

**Jackson, Minnesota
Emergency City Council Meeting
June 22, 2024**

The Jackson City Council met in Emergency Session in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, 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, Alderman Mark Titus, Alderman Chris Naumann and City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff. Joining the Emergency Session by Zoom were Alderwoman Sara Mix, Alderman Nathan Peterson, Alderman Joe Pell and Alderman Brandon Finck. Joining the meeting by telephone was Sergeant Josh Ramos of the Minnesota National Guard. (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Marcus Polz called the Emergency Meeting of the Jackson City Council to order.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Polz explained since four of the Councilmembers were joining the meeting virtually, he would do a verbal roll call.

Mayor Polz had Councilmembers joining the meeting via Zoom verbally state their name so it was known who was in attendance at the meeting.

Each Councilmember verbally stated their name including Alderwoman Sara Mix who was joining the meeting via Zoom, Alderman Brandon Finck who was joining the meeting via Zoom, Alderman Nathan Peterson who was joining the meeting via Zoom and Alderman Joe Pell who joined the meeting via Zoom. Mayor Polz noted that Alderman Mark Titus and Alderman Chris Naumann were present in-person.

Mayor Polz said the Councilmembers would need to vote verbally on any action items during the Emergency City Council meeting.

Mayor Polz noted he had confirmed Council meeting protocol in situations like these when there is an emergency.

Mayor Polz apologized to Councilmembers for being called to an Emergency Session on short notice.

Council Discussion Items

DISCUSS PLANS AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE FLOODING EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF JACKSON

Mayor Polz said the purpose of the Emergency Meeting was to discuss plans and take the necessary action to deal with the flooding emergency in the City of Jackson.

Mayor Polz said the City Council will be approving a resolution declaring the City of Jackson in a State of Emergency.

Mayor Polz then read the resolution declaring a State of Emergency.

***WHEREAS** the City of Jackson, Minnesota, has sustained losses of a significant proportion from flooding, brought on by excessive and continuous rain beginning on the 20th of June, 2024*

***WHEREAS** the Flooding event has caused significant damage to public and private property; and*

***WHEREAS** the Jackson County Department of Emergency Management requests the Jackson City Council declare the City of Jackson in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the FLOODING event of June 2024;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Jackson City Council declares the City of Jackson, Minnesota in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for conditions resulting from the FLOODING event beginning June 20, 2024.*

***ADOPTED** by the Jackson City Council this 22nd day of June, 2024.*

***WHEREAS** acting on behalf of and for the people of the City of Jackson, Minnesota, the Jackson City Council declares on this the 22nd day of June, 2024, that a STATE OF EMERGENCY exists within the City of Jackson, Minnesota with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes.*

Mayor Polz said a motion was needed to adopt this resolution declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Jackson.

MARK TITUS/CHRIS NAUMANN moved on the Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Jackson, Minnesota.

Mayor Polz asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Polz said a roll call vote would be taken on the resolution.

On the roll call vote, Alderman Mark Titus voted “yes”, Alderman Chris Nauman voted “yes”, Alderman Joe Pell voted “yes”, Alderman Nathan Peterson voted “yes”, Alderwoman Sara Mix voted “yes” and Alderman Brandon Finck voted “yes”.

Mayor Polz said the motion carried approving the resolution Declaring the City of Jackson in a State of Emergency.

UPDATE ON FLOODING SITUATION IN JACKSON

Mayor Polz said the City is fighting a losing battle it seems at this moment. He said one Lift Station has been lost. Mayor Polz said water has been getting in under the sandbags as far as what crews have been bagging.

Mayor Polz said the Des Moines River is at about 14.2 feet right now and the river is expected to crest around 15 feet to 15.7 feet around 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon (June 23, 2024).

Mayor Polz said a meeting will be held after the City Council's Emergency Session to prioritize what infrastructure can be saved in hopes that the City can keep their sanitary sewers and sewer systems intact.

Mayor Polz said it's not looking good for our City as it stands but he's positive that we're going to move forward. He said the City has a great volunteer base.

Mayor Polz said he has reached out and talked with Sergeant Josh Ramos of the Minnesota National Guard. He said he needed to call Sergeant Ramos to inform him the City was not going to be requesting resources from the National Guard at this time.

Mayor Polz then telephoned Sergeant Ramos of the Minnesota National Guard. He told Sergeant Ramos that after meeting with local officials regarding the flooding situation, it appears the City has enough in terms of sandbags and physical labor which is probably about the extent that the National Guard would be able to offer as far as resources.

Mayor Polz said at this time, the City of Jackson is not going to be extending a phone call to the JOC (Minnesota Joint Operations Center). He informed Sergeant Ramos that the City Council did approve a resolution declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Jackson. Mayor Polz said the City will continue to monitor and update him as necessary.

Sergeant Ramos said that would be fine and thanked Mayor Polz. Ramos said to contact him once the City felt they needed the resources of the National Guard.

Sergeant Ramos said he's been in contact with his Commander who said there are requests to the National Guard from other cities. He said he doesn't know how the National Guard is going to distribute the resources or help at this point, but whenever the City of Jackson needs further assistance, just call the JOC.

Mayor Polz thanked Sergeant Ramos and said he appreciated his help.

Mix asked about not utilizing the Minnesota National Guard.

Mayor Polz explained the reason for not utilizing the National Guard at this time is because the National Guard doesn't have heavy equipment that the City could utilize. He said the National Guard's help would probably be in the form of a couple dozen people or sandbags. Mayor Polz said the City is doing good as far as sandbags go. He said there's five pallets of sandbags. Mayor Polz said communities surrounding Jackson are in dire need of sandbags. He said the City of Windom ran out of sandbags and made a request for sandbags from Jackson. Mayor Polz said the City declined Windom's request for sandbags at this time feeling that Jackson may need them going forward.

Mayor Polz said he believes there's going to be discussion about creating a temporary levy. He said dump trucks would be used to bring in material, tarping that material and sandbagging the outside of the temporary levy and praying for the best.

Pell asked Mayor Polz which Lift Station quit operating.

Mayor Polz said he did not receive the information on which Lift Station quit working.

Finck asked about the condition of the Water Plant. He asked if the Water Plant is OK and that there's fresh, drinkable water in the community.

Mayor Polz said he knows that's a concern and that's a discussion item that he'll be addressing after the Emergency City Council meeting. If they like, he said he could update the City Councilmembers following the meeting with City and local officials. Mayor Polz said at this time he doesn't know the status of the City's Water Plant but knows losing sanitary water is a concern.

Pell asked where the temporary levy will be placed.

Mayor Polz said City staff and officials are looking to identify what the key points would be as far as Lift Stations or sewers that would need to be protected. He said those locations haven't been identified yet. Mayor Polz said those locations would be identified at the meeting following the Emergency City Council meeting.

Peterson said he knows locally they don't have heavy equipment, but asked if the local National Guard could go up the chain of command to get equipment from the State.

Mayor Polz said they possibility could. He said one of the issues is there are so many other communities that are in a worse situation than Jackson, the City of Windom being one of them close by. Mayor Polz said they are going to discuss the possibility of reaching out to somebody like Svoboda Excavating who has equipment locally that may be able to help, not saying that they should or they will or that the City will even reach out to them, but it is on the table as far as a potential local resource the City can have to help in building a levy.

Finck suggested also reaching out to Bryce Vancura of Ziegler Equipment in Jackson. He said Vancura may be a resource to arrange for some equipment if the City needs it. Finck noted Dvorak Trucking hauled payloaders from Ziegler in Jackson to Spencer, Iowa, a community that's also dealing with flooding.

Mix said the City may also may be able to reach out to C&B Equipment in Jackson as another resource for equipment if needed.

Mayor Polz asked about Dvorak Trucking as a resource.

Finck said Justin Dvorak is the person who hauled the payloaders to Spencer.

Mix said she could also help Mayor Polz reach out to Doug Bradley Trucking if there's a need for further help. She said she was just providing options. Mix said whatever the City needs, she can definitely help by making some phone calls. She said the City can certainly also ask AGCO for help if needed.

Peterson said he did reach out to his employer Doug Bradley Trucking so they are aware of the situation. He said if the City needs anything to let Mix or himself know.

Mayor Polz said he appreciated that.

Titus said his biggest concern is water quality. He asked if the City had a good protocol in place to know when to tell people not to drink the water.

Mayor Polz said he didn't know the answer to that question. He said that's one of the things that's been in the back of his mind in discussions with City Administrator Shelly Oltmans. He said it's going to be a situation where the City uses all of their resources such as having announcements on the radio, using the City's Facebook page and the City of Jackson App to send out notifications.

Titus said but to know "when" is his biggest question. He asked what's the City's protocol for assessing the water quality. Titus said he's assuming Public Works Director Tony Oxborough has a protocol in place to assess the water quality. He said "when" will we know regarding the water quality is the big question. Titus said that's critical.

Mayor Polz said he would ask Oxborough.

Peterson said the City doesn't want to be behind on the water quality issue and have to catch-up.

Mayor Polz said he would ask Oxborough what the protocol is for assessing the City's water quality at the meeting following the Emergency City Council meeting.

Mix suggested also reaching out and sharing information on the Jackson County Central School District's Facebook Page because the School's Facebook page also reaches a lot of people in the community.

Mayor Polz said he has reached out to JCC Superintendent Barry Schmidt and thanked him for all of the School's resources. He noted Middle School Principal and Alderman Chris Naumann has assisted in getting out the information through the JCC School's Facebook page. Mayor Polz thanked Naumann for his assistance.

Mix said posting on the City's and JCC School District's Facebook pages will reach a lot of people.

Mayor Polz asked Councilmembers if they wanted to have another follow-up meeting. He inquired what their thoughts were.

City Clerk Dave Maschoff informed Mayor Polz and Councilmembers that anytime they want to meet, whether it's later in the evening on June 22nd or on Sunday, June 23rd, he's just a phone call away and he'll have City Hall open and ready to go.

Naumann said the Council probably should definitely meet again on Sunday, June 23rd.

Mix said she would encourage the City Council have a follow-up meeting on June 23rd to receive an updated status report. She said she thinks it would be prudent for all the Councilmembers to know what the latest status of the flooding is. Mix said it would also be an opportunity for Mayor Polz to let the Councilmembers know what other help he needs from them so they can make sure they're supporting the Mayor and the City in the best way possible.

Mayor Polz said that sounded good. He said he would know more after the Emergency Management meeting which is scheduled around 6:45 this evening. Mayor Polz said he would follow-up with Councilmembers. He said another Emergency City Council meeting could be held on Sunday, June 23rd.

Finck said whatever the Mayor needs for support, he could communicate those needs to Councilmembers. He said whenever there needs to be another Emergency Council meeting, schedule it. Finck said he is in the Twin Cities but would join the Emergency meeting via Zoom anytime.

Mayor Polz said he would update the Councilmembers and have another Emergency City Council meeting sometime on Sunday, maybe in the evening. He said if there's an issue that's critical, he would let the Councilmembers know.

Mix asked Mayor Polz if there was anything City Administrator Shelley Oltmans and the rest of the City team needed that they weren't getting support on or if there was anything Councilmembers could help them with. She said she just wants to make sure City staff has all of the resources and help they need.

Mayor Polz said Oltmans has been doing really good. He said Oltmans has been at the City/County Maintenance Facility since 8 o'clock Saturday morning taking care of the volunteers, making sure everybody has food and water and organizing people. Mayor Polz said Oltmans has been doing really well out there.

Mix said she was glad to hear that. She asked Mayor Polz to please let Oltmans know she has resources if she needs extra help.

Mayor Polz said it's been communicated to Oltmans that she has the full support of the Mayor and Councilmembers and any resources that she might need.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Polz asked if there was any other business to be discussed by the Council.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Polz adjourned the Emergency Jackson City Council meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Mayor Polz thanked Councilmembers for attending.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Mayor Polz, Mayor

