

**December 6, 2022
Jackson, Minnesota**

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall and also by Teleconference and Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Wayne Walter. On the roll call, the following persons were present in-person, Mayor Wayne Walter and Aldermen Michael More, Jerome Palmer, Brandon Finck, Nathan Peterson, Marcus Polz and Dave Cushman. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Engineer Wes Brown of Bolton and Menk, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Jackson Fire Chief Dave Bond, Luke Ewald of Des Monies Valley Health and Human Services, John Weland, Richard Koch, Sonja Koch, Sam Espey, Elsa Landherr, Chris Naumann, Sara Mix, Joe Pell, Barb Tvinnereim, Pastor Nathan Janzen of the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Youth and Family Pastor Thor Kurtz of the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Pastor Russ Steele of the United Methodist Church in Jackson, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff, Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot and Mathew Grisham of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walter announced the Pledge of Allegiance would be recited before the City Council meeting was called to order. All those attending the meeting recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Walter called the regular meeting of the Jackson City Council to order. He said the roll call showed all Councilmembers were present.

There was no Public Hearing, Bid Letting or Open Forum.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Walter entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

FINCK/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Unscheduled Guests:

Mayor Walter asked if there were any unscheduled guests in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Walter again asked if there were any unscheduled guests in the Council Chambers.

Seeing none and hearing none, Mayor Walter said the meeting would proceed with Council Discussion items.

Council Discussion Items

PLAQUE PRESENTATIONS TO THE 2022 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

Mayor Walter said there were three great nominees for this year's Outstanding Volunteer Recognition plaque presentations.

Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year

Mayor Walter first introduced Youth Award recipient Elsa Landherr. He said Landherr has been very active in Student Council and Key Club at Jackson County Central High School. Mayor Walter noted Landherr has also been active with the Terrific Kids Program, Recess Buddies and Meals on Wheels. He said her nomination form said Landherr is confident, caring and compassionate. Mayor Walter said Landherr is a great candidate for the Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Mayor Walter presented a plaque to Landherr proclaiming her as the 2022 Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Mayor Walter congratulated Landherr.

Landherr received a round of applause from those present in the Council Chambers.

Outstanding Individual Volunteer of the Year

Mayor Walter introduced Sam Espey as the Outstanding Individual Volunteer of the Year.

Mayor Walter said Espey is involved in a long list of community organizations and projects. He noted Espey has been involved in the Bike Share and Trails Committee. Mayor Walter said Espey hosted a block party downtown in August.

Mayor Walter said Espey is also a Youth Minister, Boy Scout Leader, hosted bicycle repair day and bicycle rodeos for the JCC Elementary schools.

Mayor Walter said Espey is an all-around great guy and thanked him.

Mayor Walter presented Espey with a plaque proclaiming him as the 2022 Outstanding Individual Volunteer of the Year.

Espey received a round of applause from those present in the Council Chambers.

Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year

Mayor Walter introduced Rich Koch as the Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year.

Mayor Walter said Koch has been very active in his church and the community. He said Koch is always welcoming and very happy to be with people. Mayor Walter said the First Baptist Church recently purchased the former First Presbyterian Education Building which is now known as the Sheldon Johnson Outreach Center. He said Koch was very active in getting the building remodeled and up and running. Mayor Walter said he's heard a lot of good things about the Sheldon Johnson Outreach Center.

Mayor Walter said Koch is also active in the JEDC (Jackson Economic Development Corporation).

Mayor Walter congratulated Koch as he presented Kock a plaque proclaiming him as the 2022 Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year.

Kock received a round of applause from those attending the Council meeting.

2022 STREET AND UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PAY APPLICATION NO. 2

Engineer Wes Brown of Bolton and Menk noted Mayor Walter and Councilmembers should have received Pay Application No. 2 from Duininck's in their Council packets for the 2022 Street and Utilities Improvements.

Brown said as discussed at the November 15th City Council meeting, Pay Application No. 2 includes withholding \$21,600 in liquidated damages as the result of Duininck's not completing Riverside Drive, a portion of the project, through November 15th as previously discussed. Brown said the liquidated damages can certainly be revisited at a later time if the work is completed satisfactorily and in a timely manner next year.

Brown said Pay Application No. 2 is in the amount of \$109,614.62 for the work that was completed in the last month that Duininck was working on the project. He said it's for gravel base, some of the remaining water services, grading and things like that. Brown said he would recommend approval of Pay Application No. 2.

Cushman asked if the amount of \$109,614.62 in Pay Application No. 2 is minus the \$21,600 in liquidated damages.

Brown said that was correct.

Cushman said on November 15th, the City Council talked about holding payment of the liquidated damages more so as leverage to make sure the contractor would begin work in Jackson on time next spring. Cushman said he saw the letter from Duininck's saying they would begin work in the spring. He said he doesn't want to take the \$21,600 away and not have Duininck's here in the spring. He said he wanted to throw that point out to the group. Cushman asked is the City sure they're going to see Duininck's in Jackson in April or May.

Brown said Duininck's has written a letter stating they will be in Jackson in the spring. He said the \$21,600 has been withheld with the understanding if Duininck's comes back and does what they say they're going to do, there could be some forgiveness of that.

Polz asked if the completion date was June 16th.

Skaret noted the June 16th completion date is for the work remaining on Riverside, Westridge and Northridge. He said completion of Emily and River Streets are on a different schedule.

Cushman asked if the work on Riverside, Westridge and Northridge is completed by June 16th, will the liquidated damages of \$21,600 be revisited by the City Council at that point.

Brown said that was correct.

Cushman said that's what he was getting at.

FINCK/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve 2022 Street and Utilities Improvements Project Pay Application No. 2 in the amount of \$109,614.62 to Duininck's Incorporated.

JACKSON COUNTY ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (JCAPS) FUNDING

Mayor Walter asked John Weland if he wanted to speak to the City Council about the JCAPS Funding.

Weland said he was asked to attend the City Council meeting because the Councilmembers had some questions for him.

Skaret noted Polz had brought the issue of JCAPS funding to his attention because there was a citizen concern.

Skaret said the City has a long-standing agreement with PAWS (Precious Animals Worth Saving) to basically reimburse them up to \$2,000 per year for spaying and neutering of animals that PAWS takes in.

Polz said in speaking with him earlier, Weland said JCAPS had spent over \$4,000 in spaying, neutering and vaccinations. Polz said he thought, after hearing from other people, that it would be fair to offer JCAPS the same opportunity that the City is doing regarding funding for PAWS. He said that's what his proposal was.

Weland said JCAPS would greatly appreciate funding from the City. He said as Polz mentioned, JCAPS spent over \$4,000 in 2021. Weland noted JCAPS hasn't closed their books for 2022.

Weland reported in 2021, JCAPS serviced 25 cats, 10 dogs and two rabbits. He said the average cost to spay, neuter with vaccinations, which are all taken care of at once, is about \$200 per animal. Weland said 2022 has been a little lighter because there were some losses. He explained JCAPS received some kittens that were just too weak and had been underfed. Weland said the 2022 numbers will be a little lower.

Polz asked Skaret if the City pays PAWS up to \$2,000 per year on a reimbursement basis.

Skaret said that was correct. He said the City does not upfront the money.

Peterson asked Polz if he was proposing funding for JCAPS for 2022 or going forward.

Polz said it's to consider funding going forward for 2023.

Mayor Walter said he believes in the past, PAWS and other organizations bring a proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration. He said the amount of funding for organizations making requests is determined by the Finance Committee in September or October.

Finck said he thinks a Finance Committee meeting will be held soon to set the City's budget for 2023. He suggested Weland's request be considered by the Finance Committee at their next meeting.

Cushman said he just doesn't want to duplicate a service the City is already paying for. He said he wants to make sure the City is doing it correct. Cushman said he would like the City Council to table the JCAPS funding request for the Finance Committee to look at.

Finck asked Weland and Skaret if they knew what it cost PAWS to perform the same service of spaying, neutering and vaccinating an animal.

Skaret said on the PAWS invoice it shows the cost is \$150 per animal.

Finck said that's what he thought the price was and asked why there's a difference in price between PAWS and JCAPS for the same type of services.

Weland said he knows PAWS is partnered with MN SNAP. He said MN SNAP is an organization from the Twin Cities with a travelling van that goes to communities and does lower cost surgeries and vaccinations. He explained, unfortunately since 2020, MN SNAP is no longer taking in any new organizations. Weland noted JCAPS was founded in 2020. Weland said of the organizations that MN SNAP is currently working with, the only animals that they will do surgeries on are TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release).

Finck said he was just curious in the difference in the costs for services rendered by PAWS and JCAPS.

Mayor Walter asked for a motion to table the JCAPS Funding request and have it reviewed by the Finance Committee.

FINCK/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to table action on the Jackson County Animal Protection Society's (JCAPS) funding request until it can be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

TRAIL SNOW REMOVAL POLICY UPDATED DECEMBER 2022

Skaret said the City currently has a policy regarding removing snow from the City's trails system.

Skaret said the City has been plowing the trail along Springfield Parkway from Highway 71 to Dewey Street and the trail along Dewey Street from Springfield Parkway to North Highway. He said the City has also been removing snow from the North Highway sidewalk on the north side of the road from the Jackson Medical Center to Frost Avenue. Skaret noted after March 15th, snow is removed on the trail along Springfield Parkway from Dewey Street all the way to the First Baptist Church.

Because of increased foot traffic being observed, Skaret said it's being proposed to also remove snow on the North Highway 71 Trail from the Des Moines River to Prospect Lane which goes up to Eagle Ridge.

Skaret said when the Trails Master Plan meeting was held on November 14th and it had also snowed that day, it was observed that there had been quite a few people that had walked in the snow using that trail. He noted MnDOT has loaned the City a counter to count how many people use that trail. Skaret said the counter provided data from November 21st to November 28th that showed there were seven to 18 people walking on that stretch of trail on any one of those days.

Skaret said it's also being proposed to remove snow on the North Highway sidewalk extension from The Pines to Sayles Drive. He explained that was the new sidewalk that was installed with the North Highway Project that connects the neighborhoods on the west side of the City as a safe walking route to the school and hospital.

Skaret said the Street Department plowed those trails following the first snowfall. He said in talking with Street Superintendent Phil Markman, the Street Department doesn't have any objections in adding those two trails to their snow plowing repertoire.

Finck asked Markman if it would be possible to plow the trail along Springfield Parkway from the High School to the First Baptist Church.

Markman said it would actually be easier for the Street Department to plow that portion of the trail. He said when the snow sits on that portion of the trail from now until March, it freezes down and it's more difficult to remove the ice and snow base from the trail. Markman noted the snow was removed from that portion of the trail for the 5K run that took place as part of Holiday Fest.

Finck said people really appreciated having the trail plowed from the high school to the First Baptist Church.

Markman said since the Street Department already plowed that portion of the trail this season, it would make more sense to keep plowing that trail all the way to Hills Avenue.

Finck said he would like to see the trail from the high school to Hills Avenue added to the expanded trail snow plowing list if it's OK with Street Superintendent Markman.

Markman said he would have no problem with adding that to the plowing schedule.

Finck said it would provide a pretty nice trail for those who want to walk in the winter and the opportunity to have a mile or two of clear trail rather than walking on the road.

FINCK/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the updated Trails Snow Removal Policy to include the North Highway 71 Trail from the Des Moines River to Prospect Lane, the North Highway sidewalk extension from The Pines to Sayles Drive and the segment of trail from the Jackson County Central High School to the First Baptist Church.

RESOLUTION NO. 63-1222 DESIGNATING ANNUAL POLLING PLACE

Skaret said the City has no elections scheduled in 2023. But he said in case there was a special election to be held, Minnesota Law requires that at the end of every year, the City designate their polling place for the following year should there be any elections. Skaret said the City has been using the Good Shepherd Hall at 1015 Sherman Street for a number of years as the City's only polling place.

Skaret said the Good Shepherd Hall provides a number of advantages as a polling place. He pointed out it's fairly centrally located in the community and handicap accessible. Skaret said the Good Shepherd Church has been very generous in allowing the City to use the Good Shepherd Hall as a polling place free of charge.

PETERSON/POLZ moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 63-1222 designating the Good Shepherd Hall at 1015 Sherman Street at the City's polling place for 2023.

JACKSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS BATH HOUSE SEWER REPAIR EXTENSION REQUEST

Skaret said back in August, City staff identified inflow and infiltration in the sewer service line at the Jackson County Fairgrounds that services the bath house where the old Jackson Pool used to be located. He said that outdoor swimming pool was filled in years ago but the natural spring in that area is still active. Skaret said the sewer service line that serviced the bath house has deteriorated. He said there's quite a bit of inflow and infiltration (I & I) that's flowing into the sewer line which is basically clear ground water entering the sewer system through the sewer service line.

Under the City ordinance, Skaret said the City requires that if failing sewer lines are identified as a cause of inflow and infiltration, the property owner has 90 days to fix or repair the line. He said if the sewer line is not repaired, the property owner will be subject to a \$50 monthly surcharge being added to their utility bill.

In this case, Skaret said the County was notified. He explained the County owns the property, but the Ag Society pays the utility bill. Skaret said if the \$50 surcharge was added, it would go on the Ag Society's utility bill.

Skaret said the County is aware of the repair that's needed to the sewer line. He said the County was sent a letter back in August. Skaret said the County was not able to find a contractor this fall to replace that sewer line.

Skaret said the County is requesting an extension to repair the sewer line. He noted the letter from County Administrator Ryan Krosch in the Mayor and Councilmember's packets requesting the extension and detailing the County's plans to repair the line. Skaret said the County's plans are to get the sewer line fixed as soon as possible in the spring when weather conditions improve and a contractor is available. He said the County also talked about even having their own staff try and repair the line.

Polz asked if Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough was OK with the City granting an extension to the County.

Markman said the request was talked about at a City Department Head meeting and Oxborough hadn't said anything that the extension would create a hardship.

FINCK/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Jackson County Sewer Repair Extension Request.

SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM APPLICATION 2022 UPDATES

Skaret said the City has a Sidewalk Reconstruction Assistance Program for the boulevard sidewalks that run parallel to the streets. He explained under the program, the City currently reimburses the property owner up to 30 percent of the reconstruction costs up to \$400 for a single sidewalk and up to \$800 if it's a corner lot. Skaret said the reimbursement amounts have not been adjusted in at least a decade. He noted what cement and construction costs were a decade ago were much smaller than they are today. Skaret said the Finance Committee met and recommended the City increase the maximum reimbursement allowances to \$800 for a single sidewalk and \$1,600 for a corner lot.

Skaret said the City hasn't had a lot of utilization of the Sidewalk Reconstruction Program in recent years. He said hopefully if the reimbursement amounts are increased and is more meaningful, there will be more property owners participating. Skaret said there are a number of bad sidewalks in town that definitely do need to be replaced. He noted the proposed reimbursement dollar amounts would also match the City of Lakefield's Sidewalk Reconstruction Program.

PETERSON/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the City of Jackson's Sidewalk Reconstruction Program Application 2022 updates to provide up to \$800 reimbursement for single sidewalks and up to \$1,600 for corner lot sidewalk replacement.

PERSONNEL POLICY HANDBOOK UPDATE PROPOSAL

Skaret said the last comprehensive update of the City's Personnel Policy Handbook was done in 2006. He said it's a little bit outdated and a lot has changed with federal and state laws.

Skaret noted the City has adopted some personnel policies on a piecemeal basis but there really hasn't been anything comprehensive done. He said he thinks it's been a top priority of every City Administrator since 2006 to update the Personnel Policy Handbook but it just hasn't gotten done.

Skaret said the City's auditing firm offers a service where they will work with the City and take the lead on the project to get the City's Personnel Policy manual updated.

Skaret explained the City isn't really looking to change policies and procedures, but just really bring them up to date for compliance purposes.

Skaret said there's a proposal from Abdo, which is the City's auditor, to basically take on the Personnel Policy Handbook project and work with the City. He said the cost is going to be roughly \$3,900 to \$5,300 billed on an hourly basis depending on the amount of hours involved. Skaret said the project would be expected to be completed by March 1st.

Skaret said he would strongly recommend the City Council approve the proposal from Abdo. He said it's been something that the City has needed to do for a long time.

FINCK/PALMER moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the proposal from Abdo to assist with a comprehensive update of the City's Personnel Policy Handbook.

AUTHORIZE APPLYING FOR DNR GRANT FOR SKATING RINK CEMENT PAD – DUE MARCH 31ST

Skaret said there have been discussions about installing a concrete pad for a skating rink as part of the City's efforts to make that area in Memorial Park a year-round recreational facility. He said the plan is to install a 100 foot by 200-foot pad of concrete to be able to utilize part of that as a skating rink in the wintertime and then use it in the summertime for roller hockey. Skaret said the plan is to also move the skate park out of the City Hall parking lot and move that down to the cement pad.

Skaret said installing the cement pad is a pretty costly project. He said since Engineer Wes Brown has reviewed the project, it's been realized that there's going to need to be more work done at the site in order to do it right than what was previously thought. Skaret said that's going to increase the price tag quite substantially. He said soil borings have been done at the site. Skaret said about four feet of topsoil will need to be removed. He noted there's soil and debris from the old power plant that's located on that property. Skaret said there's about four feet that needs to be excavated and then put back in with an aggregate base. He said that increases the price tag but if the City is going to do something, they should do it right. Skaret said the City doesn't want to do the project and two years later have premature cracking in the cement and wished that shortcuts had not been taken and that it had been done right the first time.

Skaret said the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) offers grants for outdoor recreational activities on a 50/50 match which would help the City with about 50 percent of the costs for the cement pad for the skating rink.

Skaret said the Park Board is going to talk about the skating rink project more in depth at their December and January meetings.

To get the ball rolling, Skaret said authorization was being sought from the City Council for the City to apply for the DNR grant for the Skating Rink Cement Pad Project to get going early on it.

POLZ/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to authorize applying for a DNR Grant for the Skating Rink Cement Pad Project.

FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 127 – CITY FEES, RATES AND CHARGES FOR 2023

Skaret said the City adopts a fee ordinance every year for the following year. He said there are a few changes of note for 2023. Skaret noted there will be two considerations of Ordinance No. 127 by the City Council.

Skaret said probably the most notable change in the fees for 2023 will be an adjustment in the City's water rates. He explained the City has been taking on more debt for the Water Fund. Skaret said this year the City did take on additional debt with the 2022 Street and Utility Improvement Projects on Emily Street, Riverside Drive and part of River Street. He noted River Street is also being paid for with ARPA funds. Skaret also noted the City has the Water Plant Media Filter Rehab Project that was included in the bonding for the street and utility improvements. He said authorization to seek bids for the Water Plant Media Filter Rehab Project will be coming before the City Council in the near future. Skaret explained with that bond, the City has taken on about \$106,000 of additional debt for the Water Fund.

Skaret said there are other needs as well within the Water Department for equipment. He said there's a generator that needs to be replaced for the Water Plant along with some other equipment needs. Skaret said in order to keep up, it's being proposed to increase the City's water base fee from \$9.95 to \$10.95 per month and increase the usage fee from \$7.71 per 1,000 gallons to \$8.11 per 1,000 gallons. He explained for a household of two that uses an average of 3,500 gallons of water per month, that would amount to an increase of \$2.40 per month in their water bill, which is about a five percent increase.

Skaret said there are no proposals to do anything with the other City utility fees like the sewer and electric. He explained on the electric side, the City is getting hit with an increase from WAPA (Western Area Power Administration). Skaret said WAPA supplies about 60 percent of the City's electric power which is the hydropower from the dams in the Dakotas. He said with the drought in the Dakotas, WAPA isn't able to produce the hydropower that the City of Jackson is allocated to receive from them so WAPA has to go on the market and purchase additional power to meet their obligations and that power is more expensive. Because of that, Skaret said WAPA is having to add on a drought-adder starting in 2023 which is going to increase the cost of power from WAPA by about 16 percent.

Skaret explained the City's Electric Fund is healthy and the City can absorb that right now but it's something the City will have to take a look at in the future. He said hopefully the Dakotas receive some good rains and snow and also in the Rocky Mountains to fill up the water reservoirs so the drought-adder fee is temporary. Skaret said those are the main increases as far as utilities.

As far as garbage rates, Skaret said the garbage rates are slated to increase by three percent next year according to the City's contract with Waste Management. He said in the City's contract with Waste Management, garbage rates will go up by three percent each year of the contract. Skaret noted in 2023, the City will be in year three of a five-year contract. He said Ordinance No. 127 incorporates the three percent increases for all of the categories of garbage containers. Skaret said otherwise Ordinance No. 127 includes a couple of clarifications.

Skaret said Ordinance No. 127 also includes increasing the ambulance rates which was recommended by the Ambulance Board. He explained on the Advanced Life Services, the base fee is currently \$800 and that will be increased to \$1,050. Skaret said the base fee for the Basic Life Service will be increased from \$600 to \$850. He said the mileage for the ambulance would also increase from \$15 per loaded mile to \$21 per loaded mile. Skaret said that should help out with the finances for the Ambulance Department.

Cushman asked if the Utilities Commission was in favor of the water rate increases.

Skaret said they were.

Cushman asked how Jackson's water rates would compare with other communities.

Skaret said in comparison with other communities, Jackson's water rates are certainly not the highest, but in the middle range for water and sewer rates.

FINCK/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the First Consideration of Ordinance No. 127 – City Fees, Rates and Charges for 2023.

DENTAL OFFICE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPOT REQUEST

Skaret said The Dental Office on Main Street has submitted a request for a designated handicap parking stall for their business. He said Street Superintendent Phil Markman has looked at the request.

Markman reported the handicap parking stalls on Main Street are located on the south ends of the block on the side where there is diagonal parking. He said the handicap parking stall requested by the Dental Office would actually be located on the south end of that block in front of the Historic State Theatre because that's where the pedestrian ramp is located in the curb and sidewalk. Markman said signage could be installed and the handicap logo could be painted on the street at the south end of that block this spring.

Peterson asked if anything had to be done to the curb at that location.

Markman said nothing has to be done to the curb as it's already set up to accommodate handicap access. He said the parking spot on the south end of that block will need to be designated as a handicap parking spot.

Cushman asked if designating a handicap parking space at the south end of the block in front of the Historic State Theatre satisfies The Dental Office's needs.

Markman explained you can't put the handicap parking stall in the middle of the block because of the curb and the distance needed on one side of the handicap parking stall. He said on the south end of the block, the space is already available to allow for a ramp to fold-out from a van. Markman said almost two parking stalls would be eliminated if a handicap stall was established in front of The Dental Office. He said a person would still need to go to the south end of the block to use the handicap accessible pedestrian ramp that's already in the curb and sidewalk.

Cushman asked if installing a handicap parking stall on the south end of the block is impeding on the Historic State Theatre in any way. He asked if that's a consideration that the City Council needs to be looking at.

Markman said the handicap parking stall would be an advantage to the Historic State Theatre as well if someone needed access there. He said the nearest handicap stall to that location is down on Sheridan Street by the vacant lot next to Mary Gilmore's property. Markman said that's the closest handicap stall that serves Kat's Hog Heaven and all the other businesses in that area.

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve The Dental Office's handicap Parking Spot Request.

AGCO AIRPORT LAND LEASE AGREEMENT

Skaret said AGCO leases about 10.3 acres of land from the Airport for equipment demonstration purposes. He said the leases have been for two-year terms in the past. Skaret said the current lease expires on December 31st of this year.

Skaret said the Airport Commission met on November 30th and reviewed the terms of the lease with AGCO. He said currently AGCO is paying \$185 per acre which amounts to \$1,854 per year. Skaret said the Airport Commission is recommending to increase that to \$200 per acre which would total \$2,060 per year.

Skaret said he sent the information about the increase in the lease to AGCO and AGCO is still interested in leasing the land and thought the rate increase was reasonable. He said the Airport Commission's logic was that farmland rents are increasing in Jackson County and the City should keep the airport land rent amount somewhat close to the Jackson County average.

Peterson asked if the rent amount was the only change in the proposed lease agreement.

Skaret said that was the only change and the rest of the terms of the two-year lease agreement were the same.

Finck asked Skaret how the amount paid by AGCO for leasing the airport land aligns with the amount the City receives for their other land leases for ag use.

Skaret said he knows the land that the City just leased back to one of the parties to farm where the City had to acquire land for the airport project was for \$200 per acre for a five-year lease.

Finck asked about the rest of the City's property that they lease out. He noted the City Council hasn't discussed renter's lease agreements in years.

City Attorney Brad Anderson said couldn't remember what the lease amount were on those properties, but noted they were term leases as well.

Skaret agreed those were term leases.

Finck said he didn't think those leases have been discussed in the last five years that he can remember. He suggested that should be looked at to see when the lease terms are up for renewal.

Skaret said he knows there's a six-year lease that's nearing its expiration date.

Finck said to just check that the leases and terms are up to date.

PETERSON/MORE moved and it was unanimously carried to approve AGCO's Airport Land Lease Agreement with the City for a two-year term at \$200 per acre.

Other:

Skating Rink

Polz noted there's homes that have ice skating rinks and there's five inches of ice on the river. He asked Street Superintendent Phil Markman what the timeline is for having some skateable ice on the City's ice-skating rink.

Markman said the Street Department has been applying water to the skating rink as the ice builds up. He noted the weather warmed up on December 6th so everything melted. Markman pointed out an ice-skating rink in a home's backyard is an eighth of the size of what the Street Department is dealing with in achieving skateable ice on the ice-skating rink. He said it's a different animal.

Polz asked if the ice-skating rink may be ready by the school's Christmas break.

Markman said the ice-skating rink should be ready by Christmas break. He said the Street Department is working on it.

Polz thanked Markman.

Thanks for Holiday Fest

Peterson said he wanted to say thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and the City's Departments for the Holiday Fest. He said it was a good event.

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Skaret said he received an email from Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken who reported that 15 deer have been harvested so far during the City's in-town archery deer hunt that continues through the end of December. He said hopefully those harvest numbers will increase. Skaret said there's 15 fewer deer in town as a result of the hunt so that's good.

Thank-you to the City Council from the City Staff

Skaret said on behalf of the City Staff, he wanted to thank the City Council for approving Consent Agenda item 7(F), the granting of eight hours of paid time off for all full-time City employees on Friday, December 23rd, the Christmas Eve Holiday. He said that's much appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Walter entertained a motion to adjourn.

FINCK/POLZ moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:17 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

