

Jackson, Minnesota
June 16, 2020

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall and also by Zoom and teleconference at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Wayne Walter. On the roll call, the following persons were present in-person, Mayor Wayne Walter, Aldermen Matt Madden, Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Jeffrey Gay, Donnie Schoenrock and Dave Cushman. Also present in the Council Chambers were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough, City Financial Advisor Shannon Sweeney of David Drown and Associates, Jackson County Sheriff Chief Deputy Kelly Mitchell, Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk, John Olson, Nathan Peterson, Scott and Nikki Benda, Father Jonathan Fasnacht of Good Shepherd Church in Jackson and City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff. Also attending via Zoom was Engineer Maria McCarty of SEH and attending via teleconference call were Luke Ewald, Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot and Dave Schmidt of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Council Discussion Items

SHARON HENNING REGARDING DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK SALES DURING CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES JUNE 25TH THROUGH THE 27TH

In the absence of Sharon Henning at the meeting, City Clerk Maschoff explained Henning was requesting that her downtown business, along with any other interested downtown businesses, be allowed to have some merchandise displayed on the sidewalks in front of their stores during the Citywide garage sales June 25th through June 27th.

Maschoff said Henning is aware about not impeding the flow of pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk. He explained the idea behind the request was to bring more people to downtown Jackson during the garage sale weekend.

SCHOENROCK/GAY moved and it was unanimously approved to allow Jackson downtown businesses to have merchandise on the sidewalks in front of their stores during the Citywide Garage Sales June 25th, 26th and 27th, 2020.

SENIOR DINING BUILDING RENTAL

Skaret explained with all the Covid-19 precautions underway, the City has not been renting out the Senior Center building. He said the City has started to receive some requests about renting the building for events.

Skaret said under the current Governor's Executive Orders, a group the size of 25 percent of the Senior Dining Building's maximum capacity would be allowed to gather in the building. He said the Senior Dining building has a total maximum capacity of 98, so 25 percent of that would mean a group of up to 24 people.

Skaret said some things to consider is cleaning. He noted there are a lot of regulations as far as cleaning and keeping things sanitized. Skaret said there's also the consideration of how would the City control the volume of people that would attend an event at the Senior Center building such as for a wedding, anniversary or graduation party on a Saturday afternoon. He said it would be difficult for the City to control the number of people attending an event in the Senior Center building. Skaret said that's just a couple of things to consider.

Skaret said he wanted to bring the requests for renting the building and other things to consider to the City Council for their input.

City Attorney Brad Anderson asked if a group renting the Senior Building would need to file a plan with the City on how they were going to comply with all regulations.

Skaret said that's something that would need to be looked into more. He said he's read some of the regulations and a lot of them pertain to staff. Skaret said the City doesn't really have any staff at the Senior Building. He said the City also doesn't have an actual custodian at the Senior Building. Skaret explained for Senior Dining, Lutheran Social Services hires a person who comes in to clean.

Skaret said Lutheran Social Services currently isn't having in-person dining at the Senior Building. He said they have food coming in and out of the building, but they're not having any gatherings for meals. Skaret said the City would probably have to make other arrangements to have the building cleaned.

Cushman suggested not renting the building out until it's available again for Senior Citizens to dine there during the lunch hour.

Finck said until the State eases restrictions and opens things back up, he suggested not renting out the building due to liability concerns and difficulty in policing the number of people that are attending an event.

CUSHMAN/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried for the City to hold off renting out the Senior Dining Building for gatherings until further notice.

JOHN OLSON WATER SERVICE LINE REPAIR BILL

John Olson explained during the first part of the year he had a water issue at 821 Third Street where Barry Nosbusch has his car lot. He said because of the weather, they weren't able to dig into the ground at that point and Svoboda Excavating wasn't available. Olson said he had to wait until March to dig up the water line.

Olson said at that time it was discovered there was wear on the line but the warranty had already expired.

Olson said the water line was repaired at which time he wishes that he would have been given some options. He said he's not a plumber. Olson said they could have said we could run a new water line from the main in the business out to the new line and put a new shut-off and then you'll never have any issues again. Instead, Olson said they didn't give him that option. He said the repair work was just taken care of and they used an old line with a new water line and added an additional shut-off.

Of course, Olson said after it was done, the comment was this could happen again because it's an old line. He said it could have all been prevented if he would have had a little advice in advance.

Olson said the other thing that he found out is about four or five years ago, it was suggested and the Council had an open discussion about insurance that would have cost individuals \$3, \$3.28 or \$3.50 a month that would cover these types of things. He said nothing developed from those discussions.

Olson mentioned there was also another outside business that was selling insurance for water lines that would cost \$25 or \$28 a month for individuals.

Olson asked if the City Council could once again check into insurance programs that may be available to property owners regarding broken water lines. He said he would also like the City Council to look into if the Water Department would give additional opinions on how to handle the water line situation like he experienced. Olson said it would have saved him a lot of headaches.

Olson brought the connection that had been replaced where the new water line was connected to the old water line that ran to his building. He said he had three plumbers take a look at it and they all said it was not a good job. Olson said however when the connection was replaced, the warranty had expired.

Olson pointed out there was a bump in the new pipe. He pointed out any change in the flow of the water that is not going straight increases velocity and creates more turbulence and thus it wears out that much faster. Olson said by looking at the inside of the connection, you can see that's exactly what it did.

Olson said he spoke to all the people that could give him input and because it was out of warranty, there was nothing they could do. He said it would be nice if there was a longer warranty. Olson said it would have been nice if Svoboda's would have sent him the bill instead of the City paying his bill.

Olson said when he called Svoboda's office regarding the water line replacement, the person in the office said they looked into the hole where the replacement was made and there was no leak. Olson said the pipe at the connection eroded from the day it was installed. He said two or two-and-half or two and three-quarters years later we have a problem. Olson pointed out most of the plumbing in Jackson has probably been in the ground 40 or 50 years. He said his line should have lasted longer than three years.

Skaret said to provide a little bit of background, Olson's situation stems back to 2016 when the State did the bridge project and redid part of Highway 71. He said as part of that project water main work was done crossing Highway 71 and going down Fourth Street servicing Olson's lot through the State contract. Skaret said Olson's old service line was reconnected to the new main. He explained Svoboda's was piggybacking on the State's project to get that little bit of waterline work done. Skaret said there was a two-year warranty and the warranty has expired.

Skaret said he talked with MnDOT Engineer Bob Williams who was in charge of the project. Skaret said Williams noted the warranty had expired and encouraged him to have Olson check with his insurance company to see if they would cover any of the leak repair.

Skaret said he and Olson have also talked about the water leak several times. He said it's a very unfortunate situation. Skaret said if the City Council wants to look at changing the policy going forward, they certainly can or the Council can also revisit the insurance option again.

Gay said he looked at the connection Olson brought to the meeting and saw the bump in the pipe. He asked if the connection had been overtightened when it was installed and would that have caused the failure of it before it's maturity.

Skaret asked Engineer Greg Mitchell if the line would have been inspected when it was installed.

Mitchell said someone would have been on site to inspect the line.

Olson asked what the inspector would have been inspecting, the fact that it would be leaking?

Mitchell said the inspector would have watched the installation and when the water was turned back on, make sure that it didn't leak.

Olson said the state licensed plumbers that have looked at his connection said it was done wrong and was torqued too much. He looked up information on the computer and questioned why a pipe would fail. Olson said the information said if the water has any reason to change direction at all, it increases the velocity and that increased the wear. He said looking at the inside of the pipe you can see the water really ate it out in a short period of time. Olson noted there's plumbing in the ground in Jackson that been around for 40 or 50 years, probably longer. He said the pipe itself was good pipe that was in the ground, but the installation was not done correctly. Olson said it started to erode from the day it was installed.

Cushman noted this was a State of Minnesota project and he's not sure what the City can do. He said he wishes there was something the City could do.

Olson said he spoke with Skaret about that. He said he knows he's going to have to pay for the repair. Olson said he knows that sometime in the future some other individual will have the same kind of situation. He said the insurance that was talked about in the past for \$3 a month would have been pretty cheap.

Alderman Anderson asked Olson if he had checked with his insurance company.

Olson said he had not.

Alderman Anderson said he had a water leak under his front yard due to a bad connect and his homeowner's insurance covered the repairs. He suggested Olson check with his insurance company. Alderman Anderson said there may be a deductible, but suggested Olson check with his insurance company.

Olson said the insurance for water lines through the City is something that could be revisited again and see if there's any interest in doing something like that. He said when a water line breaks, it sure does hurts.

Finck noted what the City originally looked at was an insurance company that was operating independently, it wasn't the City's insurance program.

Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough said some time ago the Utilities Commission talked about a \$3 surcharge to everyone's utility bill that would go towards a fund that could be used to specifically fix water service lines. He said questions arose on how to charge a company that has multiple service lines and a private residence who has just one service line. Oxborough said it became too complicated and there was no action pursued in implementing a surcharge.

Olson said the other thing he asked about is having options and dealing with someone that has plumbing knowledge and knows the ground in Jackson. For example, a plumber with experience may have suggested putting in a completely new line from his shop out to the street because he has a renter that relies on the water. Olson said he's not a plumber and assumed when the line was spliced, it should be good forever.

Finck said as the City's Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Oxborough probably isn't the decision maker regarding a private line. He said the City Water Department can suggest to the property owner about consulting a plumber for a recommendation on a private line. Finck noted Oxborough cannot make a recommendation from a liability standpoint. He said Oxborough is not a licensed plumber.

Attorney Anderson said he thinks the Council all empathizes with Olson and feels bad that he had a water line break, but unfortunately it's a private line and he doesn't think anybody can give the City the responsibility or give advice as to electrical or plumbing or any of that stuff to private citizens. He said that's something between the property owner and their contractor. Attorney Anderson said even though the City Council empathizes with Olson, there's nothing the City can really do about it.

Olson said he realizes that. But two comments he asked about were ones that came from people that work for the State and Steve Beckel who worked for the City at the time. He said those are things that need to be discussed.

Mayor Walter said Olson brought up issues that the Utilities Commission can discuss. He thanked Olson for bringing his questions to the City Council and they will take them under advisement.

Olson said he appreciated Mayor Walter and the City Council's time.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-0620 PROVIDING FOR THE COMPETITIVE SALE OF \$5,095,000 IN GENERAL OBLIGATION STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND UTILITY REVENUE BONDS SERIES 2020A

Shannon Sweeney of David Drown and Associates pointed out in the City Council's informational packets a memo from him along with a resolution that initiates the process for selling bonds to finance the 2020 Street/Utility Reconstruction Project.

Sweeney said based on input from the City Council's Finance Committee and City Staff, it sounds like we have a project that has construction and engineering costs of roughly \$6,110,326.80. He explained if the underwriting, finance, legal, and the grading fee is added in and if the City capitalizes some of the interest through the first payment that the City is not able to levy for until next year, that brings the current estimated total project cost to \$6,245,053.69.

Sweeney noted the City has been in the planning process for this project for quite some time. He said there have been a number of conversations for the past year in formulating a large project and how the City would pay for it.

Regarding the City's intended contribution of cash towards the project, Sweeney said that is currently estimated at \$1,145,000. Sweeney pointed out there is no contingency built into this budget at this point other than a little bit of cash contribution that he rounded down on. He said ultimately if there's cost overruns or significant change orders, the City will be funding those through either cash or additional issuance of bonds. Sweeney said that should be understood through part of this process. He said if the City Council changes their thinking on that or wants to see something different, that can certainly be done.

But ultimately, Sweeney said the intention is to issue \$5,095,000 in General Obligation Street Reconstruction and Utility Revenue Bonds.

Sweeney noted the City Council held a public hearing on the adoption of a Street Reconstruction Plan last year. He said a public hearing notice was published and comments were taken on the fact the City was doing the street reconstruction project. Sweeney said the City allowed an opportunity for a petition for referendum for a 30-day period. Sweeney said a petition for referendum was not received so he would anticipate that folks want to see these streets and utilities reconstructed.

Sweeney said the City set about to bid the project which they have done and at this point it's time to consider putting the financing in place. He said the good news is that interest rates are really, really low. Sweeney said interest rates are so low, in fact, that his estimate in the Council's packet would currently be a bit high at 1.897 percent.

Sweeney pointed out the City of Montevideo sold a similar bond issue of \$5,245,000 on June 15th that was probably at least a tenth of a percent below the 1.897 percent rate. He noted the City of Montevideo has the same credit rating as the City of Jackson. Sweeney said the market is good. He said hopefully it holds for another month or so while the City of Jackson goes through this process.

Sweeney explained a competitive sale involves David Drown Associates preparing an official statement that's a document that describes the City's ability to repay the bond issue. He said it talks about the pledge of basically property taxes and utility revenues, the City's ability to make the bond payments, the City's outstanding debt, tax levy history, tax base history and other factors. He explained the official statement document is used to market the bonds to underwriters that would bid in a competitive basis on the day of sale for the purchase of the bonds which they resale to investors.

Sweeney noted the interest rate used in the estimate he presented to the Mayor and City Council was based on bond sales over the past two weeks and even on June 16th. He said interest rates are still about the same, if not a little bit better, than was shown in the estimate. Sweeney said if the market holds, the City will be hitting the market at a very good time.

Sweeney said his memo to the Council also talks about the repayment sources for the bond which have been discussed. He noted there will be contributions of about \$62,000 a year from water and about \$17,000 from sanitary sewer revenues. Sweeney said the City is planning on using about \$155,000 a year in electric utility revenues to make debt service payments that offset a potential tax levy. Sweeney explained the City is doing part of this because the City doesn't levy special assessments and have decided that's something the City doesn't intend to do. So, Sweeney said we're being creative in the City's use of enterprise funds in order to fund a large project that's needed.

Sweeney said if the City thinks to the future and has other large projects that the City is thinking about, one of the things that has been discussed in the past is the fair amount of debt the City has dropping off in about three years which would give the City additional opportunity to do additional projects. He said with debt payments falling off, the City will be able to take on new projects and do additional street reconstruction without tax impact that's significant and the City wouldn't have to be as creative with the use of electric utility revenues. Sweeney said that would allow the City to do a relatively large project that's needed without having a serious hit to the City's property taxpayers.

Sweeney said he wanted the Mayor and City Council to understand what the City is undertaking. He said the 2020 Street Project is something that has been talked about for months if not for a year or two. Sweeney noted it's been a plan that's been worked on for implementation for quite some time.

Sweeney explained there is a 20-year term on the proposed project financing. He said the City would be able to prepay the bonds any time after February 1, 2027. Sweeney explained the reason the City can't prepay the bonds prior to that date is because investors expect to at least be able to hold their investment for somewhere in the neighborhood of eight to ten years. Sweeney said the prepay date is a little bit short of that. He explained if the prepay date was shortened any further, a higher interest rate would be charged. He said it's not anticipated the City will do a prepayment before February 1, 2027 so the prepayment date was set where it's anticipated the market will accept it without penalizing the City on their interest rate.

Sweeney said it's recommended that the City purchase a Standard and Poor's credit rating. He said he believed the cost for that is \$15,000. Sweeney said the purchase of the credit rating will shave about three-quarters of a percent off the interest rate and on \$5 million that's a whole bunch of money. He said it amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Sweeney said it's worth the purchase of the \$15,000 credit rating.

Sweeney said the Standard and Poor's representatives will have a rigorous set of questions for the City's Staff. He said he and City Administrator Matt Skaret will work on answering those questions and being responsive through this process. He noted that's what takes the most amount of time between now and when the interest rate can be fixed. Sweeney said there will be an official statement that goes to the credit rating agency by the end of this week. He said it will take the credit agency about two weeks before they can even do the call and another week before the credit agency issues their credit rating report. Sweeney said that's what takes the most lead time with regard to getting that interest rate fixed but they will be as efficient as they can in that process.

Sweeney said they're looking to sell bonds or fix that interest rate on July 21st. He said he will attend the City Council meeting on July 21st to present bids that evening for award. Sweeney said until that time, the City has not been obligated to borrow money and the interest rate won't be fixed until that time. He said bids will be received based on that official statement that's used as marketing material to sell this bond to underwriters and they can, in turn, use it to sell bonds to investors. Sweeney said the bids will be taken on July 21st and presented to the City Council for award on the evening of July 21st.

Sweeney said there is a resolution before the City Council. He explained the resolution authorizes David Drown Associates to start the sale process and purchase the credit rating ultimately. Sweeney said the resolution doesn't obligate the City to borrow money at this time. He said that won't come until July 21st.

Skaret pointed out a couple things for the Mayor and City Council to note. He said the Street Committee met after the June 2nd City Council meeting and discussed some potential estimated savings. Skaret said what the Street Committee came up with was omitting the sidewalk work on South Street for the two blocks of new sidewalk and the intermittent sidewalk repair. He said Engineer Greg Mitchell doesn't have final numbers regarding that but it's estimated the savings will be \$100,000. Skaret said the savings might be more than that but the \$100,000 figure has been factored into the cost numbers for the project. He said another part of this is that the City is doing about a million dollars' worth of storm water work.

Sweeney said it's been talked about in the past regarding a storm water utility and charging a fee for that service. He said it's a service the City is providing in the community that has more and more expense associated with it as time goes on. Sweeney said there are new regulations that require cities to have a lot of ponds and new requirements that require cities to spend a million dollars on a street project for storm utility work. He said that's real costs that the City is ultimately funding predominately through the tax levy. Sweeney said at some point, before that fee would be too great for customers to bare, the City should think about charging for that service that the City provides.

Schoenrock asked about eliminating the sidewalk work from the project on South Street and the savings of \$100,000. He said he wanted to revisit it one more time.

Cushman said it was his understanding there was a minimum of \$100,000 in savings and the sidewalks would be taken out of the project. He said it was noted there were two or three blocks that currently have no sidewalks and those proposed sidewalks for those blocks would be removed and strictly keep this a curb to curb type project. Cushman said that was his take from the Street Committee meeting.

Alderman Anderson concurred with Cushman.

Schoenrock pointed out the City is doing the 2020 Street Project without any a tax levy increase to the citizens. He said on a \$6 million dollar project that's incredible. He asked after the 2020 Street Project if Sweeney could figure out what the City's debt service capability would be going forward into the future.

Finck said if Sweeney could show what the City's debt capacity could be looking forward.

Sweeney said that information could be compiled.

Cushman said he's been against it in the past and it won't help with the 2020 Street Project, but maybe the proposal for a storm water utility fee should go back to the Utilities Commission for discussion. He said going forward, maybe the storm water utility fee is something the Council and the City should start to look at. Cushman said the Utilities Commission should really dig into this and study it.

SCHOENROCK/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 20-0620 providing for the competitive sale of \$5,095,000 in General Obligation Street Reconstruction and Utility Revenue Bonds Series 2020A.

Mayor Walter and Councilmembers thanked Sweeney for his presentation and assistance.

Sweeney thanked Mayor Walter and the City Council.

NORTH HIGHWAY STORM SEWER EXTENSION TO THE HOSPITAL

Skaret said the North Highway storm sewer extension to the hospital stems from a conversation he and Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk had with representatives from the hospital last week.

Skaret said the City has had periodic communications with Sanford hospital representatives throughout the planning process especially for the North Highway project and discussions about the sidewalk extension.

Skaret reported at this point, Sanford representatives sound open to having the sidewalk extend behind the Pines and connect to Sayles Drive. He said work is underway drawing up some easement documents for hospital representatives to look at.

Skaret said the hospital has also been planning some parking lot improvements to repair drainage issues. He said the hospital has drainage problems on a couple of their parking lots. Skaret noted even three days later after a half-inch rain, there was still standing water in one of the parking lots.

Skaret said the hospital is looking at doing some storm water improvements. He explained the hospital needs some place to pipe that storm water out to. Skaret noted it would be natural for the hospital to bring the storm water out to North Highway but unfortunately the City doesn't have existing storm sewer pipe or intakes in that area. He said the nearest storm sewer is at the curve where North Highway curves towards Sayles Drive which is about 500 to 600 feet away.

Skaret noted a couple of options. He said the hospital can do their storm sewer work and dump the water on the street and let it run until it catches the intakes down the hill on North Highway about 500 to 600 feet away from their parking lot. Skaret said another option would be, as part of the North Highway project, having the City extend the storm sewer up to the hospital so they could connect to the storm sewer pipe so there wouldn't be water running down the street. He pointed out that would carry additional costs. Skaret provided rough cost estimates compiled by Engineer Greg Mitchell. He said to extend the storm sewer pipe would cost about \$37,000. Skaret said based on what the hospital would want to do on their property regarding storm water piping, the cost for the hospital would be about \$24,000.

Skaret said the question is who pays for what. He said obviously the hospital would be responsible for what's done on their private property to alleviate their drainage problems. Skaret said the hospital is under that understanding as well.

Skaret said if the City elected to extend the storm sewer pipe on North Highway, it would primarily be for the hospital's benefit because the City otherwise wasn't planning on doing that.

Skaret said he wanted to bring the issue to the forefront. He asked if the storm sewer pipe extension would be looked at as some kind of cost share. Skaret said it would be a public storm sewer but it would primarily be because of the hospital.

Engineer Greg Mitchell explained the situation with water standing in the parking lot between the Pines and the hospital. He said he thinks the water retention may have occurred on how things evolved west of the hospital. Mitchell noted the hospital was located their first and later the Pines and garages were built west of the hospital. He noted before the Pines was built, the water probably just ran down the hill west of the hospital. Mitchell said due to the construction on the west side of the hospital and the parking lot being raised, water can't escape from an area on the west parking lot. He said the best option to alleviate the drainage problem is to bring the water to North Highway to either run down the street to an intake or to a storm sewer pipe.

Finck said he assumed if the City would extend the storm sewer pipe on North Highway, there would be a benefit to the City because water wouldn't be flowing down North Highway for 500 or 600 feet to the intake causing wear and tear on the street. He said the hospital can cure it's problem by piping the water out onto the street. Finck noted what the hospital does on their property is their decision and what the City does on its property is the City's decision. He said if the City doesn't want the water running over the street and creating possible ice jams and other issues, the City probably needs to figure that out. Finck said he doesn't know how the City could ask the hospital to cover a part of that bill for the storm sewer line extension when the City doesn't ask a homeowner to cover part of the cost of that kind of bill. He said the question is who's getting benefit and who's not at that point and where's the benefit to the hospital by the City extending the storm sewer line.

Schoenrock concurred with Finck. He asked why would the City ask the hospital to cost share for the City's storm sewer extension on the street. Schoenrock noted the benefit of the storm sewer line extension would be not having the water running on the street and causing wear and other issues. He noted North Highway will be torn up anyway and the extension could be included in the project.

Cushman suggested tying the extension of the storm sewer line by the City into the conversations about the sidewalk extension through the hospital property so there's a benefit for both the hospital and the City. He noted the benefits of solving the drainage issues for both the hospital's parking lots and the Safe Routes to Schools for students.

Markman noted running water across the sidewalk from the parking lots could create potential safety issues during cold weather for the sidewalk designated as a Safe Route to Schools.

Skaret said if the City was willing to pay the storm sewer line extension at 100 percent City cost, that may benefit discussions regarding extending the sidewalk on North Highway through Sanford's property.

Schoenrock noted in Skaret's information that the City would have to use water/sewer funds for extending the storm sewer line. He asked if the extension could be included as part of the North Highway street project.

Skaret said the extension could be included in the North Highway project if the City wanted to add that to the amount the City wants to borrow.

Finck noted the \$37,000 for the line extension wasn't part of the original North Highway project so it's not part of the bond. He explained the \$37,000 would have to be paid out of the City's water/sewer fund. Finck said making the extension part of the North Highway project would require a change order.

Skaret said it sounded like he had direction from the City Council.

SEAL COATING BIDS FOR 2020

Skaret explained the City budgeted to do a small seal coating project for this summer.

Skaret said seal coating will be taking place on Homedale Drive, Belmont Lane, Torgerson Lane and Prospect Lane.

Skaret reported the City received two bids for the sealcoating. He said Pearson Brothers of Hanover, Minnesota submitted a bid of \$25,899.15 and M & R Paving of New Ulm submitted a bid of \$33,306.

Skaret noted Pearson Brothers has done work in Jackson before and has done a good job. He said he would recommend awarding the seal coating bid to Pearson Brothers. Skaret said the City had budgeted \$45,000 for seal coating so it's coming in under what was budgeted.

FINCK/SCHOENROCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the low bid from Pearson Brothers of Hanover, Minnesota in the amount of \$25,899.15 for the 2020 Seal Coating Project.

WATER PLANT STORAGE TANK CHANGE ORDER NO. 12

Engineer Maria McCarty of SEH joined the City Council meeting via Zoom. She said work at the Water Plant is now substantially complete. McCarty explained the miscellaneous items pertaining to Water Plant Storage Tank Change Order No. 12. She said the change order amounts to \$1,625.10.

McCarty said there are a few punch list items to be finished at the Water Plant.

CUSHMAN/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Water Plant Storage Tank Change Order No. 12 in the amount of \$1,625.10.

WATER PLANT STORAGE TANK PAY APPLICATION NO. 16

Engineer Maria McCarty said as she mentioned earlier, the Water Plant Storage Tank Project is more or less complete. She said there are a few punch list items that are being worked through. McCarty said the total due for Pay Application No. 16 is \$131,393.77.

Cushman asked what was left to be completed with the project and how much money was left in retainage.

Skaret said there remains one percent amounting to \$17,558 in retainage.

McCarty said there are a few punch list items remaining to be completed including some scratches on the tank that need to be painted.

Water/Waste Water Superintendent Tony Oxborough said the project is pretty much complete. He said the painters returned for a second time and are pretty much done with their work.

MADDEN/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Water Plant Storage Tank Pay Application No. 16 in the amount of \$131,393.77 to Magney Construction.

McCarty thanked Mayor Walter and the Councilmembers.

Mayor Walter and Councilmembers thanked McCarty.

UTILITY PAYMENT LATE FEES AND DISCONNECTS DUE TO NON-PAYMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Skaret noted the City has been going on a month by month basis regarding utility payment late fees and utility disconnections due to non-payment during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said the second Council meeting of the month is where the Council needs to decide whether to extend the cold weather rule another month.

Skaret said utility bills for June were due on June 15th. He said right now, there's a total of 141 delinquencies which includes one sizeable apartment complex representing approximately 12 to 15 units that's included in the total number. By comparison last year during the same period, Skaret said there were 154 utility delinquencies. Skaret noted the number of delinquencies has remained consistent. He said despite the hard times that people are having, the City has not seen a major spike in people not paying their bills, which is really good.

Finck commented we're not fully back to normal. He said he likes that the Council is addressing this on a month to month basis. Finck said he's in favor of probably extending the cold weather rule another month. He said to him it doesn't feel the City is back to normal.

Finck said it looks like everybody is handling themselves pretty well which is very surprising on what the numbers are. Finck said he would make a motion to extend the waiving of late fees and the cold weather rule another 30 days and still require the 25 percent payment on late utility bills as the City has been doing.

FINCK/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried to extend waiving utility late fees and the Cold Weather Disconnect Rule another 30 days and still require the 25 percent payment on late utility bills to avoid disconnection.

AIRPORT 2020-2021 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FUNDING AMENDMENT DUE TO CARES ACT

Skaret explained the Airport 2020-2021 Maintenance and Operations Funding Amendment is part of the original Federal CARES Act that was approved by Congress. He said included in the CARES Act, among many other things, was funding for airports. Skaret said the City of Jackson's share is \$30,000. He said those funds were sent from the Federal government to the State and are being administered through the State. He said the City already has maintenance and operations funding from the State and has an agreement for that funding with the State.

Skaret explained due to the CARES Act, that agreement with the State has to be amended to reflect the \$30,000 in Federal funds that are being funneled down through the State to the City.

Skaret said a motion is needed to approve the amended maintenance and operations funding agreement with MnDOT (Minnesota Department of Transportation).

SCHOENROCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Airport 2020-2021 Maintenance and Operations Funding Amendment due to the CARES Act.

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS

Skaret noted the City Council has been having Zoom Teleconference meetings since the end of March. He explained what allowed the City Council to have Zoom Teleconference meetings is the Emergency Ordinance the City Council adopted at the start of the Covid Pandemic.

Skaret said the way the language in the Emergency Ordinance reads, the City Council can continue doing the electronic meetings as long as the Governor's emergency powers are still in effect.

Skaret noted the Governor received his Peacetime Emergency Declaration for another 30 days through July 13th, 2020. He said right now, the Jackson City Council can continue to have the Zoom and telephone conference option as well if they want. Skaret said he wanted to bring the matter to the Council for discussion.

Finck said he doesn't know why the City Council would take the Zoom and telephone conference option away. He said he thinks it's good for the community so the public can be involved in the meeting but not have to be in the Council room. Finck said he thinks the Zoom and telephone conference option works well. He said it's a very good option to still have available.

Madden agreed with Finck. He said he didn't see any reason to discontinue the Zoom and teleconference meetings.

Skaret said it's a good option to have because as time moves forward the need for social distancing will probably continue. He said the Councilmembers can spread out in the Council room but that doesn't leave a lot of seating left for the public. Skaret noted it's nice to have the option available when the City Council has guests on the agenda or for the public to attend via the Zoom or teleconference calls.

City Attorney Anderson said he thinks the City Council can probably social distance safely and comply with the State's Order, but there's a limited amount of room in the Council Chambers for any guests to safely distance themselves. Attorney Anderson said he thinks having the Zoom/teleconference capability will maybe enable other citizens to participate in the meetings. He said the City Council probably shouldn't be allowing more than four or five people in the Council Chambers to be able to socially distance themselves and be in compliance with the State Order.

Finck said it's nice to see everyone in person at the Council meetings, but he thinks the Zoom and teleconference is a good option for the public.

Mayor Walter agreed with Finck. He noted it's nice when all the Councilmembers can be present in person and have input on a lot of big decisions.

Other:

Councilman Donnie Schoenrock

Mosquito spraying

Schoenrock asked Street Superintendent Phil Markman if the City has sprayed for mosquitoes yet.

Markman said the City hasn't sprayed for mosquitoes yet this year. He said it's been too windy. Markman said he hasn't experienced a lot of problems with mosquitoes but has had a lot of requests about spraying because of gnats.

Markman said his intention was to spray for mosquitoes this week but there's 20 to 30 mile-per-hour winds at night which isn't conducive for spraying. Markman said as soon as conditions warrant for effectiveness, he will be spraying.

Ashley Park Restrooms

Schoenrock asked if the Sentence to Serve staff could be asked to clean the restrooms at Ashley Park.

Markman said the seasonal park employees are supposed to clean the restrooms at Ashley Park every morning.

Schoenrock said the restrooms weren't in terrible condition, but could have some air freshener put in them.

Markman said he will mention the restrooms to the park employees and have them put some air freshener in them.

Splashpad

Schoenrock said he's had a couple of people mention to him about possibly installing a net of some sort to protect children using the splashpad from foul balls that may come from the softball fields. He said it probably wouldn't have to be anything significant or costly. Schoenrock said it's maybe something to be looked at before the splashpad is completed.

Markman said he thinks that was discussed during the splashpad meetings about having some type of awning or shade structure to help with the situation of foul balls coming from the softball fields. He said he hasn't seen anything specific regarding that, but knows it's been discussed.

Markman said he believes he's seen a plan for some improvements to the concession stand and deck area at the softball fields. He assumed the Splashpad Committee will be implementing some sort of protection for foul balls as well.

Councilman Jeffrey Gay

Speed on South Highway

Gay said he's had a couple of residents call him about reducing the speed limit on the newly reconstructed South Highway. He said he spoke with Skaret and Sheriff Haken about the concerns of speed and possible additional signage. Gay said Sheriff Haken noted efforts to reduce the speed limit on South Highway have been underway for some time and noted and changes in the speed limit have to be approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Gay said he wanted to inform the Mayor and Council that there's some interest by residents to slow the traffic down on South Highway.

Markman said once the paving is completed, signage will be re-installed and the Sheriff's Department said they can deploy the radar sign on a trailer that shows motorists what their speed is and what the posted speed limit is for South Highway. Markman said the County is also aware of the concerns of speeding on South Highway.

Councilman Larry Anderson

Park Board

Alderman Anderson invited the Mayor and Council to take a look at the tennis courts and the basketball court that's been resurfaced. He said the basketball hoops and backboards will be installed within the next few days weather permitting.

Alderman Anderson reported the Central Park tennis court has been repaved and looks nice. He said he's stopped down at Ashley Park when he's seen people playing tennis to get their opinions about the upgrades of the court. Alderman Anderson said tennis players have said they love the upgrades that have been made.

Alderman Anderson said someone at the Park Board meeting mentioned they've been seeing children from the east side of Jackson coming down to Ashley Park everyday checking to see if the basketball courts are ready as they are anxiously awaiting to play on the courts. He said things are looking good from that aspect.

Alderman Anderson said the countertop still needs to be installed at the Ashley Park Shelter House.

Skaret added the electrical work still needs to be finished. He said Thurmer's were waiting for the electric work to be finished and countertop installed to finish their work.

Alderman Anderson said one of the other shelter houses at Ashley Park will be painted.

Markman said the shelter house will be painted to match the dark brown. He said there was also a request to paint the precast concrete restroom. However, Markman said the type of paint that would be needed to paint the concrete would be cost prohibitive. He said the seasonal park help will paint the shelter house.

Markman said the seasonal park help also repainted and cleaned up the Welcome to Jackson signs on the north and south entrances into town. He said the signs really look nice. Markman said some trees were trimmed back to better expose the Welcome to Jackson sign near the golf course. He noted there have been nice comments about the painting of the signs

Markman noted there have been a lot of positive comments about the upgrading of the tennis and basketball courts.

Alderman Anderson asked if there are still plans to move the ice-skating warming house over to Memorial Park in the near future.

Markman said the plans are to move the warming house and have a skating and hockey rink at Memorial Park.

Skaret noted Safety First is planning to do work associated with the playground equipment area at Ashley Park. He said Safety First is planning to have their work done by the Fourth of July.

Frisbee Golf and Dog Park

Alderman Anderson said someone from the Park Board will be approaching the EDA about the property west of the Good Samaritan Center for a disc golf course and possibly a dog park.

Alderman Anderson said things are progressing.

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Splashpad

Skaret said he wanted to give the Mayor and Council an update on the splashpad. He said he knows people are starting to wonder where's the activity and why isn't anything getting done.

Skaret said the splashpad project got put on pause because of the need to get the electrician there to get the electric power set up.

Skaret noted this week the contractor is setting the rebar. He said he spoke with the project manager on June 16th about the splashpad project. Skaret said the rebar is being set and then M&H Electric will be installing the electrical grounding.

Skaret said next week they are scheduled to be pouring cement. He said then they will be waiting for the shelter building to house the utility room. Skaret said with the pouring of the cement, it should really look like things are happening.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Walter thanked all the Councilmembers for attending the June 16th meeting. He said it was nice to see all Councilmembers in-person to decide on the issues that were on the agenda.

With no further business, GAY/SCHOENROCK moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:57 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

