

Jackson, Minnesota  
December 3, 2019

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Wayne Walter. On the roll call, the following persons were present, Mayor Wayne Walter, Aldermen Matt Madden, Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Dave Cushman, City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk, Janice Lipinski of PAWS, Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken, Jackson Ambulance Director Mike Muchlinski, Mike and Bonnie Nielsen, Mary Muir, MRES Jackson Distribution Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Boogerd, Isaac Rinkenberger of DRG Engineering, City Finance Officer Deb Mitchell, Lynne Anderson, Linda Pribyl, Jack Brinkman, Mike, Mary and Lilly Brinkman, Phil Nasby, Luke Ewald, Dave DeJong, Mary Leach, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff and Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot. (Aldermen Jeffrey Gay and Donnie Schoenrock were absent.) (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

#### **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

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Mayor Walter called the regular meeting of the Jackson City Council to order. He noted the roll call showed all Councilmembers were present except for Aldermen Jeffrey Gay and Donnie Schoenrock.

#### **2019 VOLUNTEER SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS**

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Skaret introduced Jack Brinkman, the recipient of this year's Youth Award.

Skaret read information from the nomination form about Brinkman's volunteerism in school, his church and in the community. Skaret said the nomination form stated that the number of activities Brinkman volunteers for is a true testament of his strong character. He read Brinkman is willing to lend a helping hand when needed.

Skaret noted Brinkman's volunteer activities include serving as a volunteer and group leader for the last three years at Camp Summit in Lanesboro, Minnesota, involvement with numerous activities at Good Shepherd Church and youth church retreats. Skaret read that Brinkman attended the March for Life in St. Paul for the past two years, rakes leaves for elderly parishioners at Good Shepherd Church who are unable to.

Skaret said Brinkman has also volunteered at the Banquet in Sioux Falls and did service work for the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux Falls. He said Brinkman has assisted with youth basketball camp and summer golf.

Mayor Wayne Walter presented a plaque to Jack Brinkman recognizing him as the 2019 Volunteer Youth Service Award recipient. Those attending gave Brinkman a round of applause.

Linda Pribyl was honored with the Individual Service Award. Reading from the nomination form, Skaret said Pribyl's many volunteer activities include, but are not limited to, Catholic church organizations and functions, volunteering at the Food Shelf and Ruby's Pantry, hospice and senior visitations, giving rides to those who need them especially to medical appointments, meals on wheels and many other activities. Skaret said the nomination also stated that Pribyl is a very caring person to the elderly and those with any type of disability regardless of age.

Mayor Walter presented a plaque to Linda Pribyl recognizing her as the 2019 Volunteer Service Individual Award recipient. Those attending gave Pribyl a round of applause as she received her plaque from Mayor Walter.

Lynne Anderson was honored with the Senior Citizen Service Award. Skaret noted from the nomination form that Anderson has been a part of developing the trail system in Jackson for approximately the past 20 years. Skaret said Anderson has been working with the Friends of the Jackson County Trails Committee to develop a sustainable trail network, not only in the City of Jackson, but also within Jackson County. Skaret said those efforts started back in the 1980's. He said Anderson started off by visiting other communities in Greater Minnesota with notable trail systems. Skaret said Anderson has certainly helped to make Jackson's trail system into something that is very notable especially for Southwest Minnesota. Skaret noted there is over nine miles of paved trail and are always adding to that. He pointed out Anderson is also working on the off-road trail at Fort Belmont Park.

Skaret said Anderson has not only been involved in working on developing the trails, but has been involved in the Active Living Plan with the Jackson County Central School and also the Riverside Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan. He noted basically Anderson has been involved with anything that helps make physical activity a healthy, easy choice for students and seniors.

Skaret said Anderson has also been in collaboration with local partners including the City of Jackson, the School, the County, non-profit organizations and everyone else in-between that has a hand and say in healthy living. Regarding the trails in Jackson, Skaret noted Anderson is a leader and pioneer.

Anderson received a round of applause from those attending the Council meeting as Mayor Walter presented a plaque to Lynne Anderson recognizing her as the 2019 Volunteer Senior Citizen Service Award recipient.

Alderman Anderson said the Awards are well deserved to Brinkman, Pribyl and Anderson and congratulated all of them followed by a round of applause from all those that were present.

## **TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING**

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Mayor Walter asked for a motion to open the Truth in Taxation public hearing.

**ANDERSON/MADDEN moved and it was unanimously carried to open the Truth in Taxation public hearing.**

Mayor Walter explained anyone that wanted to comment during the Truth in Taxation hearing was welcome to do so.

Mike Nielsen said his property taxes went up again this year even with the lost of property due to the reconstruction of South Highway. He said the road reconstruction totally destroyed his driveways and he can't get his trailers in and out of his property, but yet the value of his property went up. Nielsen said he has made no improvements and asked so what's the deal?

Finck explained that question would be better addressed at the Board of Equalization. He said County Assessor Jason McCaslin sets the values of the property and the City Council doesn't. Finck said the conversation regarding property values would need to be held with the Assessor's Office. He said the City Council wouldn't have the answer regarding Nielsen's property values.

Cushman asked when the Board of Equalization meeting is held.

City Clerk/Council Secretary Maschoff noted the Board of Equalization meetings are usually held in April.

Skaret suggested Nielsen attend the Board of Equalization meeting.

Finck noted tax values within the community have gone up without improvements.

Nielsen pointed out he has agricultural land.

Finck said County Assessor McCaslin would have information about why Nielsen's property value went up.

City Attorney Anderson said Nielsen should go up to the County Assessor's Office and talk with them because they are the ones that would have the real answers.

Finck said the City Council doesn't set the property values. He said County Assessor Jason McCaslin and his staff set the property values and they could explain why the property values are set the way they are.

Mayor Walter suggested Nielsen's go to the County Assessor's Office to find out information about how their property values were determined.

Finck said there's a formula that the Assessor's Office uses in determining property value.

Mary Muir commented that property taxes keep going up, but a person's income doesn't keep going up. She said that's been going on quite a number of years. Muir noted her income is going to be curtailed quite a bit because her husband passed away. Muir said not only that, she is also paying to two school districts. She said she didn't even get to vote in the Blue Earth Area School District's bond referendum because she wasn't living in that area. Muir said that seems to her to be taxation without representation and she thought we fought a Revolutionary War with England against that. Muir said she thinks she should have at least been able to vote in Blue Earth.

Muir said she guesses she'll have to go to the Assessor's Office to talk about property values and homestead credit.

Finck said the Assessor's Office will be able to answer Muir's questions on why property values have gone up or down.

Muir asked what the Truth in Taxation hearing is exactly for.

Skaret explained the Truth in Taxation hearing actually pertains to the City's preliminary tax levy that the City Council set back in September. He said the City Council set the preliminary tax levy and that's the levy that's used on the tax statements that were mailed out. Skaret said the County Assessor's Office takes that preliminary tax levy figure and calculates a tax rate which is plugged into a property owner's valuation that shows up on the tax statement. He said that shows what your property tax would be if the City's preliminary levy was adopted. Skaret said the City of Jackson's preliminary levy went up 5.9 percent over last year. He said the Finance Committee is continuing to pare that down and it's likely the City's tax levy will be going up less than 5.9 percent.

Overall, Skaret said the valuations in Jackson between this year and last year went up about two percent.

Muir asked why are valuations going up.

Mayor Walter said it's basically due to home sales.

Muir said so they say, but how many homes in Jackson are going up for sale.

Finck said actually there have been pretty good homes sales in Jackson. He said he doesn't know how many properties, but if you talk with the real estate agents, it's hard to even find inventory to sell in the community. Finck said there are houses selling in the community. Finck noted what affects the tax values is what similar properties are selling for.

Muir said we better hope the economy doesn't downturn.

Finck said the property values can change and go down as well depending on the economy.

For the Council's reference, Skaret said he included in the Council's packet the comparisons of tax levies of other communities in the area. He pointed out the City of Jackson's overall tax rate is among the lowest in the area compared with Luverne, Worthington, Fairmont, Lakefield, Windom, Sleepy Eye, Pipestone, Blue Earth and Springfield. Skaret said Jackson's tax levy rate is 103.63 and that is by far the lowest of any of the cities that were in the comparison information. He noted the range goes all the way to almost double of what Jackson's tax levy rate is compared with other communities not too far from us.

For comparison sake, Skaret said the tax bill on a \$100,000 home in Jackson is about \$460 whereas if you double that, you're getting close to \$1,000 in those communities with the higher tax rates.

Muir asked Skaret where does somebody receive a several thousand-dollar tax bill every year.

Skaret said he was just talking about the City's share of the taxes. He said there are also School and County taxes.

Muir noted the School District's taxes will be going up again with the approval of the referendum. She said if you figure out how much of a person's money then goes to taxes it's frightening. Muir said there's the direct taxes and then there's the taxes you don't think about so much that pop up now and then. She noted and then there's insurance.

Mayor Walter asked if there was anybody else that had a Truth in Taxation question. Hearing none, Mayor Walter said he would entertain a motion to close the public hearing.

**ANDERSON/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to close the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing.**

**There was no bid letting and no open forum.**

**Unscheduled Guests:**

Mayor Walter asked twice if there were any unscheduled guests in the audience.

**There were no unscheduled guests at the meeting.**

Seeing none, Mayor Walter said the Council meeting would move on to other business.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Council Discussion Items**

**2019 VOLUNTEER SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM AWARDS**

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Mayor Walter noted this year's award recipients were honored at the start of the meeting.

## **MICHAEL MUCHLINSKI – CHANGE TO CAREY SIMMONS HOURS AND PAY**

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Jackson Ambulance Department Director Michael Muchlinski would like to increase Assistant Ambulance Director Carey Simmons' hours from 25 to 30 hours per week and increase her current wage of \$15 to \$16 per hour. He said the cost to the Ambulance Service will be about an additional \$5,500 per year.

Muchlinski explained the reason for the increase in hours is because the Ambulance Department doesn't have day-people for transfers. He said Simmons now works from noon to 5 p.m. but she makes herself available pretty much every morning all week without any compensation. Muchlinski said he would like to give Simmons a little extra compensation to be available all those days.

Muchlinski said the Ambulance Department is going to add a morning shift from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. at a flat rate of \$25. He said if none of the Ambulance Department members can sign up for that shift, then Simmons can sign up for that shift and receive something for being available that morning.

Cushman asked if the additional cost, such as for transfers, would be covered by insurance and not by City tax dollars.

Muchlinski said no City funds would be used and the additional cost would be totally self-sufficient.

**FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to increase Assistant Ambulance Director Carey Simmons' hours from 25 to 30 hours per week and increase Simmons' current wage from \$15 to \$16 per hour.**

Muchlinski thanked Mayor Walter and the City Councilmembers.

## **JANICE LEPINSKI WITH PAWS REGARDING FUNDING REQUEST**

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Lepinski said PAWS (Precious Animals Worth Saving) is very appreciative of the monetary help of \$2,000 that PAWS has received from the City the past few years. However, Lepinski said each year PAWS has rescued more cats from the City of Jackson. She said this year the number has nearly doubled and they are only beginning the month of December.

Lepinski said PAWS respectfully asks that the monetary amount from the City be raised to match what the actual expenditures are to get the cats and kittens PAWS rescues each year spayed and neutered and updated on shots.

Lepinski said a cap of \$4,000 would cover this as of 2019, but since every year PAWS takes in more than the previous year, it would be appreciated if the amount could be a bit higher. As a note, Lepinski said the current \$150 per animal only covers the basics of fixing and vaccinating. She said all other funds must be raised to cover the costs of food, supplies, water, electricity and other needed medical expenses.

Lepinski said PAWS request is to increase the amount to cover the expenditures.

Cushman asked about the amount the City is currently providing to PAWS.

Skaret said the City pays \$150 per cat up to \$2,000 annually.

Lepinski noted the request from PAWS for \$4,000 from the City would be a cap just like the \$2,000 has been. She noted the City wouldn't pay unless PAWS rescues.

Finck asked if the City was at the \$2,000 cap.

Skaret said the City is currently at that cap.

Madden noted Lepinski said that PAWS took in more cats every year than in the previous year. He asked what is the percentage that it increases.

Lepinski said PAWS took in a lot more cats than previous years. She said it increases probably at least ten percent each year.

Muir asked if all these cats are spayed and neutered, where are all these extra cats coming from.

Lepinski said the cats PAWS rescues are spayed and neutered. She said there are cats on the streets that are not spayed and neutered. Lepinski said people come into town and drop them off. She said there are cats dropped off in her yard all the time.

Finck noted years ago veterinarian Dr. Fell would keep stray cats for a certain period of time and then they would be put down.

Lepinski noted that PAWS also rescued cats that were at Dr. Fell's if no one claimed them. She said before that time, the City paid Dr. Fell to put the cats down.



Finck said that's why the City came up with the plan that they did because with the cost of euthanizing the cats, the City kept their costs the same and controlling the population of the cats in the community.

Lepinski said just so everyone was clear, PAWS will not put a cat down.

Madden said personally he's a little reluctant to give more money to something that the City gives \$2,000 a year to already and the cat population is increasing the way it is.

Lepinski said the number cats PAWS is rescuing is increasing but the population of the cats is actually decreasing because they're being taken off the streets.

Cushman said he can appreciate Lepinski's passion for this, but he doesn't know if the entire City shares that.

Lepinski said a lot of people do share her passion. She said she might be the only person attending the meeting, but there are a lot of people out there that agree with her.

Cushman said he thinks the City has been more than fair with the \$2,000 annually to help the situation.

Lepinski asked if they would like her to stop rescuing the cats and stop taking them in.

Cushman said that would be a personal choice. He said if that's what she needs to do, then yes. Cushman said he doesn't know if the City can keep harboring these cats.

Lepinski said the cats are not being harbored, they're being adopted out.

Cushman said Lepinski is taking in more cats than she is giving out, so she is harboring them.

Lepinski did not agree with Cushman.

Cushman said if the cats are being adopted out, there should be less money being used.

Lepinski said because we need TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release). She said TNR is needed.

Cushman said he thinks \$2,000 is pretty generous.

Lepinski said she disagrees and a lot of people do. She said she will have supporters write to the City and the City will see how many people agree with her.

Lepinski noted those that support PAWS are donating their money all the time to support these animals.

Finck said he agrees with Cushman. He said it's honorable what PAWS is doing, but from the City's standpoint he doesn't know how much more the City can do.

Lepinski said she will have other people contact the City Councilmembers who feel about the situation as she does. Lepinski noted this is the first time in three years since the City approved providing \$2,000 to PAWS that she has come to the City Council asking for additional help.

Cushman said he's comfortable with what the City is providing at this time.

Mayor Walter noted he didn't have a motion from the Council for any additional financial support.

Lepinski said the people that would support PAWS aren't present at the meeting.

Cushman asked Lepinski if she would like the City Council to table action on the request.

Lepinski said she would appreciate it.

**FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to table action on the funding request from PAWS to the City Council's next regular meeting on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

#### **PAY REQUEST NO. 5 FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION CONVERSION PROJECT 2018-2019**

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Skaret explained before the City Council is Pay Request No. 5 for the City of Jackson Electric Distribution Conversion Project 2018-2019 in the amount of \$167,321.12.

Skaret said in April of 2018, a two-year project for 2018 and 2019 was let and the low bid went to Castrejon of Blaine, Minnesota. He said the original contract was for \$422,055.25. Skaret said where we are today, the final expected cost of the project is expected to now be \$620,114.75 which is about \$200,000 over the original estimate.

MRES Jackson Distribution Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Boogerd along with Isaac Rinkenberger of DGR Engineering were on hand to answer questions.

Boogerd said the project was \$200,000 over the contract price. He explained the issue comes from the gravel pit that is the west side of Jackson. Boogerd said it is all rock. He noted it took over twice as long to do the work. Boogerd said Castrejon didn't get enough work done in the previous year so there was more work to do this year.

In the field, Boogerd said he and Rinkenberger made a decision to increase the footage amount, not necessarily the amount they put in, but the amount that is paid to Castrejon to compensate them for the time they were spending on it and the damage to their equipment. Financially, Boogerd said he and Rinkenberger thought that was a better decision than paying the open trench rock price which would have been going from \$7.50 a foot to almost \$25 a foot. So, Boogerd said they just doubled the boring price which made it \$15 a foot. He said they started doing that last year and catching up on the last pay request because they were under the contract price until this last pay request.

Boogerd said as a whole, the City still ended up \$150,000 under budget for the two-year project for what the City budgeted.

Finck noted that a change order should have been sought due to the changes that occurred.

Rinkenberger said the error was that the Council should have been notified of the situation with the problems the contractor was having with boring on the west side of town. Rinkenberger said there was a communications breakdown.

Further Council discussion ensued reviewing the budget numbers for the project and which areas of the project were completed in 2018 and in 2019.

Boogerd said all the work on the underground conversion project is completed. He said the only thing left is the retainage that the City holds so the contractor comes back and fixes everybody's yard.

Rinkenberger noted there is \$31,000 in retainage.

Boogerd apologized to Mayor Walter and the Councilmembers for not bringing the situation regarding the boring to the forefront when it should have.

**MADDEN/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Pay Request No. 5 to Castrejon, Incorporated in the amount of \$167,321.12 for the City of Jackson's Electric Distribution Conversion Project.**

## **SOUTH HIGHWAY PROJECT PAY APPLICATION NO. 7**

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Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk explained for the City Council's consideration was Pay Application No. 7 for the South Highway Utility Improvement Project in the amount of \$4,231.62.

Mitchell noted what's been accomplished or included since the last pay estimate is the installation of a few manhole and catch basin castings. He said the total number to date by the contractor for just the City's utility portion of the project is \$999,327 which is roughly about 94 percent of the overall project. Mitchell said there shouldn't be much more regarding pay applications for the City's portion of the project for this year. He said the contractor will return in the spring once they resume construction. Mitchell explained there's one manhole and some storm sewer pipe to install yet and a few other things to clean up, but we should be sitting pretty good.

Cushman said he had one question. He said it was mentioned earlier tonight about Barnel Drive. Cushman asked if there was an issue with that road and the lane approach.

Mitchell explained on Barnel Drive the changing of the grades or the lowering of the street in that area is where it was most significant. He said there's a fairly significant impact to Barnel Drive.

Mitchell pointed out Barnel Drive is not completed yet. He said the curb returns are poured going to the south but there's probably about a hundred-foot section that the contractor didn't get done yet. Mitchell said the contractor will need to come back next year and finish that. He said right now, it's a little bit narrow and the slopes aren't finished so it's not the best situation right now. But Mitchell said Barnel Road is drivable. He said he drove through it before the City Council meeting.

**FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve South Highway Project Pay Application No. 7 in the amount of \$4,231.62.**

## **2019 AUDITOR ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH ABDO, EICK & MEYERS**

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Skaret said the auditor's from Abdo, Eick and Meyers have been in Jackson once already and did some preliminary field work. He said they will return to Jackson to continue their audit work in February.

Skaret noted last year the City went out for bids for auditing services for three-year proposals for 2018 through 2020. He said the City Council selected Abdo, Eick & Meyers. He explained per their proposal for 2019, which would be year two, the price is \$25,600 plus \$725 for the annual reporting form to the State Auditor's Office.

Skaret said Abdo, Eick and Meyers did a good job last year with the audit. He said they also do the audit for the Jackson County Central School District along with a lot of other governmental entities.

**CUSHMAN/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve having Mayor Wayne Walter sign the Engagement Letter with Abdo, Eick and Meyers for this year's audit.**

### **MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT APPLICATION – POLE FOR AMI GAS METERING SYSTEM**

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Skaret said Minnesota Energy Resources is in the process of going to an AMI Metering System for natural gas similar to what the City is going to do for water and electricity.

Skaret explained Minnesota Energy Resources is looking to install about a 50-foot-tall utility pole in the City's right-of-way at 601 West Street. He said the City is going to be supplying electricity to Minnesota Energy. Skaret said he had Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough and Street Superintendent Phil Markman also look at the Right-of-Way application and it's not going to interfere with any of the City's water and sewer lines.

Skaret said Minnesota Energy Resources has filled-out the full right-of-way permit application that was previously approved by the City Council and have also paid the fee.

Skaret said a motion was needed to approve Minnesota Energy Resources Right-of-Way Permit Application.

**ANDERSON/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Minnesota Energy Resources Right-of-Way Permit Application to install a pole for the AMI Gas Metering System in the City's right-of-way at 601 West Street.**

## **SECOND READING – ORDINANCE NO. 102 ADOPTING SUPPLEMENT 2019-4 TO THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES**

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Skaret said first reading of Ordinance No. 102 was held at the Council’s November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. He explained Ordinance No. 102 is necessary to adopt the supplement to update the Code of Ordinances incorporating the changes since the last supplement in 2018.

Skaret reminded Councilmembers if they haven’t already done so, to bring their Code Book into City Hall so the book can be updated with the new ordinance pages.

Skaret said a motion was needed to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 102.

**FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 102 Adopting Supplement 2019-4 to the City’s Code of Ordinances.**

## **SECOND READING – ORDINANCE NO. 103 AMENDING FEES, RATES AND CHARGES FOR CITY SERVICES IN 2020**

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Skaret noted first reading of Ordinance No. 103 was held at the November 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Skaret said highlights of Ordinance No. 103 incorporates the water and sewer rates pursuant to the three-year water and sewer rate schedule approved in 2017. He noted this is the final year of the three-year phase in. Skaret said he recommends having the City’s Financial Consultant, Shannon Sweeney, evaluate to see if any further increases are warranted in 2021 and beyond based on the City’s debt load and projects.

Skaret explained Ordinance No. 103 also clarifies that on the Equipment Rental charges that already include one person that if the employee is on overtime that an additional \$40 an hour will be added to the charge. He said the hourly labor charge will also be added for each additional employee needed for the job.

Skaret noted Ordinance No. 103 increases the water disconnect and reconnect fee from \$30 to \$40.

Skaret pointed out the Variance fee for zoning permits will increase from \$100 to \$150. He explained \$150 is the same amount currently charged for a Conditional/Interim Use permit. Skaret noted there's just as much work involved with processing variance permits as conditional use permit applications.

Skaret said Ordinance No. 103 also institutes an LED street lighting rate in addition to the existing monthly fee for High Pressure Sodium bulbs. He said the Electric Department has been replacing the High-Pressure Sodium Bulbs with LED's when they burn out. Skaret said they worked with Missouri River Energy on what the appropriate rate should be based on the estimated cost savings from the LED bulbs on a monthly basis.

Mary Muir asked if the City would go back to using incandescent bulbs again for the street lights.

Boogerd said the City would not. He explained the LED bulbs last much, much longer with minimal maintenance and use less power. He said the LED bulbs are supposed to have an average shelf life of 35 years.

Mayor Walter asked for a motion.

**FINCK/MADDEN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 103 Amending the Fees, Rates and Charges for City Services in 2020.**

**Other:**

**Alderman Dave Cushman – Need for Finance Committee to meet**

Cushman said the Finance Committee has about a week-and-a-half before the next Council meeting to meet and go through the proposed 2020 City Budget. He requested City Administrator Matt Skaret schedule a meeting for the Finance Committee.

## **Alderman Matt Madden**

Madden said he knows the City has a new plow truck coming. He noted he was recently at the joint City/County Maintenance Facility and looked at some of the City's other existing equipment. Madden said he thought maybe it would be a good idea to develop some sort of plan for replacing equipment.

Finck said the Finance Committee has already been discussing that. He explained the thought was for the City to look for good used equipment at a reduced cost to upgrade the City's fleet. Finck said the City can't afford to buy a new truck to replace every truck. He said Street Superintendent Phil Markman has done some looking and talked with people about finding used trucks to bring into the City's fleet.

Madden said he completely understands that. He said he thinks it would be nice to have a spread sheet on every piece of equipment the City owns in their feet down to lawn mowers similar to what the County and Federated Rural Electric does with their equipment in order to determine when equipment will be replaced.

Skaret noted about starting a plan regarding equipment and a replacement schedule.

Cushman said what's happened is the City has gotten so far behind over the last 20 years. He pointed out those good used trucks are hard to find. Cushman said cities like Sioux Falls now run their equipment 10 to 15 years instead of five years and they get worn out.

Madden said it would be nice to have a replacement schedule for equipment that the City could adhere to.

Finck said the Finance Committee started the conversation regarding the replacement of equipment about a month ago.



## **City Administrator Matt Skaret**

### **Thank-you to the Street Department**

Skaret said he wanted to thank Street Superintendent Phil Markman and his crew for their work over the Thanksgiving weekend plowing a tough heavy, wet snow.

Markman noted retired Street Superintendent George Tauer helped with snow removal over the weekend and noted in all of his years of plowing snow he had never seen a snowfall like this that would roll in front of the snowblower and wouldn't go through.

Markman said because of the wet heavy snow, it took the Street Department about three times as long to plow. He said they had very few breakdowns, but the Street Department did have one truck that broke down over the weekend. Markman said parts for the truck are on the way.

Markman reported the Street Department worked late on Wednesday so Street Department personnel could have Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Day) off. He said the Street Department personnel then worked through the weekend. Markman said the Street Department is back to working normal hours now.

## **Thank-you to the Electric Department**

Skaret said he also wanted to thank MRES Jackson Distribution Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Boogerd and his crew for putting up the new Christmas decorations in Jackson and the new banners downtown. He said they look very nice.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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**With no further business, ANDERSON/FINCK moved and the City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.**

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**David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary**

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**Wayne Walter, Mayor**

