

**February 21, 2023
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, February 21, 2023 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Marcus Polz. On the roll call, the following persons were present in-person, Mayor Marcus Polz, Alderwoman Sara Mix and Aldermen Mark Titus, Chris Naumann, Brandon Finck, Nathan Peterson and Joe Pell. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Community and Business Development Specialist Dave Schmidt of Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA), Patrick Boggess of Jacobson-Westergard and Associates, Incorporated, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff and Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot. Joining the meeting via Zoom and Teleconference were Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk, First Assistant Fire Chief and Park Board Chairman Michael Haeffner, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services and Mathew Grisham of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Polz announced the Pledge of Allegiance would be recited before the City Council meeting was called to order. All those attending the meeting in-person and by Teleconference and Zoom recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Polz called the regular meeting of the Jackson City Council to order. He said the roll call showed all Councilmembers were present and there was a quorum.

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

Unscheduled Guests:

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

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

Mayor Polz asked for a third time if there were any unscheduled guests in the audience.

Seeing and hearing no unscheduled guests, Mayor Polz said the Council would move onto the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Polz entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

Skaret noted all the items listed under Consent Agenda Item 7(H) were all Federal and State requirements as part of the City's Small Cities Development Grant Program.

Council Discussion Items

SAM ESPY – ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR OUTDOOR ATHLETIC RECREATION COMPLEX

Mayor Polz said due to the inclement winter weather, Sam Espy would not be attending the February 21st City Council meeting.

EDA COORDINATOR UPDATE – DAVE SCHMIDT

EDA Coordinator Dave Schmidt provided an update on some of the projects the Economic Development Office has been working on.

Schmidt said the biggest thing that's being worked on right now is workforce housing. He said housing is a need throughout the community. Schmidt said in talking with most of the City's employers, housing is something they desperately need.

Schmidt said the Economic Development Office is working with two developers right now. He said both of the developers were in Jackson a couple of weeks ago looking at different size projects. Schmidt said the developers also met with some of the community's employers. He said both of the developers were scheduled to be in Jackson this week but they weren't able to travel because of the winter storm.

Schmidt said SEH is one of the developers the Economic Development Office has been working with. He said a virtual meeting with SEH will be held on February 22nd. Schmidt said SEH has an updated concept. He said what SEH is proposing initially is a 46-unit apartment building or potentially two 30-unit apartment buildings with some additional townhomes as Phase One. Schmidt said as those units are filled, SEH would work on additional units.

Schmidt said developer DBS was scheduled to visit with the Economic Development Office on February 23rd, but are now looking at meeting with them on Monday or Tuesday, February 27th or 28th. He said DBS is looking at constructing two, either 30 to 36 unit apartment buildings and then a series of townhomes/twin homes, probably four or five plexed together.

Schmidt said in visiting with the community's largest employers, AGCO, Hitchdoc and Ametek, what they're looking for and what they're employees are needing for housing are all completely different.

Schmidt said AGCO is bringing in a lot of engineers and they want studio, one-bedroom and maybe two-bedroom apartments. He said a lot of AGCO's employees want the "bells and whistles". Schmidt said they want the dog area on top of the building, the recreational area, a gym, elevators, underground or covered parking and lockers for such things as bikes, snowmobiles, four-wheelers and whatever.

Schmidt said in visiting with Hitchdoc, they want blue-collar, straight-forward workforce housing. He said they just want one and two-bedroom units, no bells and whistles, nothing fancy.

Schmidt said Ametek has a more senior workforce. He said 25 percent of Ametek's workforce is over retirement age so they're looking at more twin-homes, slab on grade.

Schmidt said a meeting will be held virtually with SEH on February 22nd and with DBS the following week. Schmidt said he's optimistic that one of those developers will begin a housing project in Jackson yet this year.

Schmidt said the Small Cities Development Program continues to move forward. He said a public meeting about the Program is expected to be held sometime in March. Schmidt said funds will then be available for commercial and residential projects towards the end of March. He explained for commercial projects, it's a 70 percent grant which is forgiven over seven years, a 10 percent loan at two percent interest and a 20 percent match by the business up to \$40,000. Schmidt said that program is limited to the downtown commercial district in Jackson.

For the owner-occupied housing, Schmidt said the homeowner has to be 80 percent AMI (Average Median Income) or less. He said if the homeowner applicant is between 50 percent and 80 percent AMI, then it's a 90 percent grant and 10 percent of a project will be paid for by the homeowner. Schmidt said if a homeowner is under 50 percent AMI, then it's a 100 percent forgivable grant over a period of 10 years up to \$25,000.

Regarding spec homes, Schmidt said the Economic Development Office is continuing to move forward with that. He said the spec homes would be located on the three southernmost lots on the west side of North Pond Drive closest to Sayles Avenue. Schmidt said the land transfer of those lots from the City to UCAP (United Community Action Partnership) may occur sometime in March. He said as soon as soil conditions are favorable, UCAP is ready to break ground and start building. Schmidt said he's received at least two phone calls from people that are interested in the homes. He said he has forwarded that information to UCAP. Schmidt said it's not uncommon for UCAP to actually have the houses sold before they even start building them. He said that's a good sign. Schmidt said if UCAP sells the houses before they are constructed, then UCAP might be willing to do another project and the City gets more homes built on somebody else's dime.

Pertaining to single family homes, Schmidt said the JEDC is looking at procuring some land south of the Sunset View addition that could be used for additional single-family development. He said work is underway on finalizing a purchase agreement to the entity that owns that land. Schmidt said hopefully that purchase agreement will be finalized on February 22nd.

Schmidt said the JBDC (Jackson Business Development Committee) has been working on “Welcome” and “Way-Finding” signs for a couple of years. He said there are drawing concepts of the signs hanging in the conference room of the Economic Development Office if any Councilmembers would like to take a look at them. Schmidt said the “Welcome to Jackson” sign will be located on the south side of Jackson by the Chamber of Commerce Office. He said Eye Kandy has designed the signs and are going to provide a quote. Schmidt said Snick’s Signs is also going to provide a quote so both sign companies in Jackson have an opportunity to be a part of the project.

Schmidt said the Economic Development Office had to delay the deadline for prospective businesses to submit applications for the Business Challenge because no applications had been submitted. He said he was happy to now report that applications have been submitted. Schmidt said there will be multiple entries in this year’s Business Challenge and all of them are very viable and would be very good assets to the community if any of them were to win. He said he is really excited about that.

Schmidt reported the Façade Improvement Program has been renovated into a Business Building Improvement Program. He said instead of just façade and signage, the Program will cover any building improvements. Schmidt said the deadline for businesses to apply for the Program is Tuesday, February 28th. He said two applications were received on February 22nd.

Schmidt said the Economic Development Office continues to work on the Industrial Park. He said some roadwork needs to be done so there’s access to all of the property and infrastructure in the Industrial Park. Schmidt said work is underway on getting pricing on what roads would cost so grants can be applied for. He explained right now there’s no funding for a lot of the infrastructure programs through the State Legislature.

Schmidt said the Legislature hasn't funded those grant programs since 2020. He said it looks promising the State Legislature will allocate funds to the Infrastructure Grant Program this year. Schmidt said the City wants to make sure they have their application in place so hopefully Jackson can get some of those funds to help in the construction of Prospect Lane and Keul Avenue.

Schmidt said a company known as RES has been working on a project with the JEDC. He explained the RES project would be located on land located on the southern edge of Torgerson Lane, south of Palmer Bus. Schmidt said RES wants to install an energy storage facility. He said RES would have electrical lines hooking up to the electric substation located near that property. Schmidt said during off-peak hours, RES would pull electric power off of the substation, store it in battery units, and then off-load it back onto the grid during peak hours. He said the JEDC has been moving forward in working with RES. Schmidt said RES has an option on the land. He said there's a lot of Federal regulations that RES has to go through but everything is progressing very nicely. Schmidt said right now it looks like hopefully next year the RES project will get off the ground.

Regarding the housing project east of the Eagle Ridge and Wedgewood apartments, Schmidt said the Planning and Zoning Commission met on February 13th pertaining to rezoning the property for the proposed housing project from R-2 (One and Two Family Residence District) to R-3 (Multiple Family Residence District). He said it's expected a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to rezone the property will take place in March.

Schmidt asked if anyone had any questions.

Mayor Polz asked Schmidt how many housing units will be achieved with the proposed housing project.

Schmidt said ideally, it's probably going to be somewhere between 200 and 250 housing units.

Skaret mentioned he, Schmidt and Richard Koch of the JEDC attended the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Lobby Day at the State Legislature in St. Paul. He said they spoke with State Senator Richard Draheim and State Representative Marj Fogelman. He said Senator Draheim has introduced a bill similar to the BDPI Program which pays for generally half of the costs for infrastructure expansion for industrial parks. Skaret said Senator Draheim was also expanding that legislation to help with the infrastructure costs for single family housing developments as well.

Skaret said Senator Draheim was told about the City of Jackson's struggles with finishing the infrastructure on the north end of town for the business and retail area. He noted Senator Draheim said he would include that in his bill for assisting with funding for not only infrastructure costs for industrial, but for commercial development as well.

Skaret said he, Schmidt and Koch also had a very good meeting with State Representative Bjorn Olson. He said State Representative Olson noted Jackson is the envy of all the region for all the business and development that the City has going on. Skaret said Olson said Jackson has it all figured out and other communities all want to be like Jackson. He said that was nice to hear.

Schmidt said Bjorn's comments felt really good.

With no further questions, Mayor Polz thanked Schmidt for his update.

Schmidt thanked Mayor Polz.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR MN DEED REDEVELOPMENT GRANT

Schmidt explained there's a local business who's interested in purchasing the property on Ashley Street, west of City Hall, commonly referred to as the "Alamo Building" and the lot located behind it. He said final negotiations by A.J. and Bridget Lusk to purchase the property are underway.

Schmidt said the prospective buyers of the property would like to tear the "Alamo Building" down and construct a new building. He said that project would be eligible for a DEED Redevelopment Program Grant which would help with the demolition costs. Schmidt explained the grant has to be applied for by a municipality on behalf of the new owners of the property. Assuming that the purchase of the "Alamo" building and land moves forward, Schmidt said he was looking for authorization to apply for the DEED Redevelopment Grant on behalf of the new owners to hopefully get that project moving forward a little bit faster.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to authorize the City to apply for the Minnesota DEED Grant on behalf of A.J. and Bridget Lusk.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Skaret said it's important from time to time to touch on some key rules for the Mayor and City Councilmembers. He said one of them pertains to proper electronic communications among the Mayor and Councilmembers.

Skaret said the City Council adopted an Electronic Communications Policy for Councilmembers in 2013 that remains in effect today. He explained it's important to review the policy and follow it in order to not violate open meeting rules.

Skaret referred to copies of the City's Electronic Communications Policy for Councilmembers and a memo from the League of Minnesota Cities regarding electronic communications and serial meetings that was distributed to Mayor Polz and Councilmembers. Skaret went on to highlight and review key points of the policy.

Skaret said Councilmembers need to be very mindful and cautious when communicating by electronic means outside of Council or committee meetings to avoid conflicts with Minnesota's Open Meeting Law. He noted if Councilmembers wish to share information with other Councilmembers, it should be done through the City Administrator. He said the communication should be one-way. Skaret noted the communication should not invite responses to or discussion between any Councilmembers, including replies to the person making the distribution request.

Skaret noted if a Councilmember wishes to address only one other Councilmember through electronic means regarding City business, it should be done one-on-one. He said the recipient should reply only to the sender and should not forward communication to any other Councilmembers.

Skaret said regardless of whether electronic communications is taking place on a City issued I-pad, personal computer, cell phone or the like, all data pertaining to City business is governed by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

City Attorney Brad Anderson said the Minnesota League of Cities Summary regarding electronic communications was a good summary and makes it understandable. He said another thing to remember is that the consequences for violating the Open Meeting Laws is personal and the City will not cover a Mayor or Councilmember who violates that law. City Attorney Anderson noted it's also a criminal violation. He said Councilmembers also need to be conscious to avoid serial meetings which violates the Open Meeting Law.

City Attorney Anderson said the Open Meeting Law also applies to standing committees such as the Personnel, Finance, Liquor Committee and the like.

Skaret asked if the Open Meeting Law would apply to the Pool Task Force meetings to discuss the pool.

City Attorney Anderson said he didn't think the Task Force would be considered a standing committee of either the City Council or the Schoolboard. He said the Task Force is a temporary special organization or group that is set up to tackle some issues. City Attorney Anderson noted it would be an issue if there were more than three City Councilmembers on the Task Force because then there would be a quorum present. However, he said the Task Force will have three or less members from the City Council on it and it's a temporary special organization, not a standing committee of the City.

LIBRARY LIGHTING PROJECT – QUOTE FROM RON'S ELECTRIC

Skaret said upgrading the Library lighting to LED lighting has been discussed for some time in order to improve the lighting and become more energy efficient. He said Missouri River Energy Services assisted the City with writing up an RFP (Request For Proposals) that was sent to all area electricians in December. Skaret said only one electrician responded with a proposal which was Ron's Electric of Windom.

Skaret said there were two options to upgrade the lighting at the Library. He said Option One was to replace all the fluorescent lamps with LED's and replace the diffusers. Skaret explained Option Two was to replace the whole fixture with an LED flat panel. He noted the project can be paid for out of the Electric Fund to help the City meet its energy savings requirements by the State of Minnesota.

Skaret said the City's MRES (Missouri River Energy Services) representative believes after examining the lighting calculations provided by the electrician, Ron's Electric's proposal meets specifications and will greatly improve the lighting in the Library.

Skaret said the cost to do the whole proposal would be \$16,609. He said the City would be eligible for a rebate of around \$1,100 for energy efficiency and would also achieve over nearly \$1,100 per year in energy savings.

Peterson asked if the bid was for Option Two.

Skaret said it would be for Option Two.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion.

PETERSON/TITUS moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the bid for Option Two from Ron's Electric of Windom in the amount of \$16,609.

MOTION TO NOT WAIVE TORT LIABILITY LIMITS

Skaret explained a motion to not waive tort liability limits is something the City Council needs to do every year as part of the City's liability and property insurance renewal. He said the City's insurance policy runs from April 1st to March 30th so the renewal process is now underway.

Skaret said every year, the City is required to approve a motion regarding the Municipal Tort Liability Limits that are established by law. He explained State Law imposes limits on how much the City can be sued for. Skaret said if the City wants to stay under those limits, the City Council has to approve a motion not to waive the limits. He said if what forever reason the City wanted to waive the limits and take the caps off, the City Council would have to approve that by motion as well.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion for the City not to waive the Municipal Tort Liability Limits.

TITUS/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried for the City of Jackson to not Waive the Municipal Tort Liability Limits.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION JACKSON COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES REPRESENTATIVE

Skaret said he received a letter from the Southwest Regional Development Commission which is based out of Slayton, Minnesota. He said the City is a member of the Southwest Minnesota Regional Development Commission that provides a wide array of primarily planning and transportation services to a nine county area of Southwest Minnesota.

Skaret said the Southwest Minnesota Regional Development Commission is seeking a member from a Jackson County municipality to serve on the Commission. He explained the representative from a municipality would represent all the municipalities in Jackson County. Skaret said the Regional Development Commission wanted to know if there was anyone from the Jackson City Council that would like to serve as a representative on their board. He noted the Regional Development Commission meetings are typically held at 3:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month in Slayton. Skaret said members receive a \$50 per diem and mileage reimbursement at the Federal rate which is currently .655 per mile.

No Jackson City Councilmembers indicated a desire to be nominated to serve as a representative from Jackson County on the Southwest Regional Development Commission and deferred to any other municipality in the County that would like to nominate someone.

JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY UPDATE

Skaret noted in 2021, Juneteenth became a Federal holiday to recognize the date the slaves were emancipated. He said the Minnesota Legislature recently approved a bill making Juneteenth a State holiday as well. Skaret said as a result, that will be one of the days in which no public business can be conducted unless it's an absolute emergency like a natural disaster type of event.

Skaret said this agenda item was informational and will probably be incorporated in the union negotiations later this year.

Skaret said cities have several options regarding the Juneteenth holiday. He said those options include adding Juneteenth as a paid City holiday.....add Juneteenth as a paid City holiday and eliminate another City holiday that is not a State legal holiday.....make Juneteenth an unpaid holiday and allow employees to use unused paid leave time if they desired to be paid for the holiday.....or make Juneteenth an unpaid holiday and allow employees to work on the holiday if they desired to be paid without transacting public business except in cases of necessity and potentially allow them to use unused paid leave time if they desired to be paid for the holiday and did not wish to work, for example, close City Hall, organize files, clean and the like.

Skaret noted the Juneteenth holiday won't affect this year because the law establishing it as a State holiday won't go into effect until August 1st, 2023.

POOL TASK FORCE/POOL EVALUATION BY SECOND FIRM?

Skaret said there were several different things to discuss. He reported Jacqueline Knips resigned as the Pool Manger at the end of January. Skaret said there were three candidates that were interviewed for the Pool Manager's position and Community Education Director. He said the positions were combined into one fulltime position between the two 4 years ago. Skaret said none of the candidates who applied accepted.

Skaret said a Pool Board meeting was held on February 21st to discuss the matter. He said the recommendation from the Pool Board is to split the positions with 28 hours a week with one person hired part-time to do Community Education and another person hired for 20 hours a week to manager the pool. Skaret reported Kelly Antonson has been acting as the interim pool manager and she indicated that she would be interested in the part-time position to manage the pool at \$20 per hour. He noted the City would not fund the Community Education part-time position. Skaret said the cost of the pool manager's position would be split on a 50-50 basis between the City and School District.

Regarding the Pool Task Force, Skaret said the JEDC met and has forwarded four different names to serve as facilitators for the Pool Task Force. If approved, he said the JEDC will pay up to \$10,000 for a facilitator that should fit within the budget. Skaret said each of the four facilitators have been contacted and each of the four are willing to do it.

Finck asked who will decide who the facilitator is.

Skaret said that was discussed at the Pool Board meeting.

Peterson, a member of the Pool Board, said it was brought up that the Task Force get together and figure out who the two community members will be on the Task Force and then also figure out which facilitator the group wants to work with. He said that was the Pool Board's suggestion.

Finck said that makes sense that the Task Force would make that decision.

Skaret asked if the Task Force wanted School and City Staff in attendance at their meetings.

Finck said as a Task Force member, he would say “yes” but School and City Staff is not to guide. He said he would like Skaret to come back to the City Council to give an overview of where the Task Force is at. Finck said he would like that central voice at Council meetings but not to guide the Task Force. He said he doesn’t think Skaret or Superintendent Barry Schmidt should be guiding the Task Force. Finck said the Task Force should guide itself.

Skaret said that’s how he would see his role by providing any information that’s requested.

Finck said he thinks having Skaret and Schmidt as part of the process is valuable. He said it saves a step of coming back and saying here’s what the Task Force has done and here’s what they need Skaret or Schmidt to do.

On another topic, Skaret said Alderman Nathan Peterson reached out to another pool engineering firm about the possibility of having a second evaluation of the pool. Skaret noted there’s been a lot of questions about the \$7 to \$9 million figure and is it accurate and what really needs to be done verses wants. He said the idea is to get a second opinion. Skaret said maybe there’s some things that were left out of the first report and maybe there’s some things in the first report that don’t necessarily need to be there. He said the second opinion may also provide some validity to the \$7 to \$9 million figure.

Peterson said the pool engineering firm he contacted is the same firm that engineered the Estherville swimming pool and indoor pools in Cedar Rapids, Sioux Falls, Beresford, Canton, Yankton and Vermillion, South Dakota and also Norfolk and Lincoln, Nebraska. He said the engineering firm has worked with situations similar to the City of Jackson and School District’s partnership along with other types of partnerships.

Finck said if the engineering firm contacted by Peterson does an evaluation for the City Council, he would also like what the cost figures would be for an outdoor pool. He said he would like to know the real costs.

Skaret pointed out the pool shell was never evaluated in the first evaluation.

Finck asked if there would be a cost for the City to have a second engineering firm do an evaluation of the current indoor pool.

Skaret said there is a cost. He said the first evaluation cost \$12,800 and the engineering firm contacted by Peterson indicated their evaluation shouldn't be much more than that. Skaret said that would include both the evaluation of the pool and evaluation by a mechanical expert. He said an exact cost for the second evaluation could be ready for the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Polz said he thinks it would be really wise for the City to do the diligence on their on behalf to have another engineering firm evaluate the pool.

Titus said he wants to keep the School District engaged and participate in sharing the cost for a second evaluation of the current indoor pool. He said any information regarding the costs for the City constructing their own outdoor pool would be paid for by the City.

Finck agreed that the City would pay for an evaluation regarding the construction of an outdoor pool.

Skaret said as a word of caution, engineers and architects right now are very hesitant to give cost numbers because the construction environment is such a volatile market. He noted a bid last week for construction of a pool in Canton, South Dakota was \$1.2 million above the engineer's estimate.

Peterson noted Canton received only one bid.

Skaret said it's such a volatile construction market right now and there's so few contractors willing to do that kind of work.

Peterson said the engineering firm that will provide a second opinion will drain the pool. He said that will also allow the drain covers in the pool to be replaced which will provide some cost savings by not having to hire scuba divers to replace the drain covers. Peterson said it takes about three to four days to drain the pool. He said the engineering firm said the pool would be down seven to ten days for them to do their evaluation.

Titus said the Task Force is ready to meet asap. He said the Task Force has some things to do such as selecting the community members that will serve on the Task Force.

Skaret suggested maybe the Task Force could meet sometime during the week of March 6th.

Naumann asked how the Task Force was going to select the community members that will be part of the group.

Finck said there are community members that have reached out to serve on the Task Force. He reiterated about having Skaret and Schmidt as communicators for the Task Force. Finck asked Skaret to contact Schmidt about possible dates for the Task Force to meet during the week of March 6th. He said Task Force members could interview the facilitators at that meeting and also have discussion with members of the community that want to serve on the Task Force.

Skaret said if the Task Force is mutually selecting the community members that will serve, then there is no problem selecting three individuals to serve on the Task Force.

Mayor Polz said he thinks the City and School Task Force members should be the ones that select the community members that will serve on the Task Force.

Peterson asked if Skaret and Schmidt could send a list of community members interested in serving on the Task Force to the City and School District Task Force members for their meeting in March.

Finck suggested also having the second engineering firm that will do an evaluation of the pool and what the cost will be on the Task Force's agenda. He also said that determining what Skaret and Schmidt's role is with the Task Force should also be on the agenda so everyone is on the same page.

STRATEGIC PLANNING REMINDER: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND AND WEDNESDAY, March 15th from 5 – 8 P.M.

Skaret said there has been a schedule change due to the inclement winter weather. He said Facilitator Marcy Douglas will be unable to travel to Jackson. Skaret said the second session is scheduled for March 15th. He said Douglas suggested having the Strategic Planning sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14th and 15th.

Councilmembers discussed the suggestion from Douglas and other possible dates and inquired whether the Planning Sessions could be held on March 15th and 16th.

Skaret said he would contact Douglas to see if March 15th and 16th would work as date for the Strategic Planning Sessions.

Other:

Alderman Mark Titus – Channel 71

Alderman Titus said he was asked about what's happened to local access Channel 71. He said there used to be announcements on the channel but there hasn't been for a while.

City Clerk Maschoff explained the system for Channel 71 quit functioning. He said the company where the unit was purchased doesn't sell or provide service for those units anymore.

Maschoff said he looked at other companies and there are units on the market but the cost is around \$3,500 to \$4,000 dollars. He said City Hall contacted Southwest Broadband and for the approximately 400 subscribers on the cable television service, the question was whether it was worth spending that amount of money considering the number of subscribers there are.

Maschoff said Southwest Broadband has been contacted and there may be a power point presentation that could be implemented which could show announcements, but it probably would not include weather information. He said he's also considered trying to repair the current unit himself.

Titus said he thinks Channel 71 does have some value in providing a community calendar and can be very important to the community to inform them of what's going on.

Maschoff said a slide of the City of Jackson's City Hall office hours is currently shown on Channel 71, plus the local radio station is on that channel. He noted people use that channel to listen to the radio.

Skaret asked if the City Council is comfortable with spending \$4,000 to fix Channel 71.

Finck said it makes sense to do. Also, Finck noted he would like an update for the City Council on the financials and a current review of Southwest Broadband.

Maschoff said he could look at implementing a power point presentation for Channel 71.

Peterson suggested it looks like it would be a good deal for the community to get a new system for Channel 71 versus the power point system.

Maschoff said he can look at systems and compile some prices.

Mix said if the City spends the money, they should look at what they really want Channel 71 to be, not to replace it with what we had, but this is probably the time to look at a particular system or upgrade even if it costs a little more.

Maschoff said he will try to gather information on potential systems.

On another issue, Skaret noted the message sign along Highway 71 near Speedway is operating on borrowed time. He said the sign has been struck by vehicles and there are bird nests in the sign along with other critters. Skaret said a new sign costs tens of thousands of dollars. He said consideration may be given to budget for a new message sign.

CLOSED SESSION REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 502 2ND STREET IN JACKSON, MN PURSUANT TO MN CHAPTER 13D.05, SUBD. 3(C)

Mayor Polz entertained a motion for the City Council to go into Closed Session regarding the consideration purchase of property located at 502 2nd Street in Jackson, Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Chapter 13D.05, Subd. 3(C).

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to go into Closed Session at 7:44 p.m. regarding the consideration purchase of property located at 502 2nd Street in Jackson, Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Chapter 13D.05, Subd. 3(C).

Mayor Polz said the City Council was in Closed Session.

COMING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Polz entertained a motion for the City Council to go out of Closed Session.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to go out of Closed Session and return to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Polz announced the City Council was now out of Closed Session.

Council Action

Mayor Polz entertained a motion for the City to take an option on purchasing the property at 502 Second Street in Jackson.

FINCK/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to request a 60-day option, with a \$500 offer for that option, to purchase from Mitch Jasper the property at 502 Second Street in Jackson, Minnesota.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Polz asked for a motion to adjourn.

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 8:21 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Marcus Polz, Mayor

