may recall, during the design process for the park, the splash pad had to be moved about 165 feet further east to get it out of the flood plain. Skaret explained the net result of that was extra piping and bigger mechanical equipment that needed to have a dome pak constructed to house it. He said all of that added about \$75,000 extra to the cost of the splash pad.

Skaret said instead of a project that the Splash Pad Committee was looking at around \$300,000, the low bid on that came from the other contractor, Holstein Excavating at \$403,388 and Svoboda's bid was \$489,100. He said the Splash Pad Committee is kind of going back to the drawing board right now. Skaret explained those prices are too high. He said the Splash Pad Committee was anticipating the cost to be around \$300,000.

Skaret said the Splash Pad Committee is also looking at an alternate location for the splash pad away from Memorial Park. He said the Splash Pad Committee is still optimistic that they can do a project and get the splash pad constructed yet this summer. Skaret said the Splash Pad Committee is looking at some different alternates.

Skaret said the Park Board recommended that the City Council award the bid, the base bid only, to Svoboda Excavating. He said then the City Council and the Park Board can look at adding alternates one, two and three or one or two or three of them as the project moves forward depending on the budget. Skaret noted there are also uncertainties when you go into a project. He said the alternates can certainly be added on.

Skaret noted as the base bids came in, that will be well within budget so there's certainly a possibility that those alternates can be added in. He said there will be time to do that later on.

Mayor Walter asked for a motion to accept the Park Board's recommendation.

CUSHMAN/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Park Board's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$419,477 from Svoboda Excavating of Jackson, Minnesota for Phase One of the Memorial Park Project.

WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT PAY APPLICATION NO. 5

Engineer Maria Tieg of SEH reported the Water Storage Tank Project is going well and is still on schedule. She pointed the Mayor and Councilmembers' attention to photographs of the project that were included in the Council's information packets.

Tieg said the Ground Storage Reservoir Tank is on site. She said the work is pretty much completed in the garage at the Water Plant. Tieg noted the suction and discharge equipment is completely built and the pumps are being set into place this week along with electrical work.

Skaret said lower water levels in the river are also hoped for to allow for the installation of the Ground Storage Reservoir.

Tieg concurred and said they want the ground water level to go down.

Tieg said Water Storage Tank Project Pay Application No. 5 for the month of March amounts to \$384,508.07.

Skaret explained the reason the amount is so large is because it includes the actual tank itself.

Tiegs added it included the material cost of the ground storage reservoir tank itself.

Cushman asked what type of material is the ground storage tank made of.

Tiegs explained it's a fiber glass lined tank.

Cushman asked if the tank pieces are OK to sit at the Water Plant site or if they need to be put into storage if they are going to sit for a while.

Tiegs said the tank pieces should be OK sitting at the Water Plant site. If there was a concern, Tiegs said the project manager would have talked with Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough and they would have made arrangements for storage. Tiegs said there shouldn't be any problem with the tank pieces located at the Water Plant site.

Cushman noted the tank is an expensive piece of property.

Tiegs agreed with Cushman.

Finck asked Tiegs if the Water Storage Tank Project is below or right on budget or if the project was over budget.

Tiegs said the project is still below budget.

Finck asked if the project was below budget even with the change orders.

Tiegs said the project is still below budget. She said there will be a couple more change orders but the project should still be at or below budget. Tiegs said there are no projections of going over budget at this point.

Cushman asked what the anticipated completion date is for the project.

Tiegs said the Ground Storage Reservoir should be in place by the middle of October installed and ready to go.

CUSHMAN/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Water Storage Tank Project Pay Application No. 5 to Magney Construction in the amount of \$384,508.07.

Mayor Walter and Councilmembers thanked Tiegs for her update.

EDA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Community and Economic Development Associates Community and Business Development Specialist Thomas Nelson thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to give them an overview of what's going on at the Economic Development Office.

Regarding availability for industrial, Nelson reported the JEDC has land as well as a spec building in the Industrial Park.

Nelson said unemployment in the area as of May, 2018 was two percent. As far as industrial jobs, Nelson said there were about 2,000 people commuting to Jackson every day to work.

Nelson said all the different businesses that he's been talking to in the Industrial Park are all continuing to try to hire employees. He said one example is Ametek. Nelson said since January, Ametek had 30 additional positions and filled them all. He said Ametek is able to find people to fill those positions. But, Nelson pointed out what's being seen from some of the other companies in the Industrial Park is that there's a higher turnover rate. He said while the businesses in Jackson's Industrial Park are being successful, specifically AGCO, there are a lot of employees being pulled from other areas. Nelson noted AGCO has a high reputation in the area and also tends to pay better. So, he said Jackson is doing better than some areas as far as having those jobs available and is generally the reason we see low unemployment in the industrial area.

Nelson said efforts are underway to get the spec building in the Industrial Park filled. He said the Economic Development Office has been working on multiple leads and the JEDC continues to promote the availability of the spec building through different types of networking events as well as through traditional methods.

Nelson said the Economic Development Office has been working with the JEDC to continue to provide some more external marketing. He said in the past, the JEDC has had a lot of internal promotion going on with the newspaper and the like. Nelson said he's been working on helping the JEDC to promote more regionally and updating the JEDC's website which is allowing for easier direction to the JEDC's projects. He said they have also been doing some signage and promoting available land in the Jackson Industrial Park through regional publications.

Nelson again pointed out the two percent unemployment rate in Jackson. He said a great connection through the Community Venture Network that the JEDC is a member of is Talent Integration. Nelson explained Talent Integration is a Puerto Rico recruiting and relocation agency that establishes relationships with local businesses and the JEDC is in the process of potentially partnering with them. Nelson said that's a great example of how we're trying to give resources to local businesses to help them bring in people. Nelson said Puerto Rico is an area within the United States that has high talent but a high unemployment rate. He said companies that hire employees through the Talent Integration program boasts high retention numbers of those that are hired. Nelson also pointed out that a lot of times the new employees will relocate directly into the community where they are working unlike people who live in nearby communities that are hired but don't exactly move to the community where they work. Nelson said another potential benefit of the Talent Integration Program is employees relocating and potentially increasing the community's population.

Regarding commercial, Nelson said he's broke his presentation down into two areas. He said one area he calls Day Trip Destination. Nelson explained a lot of things the Economic Development Office has been working on is re-doing and re-focusing on retail.

In Jackson, Nelson said the effort is trying to draw more people to Jackson. As you look at it, Nelson explained retail is changing as an environment all over the place. Recently, Nelson noted the closing of Shopko stores. He said that's not just happening in smaller communities but in larger communities as well. Nelson pointed out in 2018, statistics showed there was 500,000 square feet of open big box store space in the Twin Cities alone. He said it's not because of being a small community; it's just a change in the times.

Nelson said with the different kind of sectors and areas he talks about in regard to retail, there's large logistics which is your Walmart's and such, and then also your Amazons'. He said the other thing, besides large logistics, is niche shopping. Nelson said a lot of people are still going to stores for the experience. He said people are partially going to buy a product but they're also looking for that experience. Nelson said they want to go to the store to enjoy that experience.

Nelson said part of the things we've been doing in Jackson is looking to really show off what we have here already and utilizing Jackson's existing assets. He noted Jackson has a great river, great buildings and already has existing businesses that are in that niche shopping category all throughout the community, both near the Interstate and downtown.

Nelson said some of the projects that have been underway to help keep that going include the Facade Upgrade Program. He explained the Facade Upgrade Program is offering some assistance to encourage businesses downtown to improve their facade and take pride in the existing things that Jackson has going on.

Nelson said the Jackson Business Challenge is still underway. He said there are currently two applicants still in the process in round two which will be finishing up soon. Nelson said they will be going into the third round which will include the in-person presentations as well. He said he's very excited about the applicants involved in the process in potentially starting a business.

Regarding Community Art Projects, Nelson said he has been continually trying to encourage and facilitate with the Jackson Center for the Arts to try and do some art projects in town. Nelson said one example he saw recently is a photo of the "wings" that people take a photograph by. He said he came across a picture of a person that took a picture of that and the caption under the picture read "I drove 900 miles to take this picture". Nelson said that's just an example of something where the Economic Development Office is trying to support those types of projects in seeing how that can drive traffic to a community and do some things that could be really cool.

Nelson reported he's been working to take some pointers from the City of Luverne regarding that community's brewery 16 Brew. He explained 16 Brew is a project where no one person did the project. Nelson explained it was a multitude of people that came together and started the brewery project and essentially crowd funded it by people purchasing \$1,000 shares.

Through those efforts, Nelson explained the City of Luverne ended up getting a project and hiring a brewer from outside the State. Nelson said that's a group he's been having semi-regular meetings with about exploring the possibility of doing a project here in Jackson. He noted it's a community focused project and not really even one person that's doing that.

Nelson said the second side of commercial that the Economic Development Office has been working on is what he calls "critical mass". He said efforts are underway to further develop business near I-90 to draw more travelers off the Interstate to spend money in the community.

Nelson reported the hotel feasibility study has been completed which came back in the affirmative. He said that information has been distributed to developers and some really good responses have been received. Specifically on the hotel project, Nelson said they are not just looking at trying to get a couple extra jobs and tax base, which of course is important, but really what the study looked at is also adding restaurant and event space. He said those are two other areas within the community where they are seeing a need. Nelson said the potential project, if they continue to work on it, is to bring a lot of assets to the community besides just the increased tax base.

Nelson pointed out there is space available for development at Jackson Crossroads. He said since the completion of the new Jackson Municipal Liquor Store, there's definitely been increased interest in available spaces. Nelson said the increased interest has helped him to promote the area to some potential projects. As a whole, Nelson said efforts are to get more eating options and other options near that area to get people off the Interstate. He said once people are off the interstate, they can be drawn to the rest of Jackson. Nelson said the first thing that has to be done is to get the people traveling off the Interstate and into the community.

Nelson explained the EDA is also working on maintaining and expanding the housing options in Jackson. Regarding maintaining present housing, Nelson pointed out the EDA has been promoting the Small Cities Development Program which was discussed at a previous City Council meeting. He said there are still plenty of funds available in the Small Cities Development Program.

Nelson said they are still trying to connect eligible homeowners with those funds as well as the additional \$5,000 loans the City has through the 804 Fund. He explained that helps out anybody that still can't make up that 20 percent after the 80 percent grant. Nelson noted there are still loan funds available in the 804 Fund. He said they have been able to process some of those projects and are still trying to continue to do more.

Nelson reported the housing study is going to be completed at the end of April. He said the housing study was last updated in 2013. Since that time, Nelson said the City has a very different picture as far as the employment statistics and other aspects of the market. He said having the data from the housing study will really show the changes.

Nelson said the Sunset View Housing Addition has seen a lot of great interest from people. He said there was a lot that was sold at the end of last year in which a new house will be constructed. Nelson said there has also been additional interest shown about Sunset View from contractors. In addition to promoting individual people to purchase a lot to build a new home, Nelson said he has also been working to draw interest from surrounding contractors to build spec houses in the Sunset View Addition. He explained building your own house can be a daunting task. Nelson said spec houses provide another option for those looking for new homes, but don't want to go through the process of building a new home. He said the spec houses expand the availability of different types of housing. Nelson said as far as housing, they are not looking at just the number of units potentially needed, but also the type of housing.

Nelson said another thing the Economic Development Office has been looking at is trying to improve the way the available rental units in Jackson are listed. He said easier access to find that list of rentals is now available on the City's website. Nelson said the Economic Development Office would also like to look at how more information could be added to the website. He said currently the website rental listing includes the name of the landlord, the number of bedrooms, if the landlord allows pets and whether they allow students. Nelson said there's no information regarding the number of bathrooms and no pictures and no additional information. Nelson said with the addition of an administrative assistant in the Economic Development Office, that's one target area they hope to be able to provide additional information.

Nelson explained the additional rental information on the website is not just to help landlords fill available rental units, but also to help people that are looking to move to our community and ease their efforts in finding a place to live in Jackson instead of somewhere else. He pointed out when people move to neighboring communities it's difficult to get them to relocate to Jackson once they're already living there.

Nelson said he's been doing a lot of business visits and continues to meet with businesspeople whether its local maintenance shops, coffee shops or all the different businesses in-between and helping them. As always, he said a number of different people have been stopping into the Economic Development Office and talking about ideas for new businesses or potentially expanding their current business in Jackson. Nelson said the Economic Development Office has definitely been trying to help them.

Nelson reported there is currently a fairly healthy amount available in the Revolving Loan Fund and they are definitely sitting well for any potential projects that come up large or small. He explained the Revolving Loan Fund can assist businesses with gap financing.

Nelson said there are currently 12 loans out from the 801 Fund which is both the Industrial and Revolving Loan Fund. He reported there are still five loans out for the Small Cities Development Commercial Grant Fund. On the housing side, Nelson said there are currently 20 different loans out both for the Home Ownership Means Everything and Rental Fix-Up Fund programs.

Nelson said that's a broad overview as well as the highlighted projects the Economic Development Office has been working on.

Nelson asked if anyone had any questions.

Gay asked one of his concerns that Nelson did not touch on was the aesthetics in the areas where people come into Jackson from the north and south. He asked whose job is it to clean up the area where the old log cabin used to be located on the south side of Jackson and on the north side of town where there are cars parked where the old campground used to be.

Nelson noted the City has identified some of the housing properties in Jackson and have worked to address them while the Economic Development Office has been identifying some of the commercial and business properties and have been working with them. He said there are a couple obstacles with some of those businesses as far as their ability to make improvements. Nelson said he's been also working to redevelop some of the business buildings in Jackson.

Gay explained he wasn't looking at the buildings as such, but instead the areas that would be an easy fix by just cleaning up the mess.

Mayor Walter suggested Gay talk to the property owners of the properties he mentioned.

Gay said he would speak to the property owners. He said he has already talked to one of them.

Mayor Walter noted he has also talked to one of the property owners about the property on the south side of Jackson.

Mayor Walter thanked Nelson for his presentation.

Skaret said as most of the City Council may be aware, the laundromat in Jackson recently closed. He said Nelson has been actively working with two or three different parties that may potentially open up a laundromat in Jackson again.

Nelson pointed out the big thing is not only assisting the developer, but also having an open communication as much as possible with each party to let them know that other parties are working on opening a laundromat also. Nelson said Jackson definitely needs a laundromat because it's a necessity to the community, but doesn't know if we need three laundromats. He said three laundromats may not be successful. Nelson said he's trying to keep communications open between all three parties interested in opening a laundromat in Jackson.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-0419 EXTENDING EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Skaret said he received a phone call on April 16th from Jackson County Emergency Management Coordinator Tawn Hall.

Skaret noted on March 19th, the City Council passed a resolution declaring an emergency in relation to the floods that began on March 13th. He said Hall indicated the County was going to be extending their Emergency Declaration another 30 days. Skaret explained the Emergency Declarations are good for up to 30 days at a time so the City's Declaration would be expiring this week. He said hopefully we're out of the woods, but with the river as high as it is, all it takes is another good rain or two and Jackson might be back up to a flooding situation. Skaret said his recommendation was to extend the City's Emergency Declaration really more as a proactive measure. He said hopefully the City won't have to exercise it, but in case the City has to, the Emergency Declaration is there.

GAY/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to extend Emergency Declaration Resolution No. 18-0419.

Other:

Flag Etiquette

Gay said he's received several complaints at the Veterans Service Office about U.S. Flags around Jackson. He said he sent a letter to the editor on April 16th regarding flag etiquette.

Gay said there is one U.S. Flag in particular that has been mentioned to him. Gay said if anybody talks to the Mayor or other Councilmembers about that U.S. flag that's really disgracefully hung; he's taking care of that.

Fall in Love with Jackson video

Finck said he's received some comments about the video that was produced to highlight the lots in Sunset View. He said it was brought up by some of the downtown businesses that if another video is produced, it should help promote Jackson's downtown as well. Finck said in looking at the video; the downtown was missed. He noted we just need to keep that in mind.

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Fall in Love with Jackson video

Regarding the Fall in Love with Jackson video, Skaret noted the video was produced a couple of years ago. He said the video's intent was to showcase the lots available in the Sunset View Addition and not to display any business or segment of the community. Going forward, Skaret said it's good to keep in mind that any future videos should also highlight the downtown.

South Highway Reconstruction and Utilities Improvement Project

Skaret reported a preconstruction meeting for the South Highway reconstruction and utilities improvement project is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th with the contractor and the County. He said an informational meeting for the public will be held on Monday, April 29th at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall. Skaret said City Hall has been getting some questions from residents on when the work is going to be starting. He explained that meeting will be able to describe what the project entails and provide a general timeline and answer questions regarding access and how property owners are going to be affected. He said the City Councilmembers are welcome to attend those meetings.

Demolishing home at 120 East Maple Street

Skaret said he's heard from the contractor who's going to be demolishing the home at 120 East Maple Street. He said the contractor expects to begin work on that in the next week or two weather permitting.

Hats Off to the Electric Department Crew

Skaret said he wanted to say hats off to the City's Electric Crew. He pointed out during the ice storm last week; they not only did an excellent job in keeping the City's electric system up and running, but also went out and assisted Federated REA with their damage. Skaret said fortunately electric power was not lost in the City. He said the lights did flicker a few times, but the City did not lose power.

Skaret said that's really a testament, in part at least, to the City Council and previous City Councils in the investments the City has made in the electric system. He said the City started the project to bury the electric system about five years ago and have stayed on course with the project. Skaret noted this will be the last year of the five year plan to bury the electric system.

Skaret said it's important to realize that these projects do have an impact on people for the positive. He said they are not just projects that the City spends money on or the City doesn't have anything better to do. Skaret there is really a tangible benefit to the public by investing in the City's infrastructure. He said hats off to the City Council and previous Councils for being proactive in getting the City's electric system buried because if they hadn't buried the system there's a strong possibility that the City would have been without power. Skaret said the City could have had another circumstance like they did in 2013 when there was an ice storm and the City was without power and for some people it was days. Skaret said it's a key point to highlight.

Skaret pointed out work is underway on a street and utilities improvement plan for upcoming years. He noted there was some brief discussion about it at the April 15th Finance Committee meeting. Skaret said the Street Committee had a lengthy discussion before the last City Council meeting. He said another Street Committee meeting will be organized soon to go over what is being developed for plans. Skaret said that's also something important to keep moving forward on. He said the City has a lot of projects going on right now, but we need to keep looking down the road and not get flat-footed.

Swimming Pool is Open Again

Skaret reported the indoor swimming pool is open again. He said the wading pool is still not operational but the main swimming pool re-opened on April 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, ANDERSON/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried for the meeting to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

