

**July 16, 2024**  
**Jackson, Minnesota**

**The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall and also by Teleconference and Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 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 Interim City Administrator Rick Almich, Public Works Director Tony Oxborough, Jackson Ambulance Director Grant Landbo, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services, Engineer Eric Hanson of HDR, Bill Brandt of the Farmer’s and Maker’s Market, Cay Gjertson of the Farmer’s and Maker’s Market, John Weland of the Jackson County Animal Protection Society, Stephen Foster, Chris Tusa, Gary Elsbecker, Marcia Elsbecker, Cheryl Harnden Yadloski, Marie Lovell, Corinne Vacek, Dorthy Dykstra, Richard and Virginia Skow, Pastor John Schuetz of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff and Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot. Joining the meeting via Zoom was City Attorney Brad Anderson, Jackson Economic Development Director Wendy Anderson, Peggy Markman, Concerned About Accuracy in Journalism, Zach and Emily Autumn and Mathew Grisham of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (A quorum of the City Council was present.)**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

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Mayor Polz called the regular meeting of the Jackson City Council to order. He said the roll call showed all Councilmembers were present except for Councilman Nathan Peterson who would be arriving later in the meeting.

**There was no Public Hearing, 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 guest 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**

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Mayor Polz entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

## **Council Discussion Items**

### **RIVER STREET RESIDENTS**

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Mayor Polz asked the group of residents from River Street if they had a representative who would like to speak to the Council.

Cheryl Harnden Yadloski introduced herself to the Mayor and Councilmembers and those present at the Council meeting. She said she was borne and raised in Jackson and owned two businesses in Jackson for about 40 years until she moved away about 10 years and then moved back to Jackson to care for her father when he had cancer.

Yadloski said she now owns a home at 204 River Street. She said River Street residents were meeting with the City Council because of what the residents have had to endure with the City shutting a Lift Station down and causing the sewer to back up into residents' basements. Yadloski said it was not a fun experience. She explained how she and other residents were not warned that the Lift Station was going to be shut down and what may happen.

Yadlowski said all of her father's belongings were brought to her house after he died for her and her siblings to go through. She said now there's nothing to go through because the flooded basement damaged everything and the items had to be discarded because the Lift Station was shut down.

Yadloski said she would have appreciated a notice of what could occur when the Lift Station was shut down. She explained she was at work at 6 a.m. Sunday morning. Yadloski explained her brother went to her home and found there was water in her basement and informed her to come home immediately. She noted that water that backed up into her basement was contaminated water. Yadloski described all the damage that the water caused to the sheetrock, carpet, furniture and personal items. She said perfectly good-looking furniture had to be put into the dumpster. Yadloski said she had five sump pumps operating in her basement and the pumps couldn't keep up with the water that was coming in. She said there was no time to hardly save anything. Yadloski said she would have given anything if it had just been river water, but it was sewage water. She said it's a process to clean-up. Yadloski noted the values of her and her neighbors' homes have also been devalued because of what happened.

Yadloski noted the damage her neighbors sustained in their basements as well. She pointed out many of her neighbors are elderly and need help.

Yadloski said residents should have been notified ahead of time that the Lift Station was going to be shut down so items could have been moved out of the basement.

Mayor Polz encouraged Yadloski and those attending to file an insurance claim against the City if they felt there was any wrongdoing by the City regarding the flooding. He said that way the insurance company can look at the issue and determine if there's compensation the property owners on River Street are entitled to. Mayor Polz said the City can't do a whole lot more other than continue to explore options and learn from what they have done. He said filing an insurance claim would be a first step if the City can offer anything.

Interim City Administrator Rick Almich said an insurance adjuster will look at the matter and will make a decision based on what they learn. He said sometimes the adjuster will approve the claim and sometimes they don't. Almich noted the insurance adjuster is a third party that will look at it.

Mayor Polz said residents could leave their contact information at City Hall.

Yadloski also pointed out that residents have operated sump pumps and fans in cleaning up their basements. She said residents really don't want to pay above and beyond what their normal utility bill would be because of the whole flooding situation. Yadloski said she can't imagine what her bill will be. She said residents on River Street would really appreciate if the City would absorb that because of what residents have had to do. Yadloski said she still has fans running and spraying to prevent mold and things like that.

Mayor Polz said the City has been talking about how they could help residents and assistance with utilities. He said he emphasizes with the residents affected by the flooding.

Almich said it would be appropriate for the City to look at assisting flood victims with their utility bills and refer it to the property committee. He said to him it's not an unreasonable request to try and address that.

Finck asked residents to contact City Hall with their contact information. He said that information can be sent to the City's insurance representative Tim Olson.

Mayor Polz thanked the residents from River Street for attending the City Council meeting.

## **BILL BRANDT – FARMERS AND MAKER'S MARKET LOCATION FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON**

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Bill Brandt said the Farmers and Makers Market had their first market after the flood in front of the Jackson Center for the Arts building on Main Street. He said it worked well and the vendors had a lot of customers. Brandt said the Farmers and Makers' Market is requesting to hold their weekly event in front of the Arts Center for the remainder of the summer. He said if it continues to work well, it would possibly become a permanent location next year.

Brandt said the Market is held from 3:30 to 6:30 on Thursdays. He asked if the traffic cones could be placed closing off the street in front of the Arts Center at around 3 p.m. Brandt noted the vendors were inundated with so many customers at 3:30, most vendors weren't ready. He said vendors are going to start setting up at 3:10 so they're ready for customers at 3:30.

Brandt said he spoke with surrounding businesses and any issues have been worked out.

Brandt said plans are to continue the Farmers and Makers Market in front of the Jackson Center for the Arts for the rest of the summer through September.

Cay Gjertson of the Jackson Center for the Arts said the Center has been working with Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services to have seven benches in Jackson to represent the history and current ethnicities in the community. She said the grant funding for the project has been granted. Gjertson said the Arts Center is working Eye Candy regarding the benches. She asked if the six-foot benches could be stored in the shelter house in Ashley Park during the winter months.

**MIX/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to allow the Farmers and Makers Market to operate their weekly Market on Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in front of the Jackson Center for the Arts on Main Street for the remainder of the 2024 season.**

Brandt thanked Mayor Walter and Councilmembers.

Mix asked Gjertson when they anticipate the benches will be ready to be installed.

Gjertson said they are still working on that. She explained there are seven benches and seven blocks on Main Street and would like to have one bench on each block.

Mayor Polz thanked Gjertson and Brandt.

## **JACKSON CRUISIN CLUB – REQUEST TO CLOSE STREETS FOR AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> CRUISE-IN EVENT**

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City Clerk Dave Maschoff explained this year the Chamber’s Block Party during the Jackson Motorplex’s National Week will be held on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. He said the Block Party events have been moved from Thursday to Wednesday evening, which leaves Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> open. Maschoff said the Cruise-In Club would like to host a Cruise-In on August 15<sup>th</sup>. He explained that date was not on the Club’s original list of cruise-in date the City Council approved this spring.

Mayor Polz said he would entertain a motion.

**PETERSON/PELL moved and unanimously carried to close the streets needed for the Jackson Cruise-In Clubs cruise-in on Thursday, August 15, 2024.**

## **AIRPORT TAXIWAY PAY APPLICATION NO. 7**

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Engineer Eric Hanson of HDR said there was a lot of activity in the past week at the Jackson Municipal Airport. He said the contractor is about 95 percent complete paving the parallel taxiway.

Hanson said Airport Taxiway Pay Application No. 7 in front of the City Council is to pay essentially for the paving and a little bit of lighting.

Hanson said Pay Application No. 7 is in the amount of \$683,412.04.

**PETERSON/TITUS moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Airport Pay Application No. 7 in the amount of \$683,412.04 to Svoboda Excavating of Jackson, Minnesota.**

## **CITY OF JACKSON/BELMONT HEIGHTS SUPPLEMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

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City Attorney Brad Anderson explained an addition to the City of Jackson/Belmont Heights Supplemental Development Agreement that developer DBS wanted added to add a paragraph to the agreement.

Attorney Anderson said the City Council was asked to give consideration to the request from DBS to add language to the agreement. He noted the agreement already states that “all the parties will work together in good faith to evaluate and find solutions to any perceived problems with the street extension and any agreed upon visual issues with the RES project and the parties housing project”.

Attorney Anderson said DBS would like added to the agreement “Any costs associated with the street re-alignment or extension, as well as any sound or visual mitigation requirements for the RES property will be paid for by the City of Jackson or other parties/entities, and that Belmont Heights will not have any financial obligation for any of the implemented solutions or requirements”.

Attorney Anderson said he discussed DBS’s request with Mayor Polz and advised him that this would require City Council approval to accept the additional paragraph.

Attorney Anderson said at closing, DBS signed the original closing document but asked the City Council consider the additional paragraph that was shown in red in the exhibit that was distributed to Mayor Polz and Councilmembers.

Attorney Anderson outlined further aspects of the agreement including a second street outlet to the housing project which would tie White Tail Lane to Torgerson Lane and give police, fire and residents a second opportunity to exit or enter the housing project.

Attorney Anderson said the only issue really before the City Council at their July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting is the proposed paragraph language in red that DBS requested. He said he would suggest the Council table the supplemental agreement and have further discussions on the language. Attorney Anderson said the City Councilmembers or any Committees associated with the housing project have had any time to digest or analyze DBS's request regarding the additional paragraph and make a decision as to whether it's right for the housing project or the City.

Mayor Polz entertained a motion to table the City of Jackson/Belmont Heights Supplemental Development agreement pending further review.

**PETERSON/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to table action on the City of Jackson/Belmont Heights Supplemental Development Agreement pending further review.**

#### **REQUEST FROM THE JACKSON COUNTY FAIR TO USE THE CITY'S PICNIC TABLES FOR THE BEER GARDEN AND ALSO REQUESTING THE USE OF THREE TRAFFIC BARRIERS**

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Maschoff, speaking on behalf of the Jackson County Fair Board, is making a request to use the City's picnic tables for the beer garden at the Fair and also requesting the use of three traffic barriers to place around the Fair Office where vehicles come into the fairgrounds.

Maschoff noted the City has been gracious in years past allowing the Fair to make use of the City's picnic tables which has been appreciated.

Mayor Polz entertained a motion.

**PELL/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the request from the Jackson County Fair to use the City's picnic tables for the beer garden and also requesting the use of three traffic barriers.**

Maschoff thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 28-0724 APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES FOR THE MINNESOTA PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 13, 2024**

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Maschoff said it's time to appoint Election Judges. He said the deadline to appoint Election Judges for the Primary Election on August 13<sup>th</sup> is Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Maschoff said he was asking for the City Council's approval.

**PETERSON/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 28-0724 appoint Election Judges for the Minnesota Primary Election on August 13, 2024.**

Maschoff thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers.

## **DESIGNATE A COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FOR THE JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> AND AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 JACKSON CRUISE-IN EVENTS**

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Mayor Polz entertained a motion to designate a Community Festival for the July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Jackson Cruise-In Events.

**PELL/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to designate a Community Festival for the July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Jackson Cruise-In Events.**

## **BANNERS FOR THE JACKSON NATIONALS**

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Mayor Polz noted Councilman Peterson has distributed information and costs for banners for the Jackson Nationals.

Naumann said banners for the Jackson Nationals wasn't designated in the budget. He said there has been discussion on what can be done in welcoming visitors to Jackson and supporting the Jackson Nationals.

Mayor Polz said it had been discussed last year about budgeting \$5,000 to \$6,000 last year towards banners for the Jackson Nationals but said he doesn't that was included in this year's City budget. He said there had also been discussions partnering with other businesses or groups in funding the cost of banners.

Mix said she thinks the City has to do something. She said the race track is important and brings a lot of people to town and thinks the City needs to show their support.



Mix said there may be businesses that would partner with the City in purchasing banners.

**MIX/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried for the City to donate up to \$5,000 towards the purchase of supportive materials and hardware for the Jackson Nationals.**

## **POOL SURVEY**

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Alderman Joe Pell noted a copy of the proposed Pool Survey was sent to Mayor Polz and Councilmembers. He asked Councilmembers to concentrate on the City portion of the survey.

Pell said the Pool Task Force will be meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to talk about the school information.

Pell said this agenda item was just an informational item for the Mayor and Councilmembers.

## **CHANGE THE REGULAR TUESDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING DATE TO MONDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 6 P.M.**

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Mayor Polz reported AGCO has graciously donated \$5,000 to the City to host a celebration for everybody that participated in the flood such as the City workers as well as the volunteers.

Mayor Polz said along with other sponsors, it was decided that the celebration event would be held on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Fendt Lodge. He said the celebration event would conflict with having the City Council meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Polz said he would look for another date to have the next City Council meeting.

Peterson suggested Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> as the date for the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Polz said he would entertain a motion to change the date for the next City Council meeting.

**PELL/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to change the date of the next regular Jackson City Council meeting from August 6<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 p.m.**

## **Other:**

### **Alderwoman Sara Mix**

Alderwoman Sara Mix asked City Attorney if there were any updates regarding the former Prairie Winds Motel.

City Attorney Brad Anderson said he is still waiting to hear from the Court. He said he checks daily.

Attorney Anderson said the property is being monitored closely by the Sheriff's Department, the City's building inspector and City staff. He said there was a few incidents at the property but people were asked to leave the property.

### **Alderman Nathan Peterson**

Alderman Nathan Peterson noted there's been a request to have Pinewood Derby races on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in front of Smokin' Java on Main Street. He said that item could be added to the City Council's July 30<sup>th</sup> agenda.

### **Alderman Chris Naumann**

Alderman Chris Naumann asked if the City had received any information on the hotel study.

Naumann asked if the Ambulance Department is looking for paramedics.

Jackson Ambulance Director Grant Landbo said no paramedics have been hired. He said the job description was reposted on the Minnesota Ambulance Association website.

### **Alderman Mark Titus**

Alderman Mark Titus said at some point the City Council will have to decide what they are going to do with the former Coast-to-Coast/Marine building.

Titus said you can smell the building when you walk by it.

Finck noted Jackson Economic Development Director Wendy Anderson has been working to get the building removed from the historic designation so she can apply for a grant to tear the building down.

### **Mayor Marcus Polz**

Mayor Polz introduced Interim City Administrator Rick Almich.

Almich said he's glad to be in Jackson. He said he willing to help the City the best he can. Almich said he loves this work.

### **Jackson Economic Development Director Wendy Anderson**

Regarding the former Coast to Coast building, Jackson Economic Development Director Wendy Anderson reported an application has been made to remove the historic designation for the building. She said August 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for getting an application in to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for a grant to remove the building.

Anderson also reported on the statistics from the Motel feasibility study that was done in Jackson.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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**With no further business, Mayor Polz said the City Council had concluded their business and declared the Jackson City Council meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.**

Mayor Polz thanked everyone for attending.

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**David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary**

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**Marcus Polz, Mayor**

