

June 4, 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, June 4, 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 Chris Naumann, Brandon Finck, Nathan Peterson and Joe Pell. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Shelley Oltmans, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Public Works Director Tony Oxborough, Jackson Ambulance Director Grant Landbo, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services, Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk, Kristine Lopez, Chelsea Honnette, William Smith II, Jeff Johnson, John Weland of the Jackson County Animal Protection Society, Jackson County Sheriff Chief Deputy Kelly Mitchell, Aviation Engineer Cody Woessner of HDR, Ken Kruse of Fort Belmont, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff and Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot. Joining the meeting via Zoom and Teleconference was Jackson EDA Administrative Assistant Shelley Pohlman. (Alderman Mark Titus was absent.) (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 in-person and by Zoom and Teleconference 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 except for Alderman Mark Titus.

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.

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

Council Discussion Items

PEDDLER'S LICENSE REQUEST FROM KRISTAPS KAZA TO SELL BOOKS DOOR TO DOOR IN JACKSON

Mayor Polz welcomed Kristaps Kaza to the City Council meeting.

Kaza explained he was a college student from Latvia who was requesting a Peddler's Permit to sell educational books through a company known as Southwestern Advantage. He said this is the third year that he has come to the United States to sell books. Kaza noted he sold books last year in Fairmont, Minnesota which was a super cool experience. He said he also sold books in Truman, Welcome, Trimont and Blue Earth.

Mayor Polz said if everything was in order, he would look for a motion from the City Council to approve Kaza's Peddler's License request.

FINCK/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Peddler's License for Kristaps Kaza to sell books door to door in Jackson.

Mayor Polz thanked Kaza for attending the City Council meeting.

PEDDLER'S LICENSE REQUEST FROM KRISTINE R. LOPEZ OF BLUE EARTH FOR FOOD TRAILER

Mayor Polz welcome Kristine Lopez to the City Council meeting.

Lopez explained she has a taco trailer called "Tacos". She said she has been in operation for two years. Lopez said they make stops in Blue Earth, Fairmont and St. James. She said they also set-up at fairs and various festivals.

Mayor Polz asked Lopez which days they plan to be in Jackson.

Lopez said they plan to be in Jackson on Fridays at Schwalbach Ace Hardware in Jackson and also at AGCO. She said they may also have their trailer at various events in Jackson and possibly at the fair.

City Clerk Dave Maschoff noted Lopez's fees and paperwork have all been submitted to City Hall.

PETERSON/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Peddler's License for Kristine Lopez of Blue Earth, Minnesota to operate a food trailer/truck in Jackson.

JEFF JOHNSON – TRI-FOR-HEALTH EVENT ON FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH AT 6 P.M.

Chelsea Honnette and Jeff Johnson were present at the Council meeting on behalf of the Tri-For-Health Event on June 7th.

Honnette said this is the 15th year of the Tri-For-Health which will be held on Friday evening, June 7th. She said the event will include both children and adult races. Honnette said they're anticipating 80 to 100 participants. She said Springfield Parkway will be temporarily closed during the race events. Honnette said the Jackson County Sheriff's Reserve will assist race participants on the County roads to the City/County Maintenance Shop and around Clear Lake for the bicycle route. She said there are also plenty of volunteers that assist during the races to keep the kids and adults safe during the races.

Honnette said the Tri-For-Health Committee just wanted to make everyone aware that the Tri-For-Health Event will be taking place on Friday evening, June 7th starting at 6 p.m. She said registration for the event closes on Wednesday evening, June 5th.

Mayor Polz thanked Honnette and Johnson for attending the Council meeting.

WILLIAM SMITH II – ON SALE AND SUNDAY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR PEANUTS HUB LLC D/B/A DOUBLE SHOT SALOON INSIDE THE JACKSON INN AT 2007 HIGHWAY 71 NORTH IN JACKSON, MINNESOTA

Mayor Polz welcomed William Smith II to the City Council meeting.

Smith explained his vision is to bring the whole property at 2007 Highway 71 North back to what it once was back in the 1980's. He said he's heard many stories from local residents on what the property once was.

Smith said opening the bar at the property is one of the easier starts in reopening the property for business. He said he understands everybody's reservations with the history the property has had over the past several years and he respects that. Smith said he has zero tolerance for the kind of incidents that went on in the past and he's planning on making the property a very family friendly property. He said all in all, he just wants to bring that property back to life from the dead.

Smith said he wasn't aware of the recent history of the property when they purchased it. He said learning more and more about the recent history has driven him even more to make it a much more shining property for this town.

Finck said he knows in the past there were some electrical and fire code issues at the property. He asked if those items have been addressed in order to open the bar and if everything is compliant.

Smith said he's had inspectors looking at the building. He said he recently had another company come through the building to make sure the restaurant and fire suppression system were compliant. Smith said he's still working on the entire property which is quite a handful in of itself. Smith said he hasn't had inspectors look at the bar yet, but it's a work in progress and he's not going to stop trying.

Maschoff said he would also touch base with City Building Inspector Harry Jenness.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the On-Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Peanuts Hub LLC d/b/a/ Double Shot Saloon inside the Jackson Inn at 2007 Highway 71 North in Jackson, Minnesota.

Mayor Polz thanked Smith for attending the City Council meeting and introducing himself.

Smith thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers for approving his liquor license application.

KEN KRUSE – FORT BELMONT ANNUAL REPORT

Ken Kruse of Fort Belmont thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers for having him attend the Council meeting.

Kruse said he's been involved with Fort Belmont for 36 years. He said it's been a busy start at Fort Belmont for 2024.

Kruse said Fort Belmont has been working hard in inviting School Districts to come to Fort Belmont for school tours. He explained Fort Belmont applied and received grant money through the Remmick Foundation to provide funding for transportation for schools to bring tours to the Fort.

Kruse said Fort Belmont hosted approximately 80 students from Jackson County Central Schools for a tour this spring. He said about 47 students from Immanuel Lutheran School in Lakefield also came to Fort Belmont for a school tour. Kruse reported there have been approximately 30 families who home school their children that have also toured Fort Belmont this year.

Kruse noted Fort Belmont continues to be involved with Harvest Hosts for people travelling with RV's and travel trailers. He said so far in 2024, Fort Belmont has had 15 Harvest Hosts guests. Kruse said last year there were about 85 Harvest Hosts guests that stayed at Fort Belmont and there were about 35 cancellations. He said this is the fourth year Fort Belmont has been participating in the Harvest Hosts Program. Kruse said during the first year of Harvest Hosts, Fort Belmont had a total of 110 campers for the season. He said the second year they hosted 104 campers and in 2023 there were 85 campers. Kruse said those that cancelled their reservations were due to medical emergencies or mechanical breakdowns. He noted a lot of people in Harvest Hosts make their reservations early and their plans change. Kruse said it doesn't cost people anything to make reservations or to cancel them.

Kruse said in 2023, Fort Belmont had an estimated 2,000 visitors from 45 states and 17 foreign countries and provinces. He said Fort Belmont had a nice group of people visiting. So far this year, Kruse said there have been visitors representing about 10 states along with several families from Ontario, Canada.

Kruse said Fort Belmont is preparing for their annual Pioneer Days and hosting Rhythm of the River.

Kruse said Fort Belmont has several new volunteers helping at the Fort this year. He said Fort Belmont has had wonderful volunteers over the years. Kruse said getting more younger people to be involved with Fort Belmont is one of their biggest challenges.

Kruse said Fort Belmont appreciates the City's financial support and support in other ways throughout the year.

Kruse said Fort Belmont always has a certain amount of upkeep with their older buildings. He said one of things they're looking at in the future is re-siding the church. Kruse said the church was built in 1902 and some of the siding is looking pretty rough. He said they also plan to rebuild the sod house that was constructed about 15 years ago. Kruse said the sod house gets a lot of wind erosion being located on top of the hill.

Kruse said an open house for Fort Belmont's old-fashioned drug store is being planned. He noted all the pharmacist and drug store items Fort Belmont received from Burt Joul's family. Kruse said they have druggist's items dating back to 1888 and all the way up through the years. He said there's a lot of interesting items.

Kruse again thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers for the City's support and financial support throughout the years. He said Fort Belmont tries to be an ambassador for the community. Kruse said the Harvest Hosts program has brought a lot people to the community patronizing the restaurants and purchasing fuel and items. He noted visitors enjoy the bike trails and the community's amenities.

Mayor Polz thanked Kruse for his annual report.

BELMONT HEIGHTS PAY APPLICATION NO. 3

City Administrator Shelley Oltmans said Belmont Heights Pay Application No. 3 is from Holtmeier Construction, Incorporated for work that's been done so far. She said the pay application is in the amount of \$37,499.44. Oltmans said the pay application was reviewed and approved by Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Belmont Heights Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$37,499.44 payable to Holtmeier Construction, Incorporated of Mankato, Minnesota.

AIRPORT TAXIWAY PAY APPLICATION NO. 6

Aviation Engineer Cody Woessner of HDR updated Mayor Polz and Councilmembers on the progress of the airport taxiway project. He said this spring the work has mainly consisted of electrical work and some materials testing to get everything ready for paving on the taxiway.

Woessner said the taxiway project is on schedule and it's anticipated to be completed by late this summer and opened and ready to go.

Woessner said Airport Taxiway Pay Application No. 6 is in the amount of \$115,680.55 payable to Svoboda Excavating of Jackson. He said that will leave about a million dollars left on the job.

Mayor Polz asked Oltmans if the City has been receiving reimbursements for the work at the airport from the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Oltmans said the City received a large reimbursement about two to three weeks ago. She noted she has an appointment with Engineer Eric Hanson of HDR on June 5th to get an update regarding the airport and closing out the runway project.

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Airport Taxiway Pay Application No. 6 in the amount of \$115,680.55 payable to Svoboda Excavating of Jackson, Minnesota.

Mayor Polz thanked Woessner for attending the Council meeting.

CONSIDER DECLARING A COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FOR THE CRUISE-IN EVENT FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

Peterson said he asked to have this item placed on the Council's agenda. He noted the Council's approval of declaring a Community Festival for the May 23rd Cruise-In went really well and there were no issues.

Mayor Polz entertained a motion to declare a Community Festival for the Cruise-In event for Thursday, June 6, 2024.

PELL/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to declare a Community Festival in Jackson for the Cruise-In event on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

SET JUNE 18, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M. AS THE DATE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FINAL PLAT FOR THE BELMONT HEIGHTS HOUSING PROJECT

Mayor Polz said he needed a motion to set June 18th as the date for the public hearing on the final plat for the Belmont Heights Housing Project.

MIX/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to set June 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. as the date for the public hearing on the final plat for the Belmont Heights Housing Project.

Other:

Alderwoman Sara Mix

Alderwoman Sara Mix asked if it was known when the County is going to pave River Street south of Ashley Street along the Des Moines River. She said she's been receiving a lot of complaints about dust.

Public Works Director Tony Oxborough said the paving project for River Street is currently out for bid. He said he understands work on River Street will begin on July 8th. Oxborough suggested referring all comments and complaints to the Jackson County Public Works Department. In perspective, Oxborough said it was pointed out to him what muddy condition the road would be in if work had started early considering the amount rain that has recently fallen, so maybe it was good thing the project was delayed this month.

Alderman Brandon Finck

Alderman Brandon Finck asked Oxborough how things were coming along regarding the patching of streets that are in kind of rough condition. Finck said he's received some comments.

Oxborough said patching of streets began this week filling the potholes that were created during the winter.

Finck said the City has discussed over the last five years of overlay projects for some streets in Jackson. He said it had been discussed in the past that in place of doing a \$10 million total street reconstruction project, instead overlaying several streets to get more years of use out of them before having to reconstruct them. Finck asked Oxborough if any streets have been identified for overlay or if there are any streets scheduled to be overlaid this year.

Oxborough said the next step is getting a Street Committee meeting together to talk about the next steps. He said he has a theory on which direction to go regarding streets. Oxborough said he just needs to make sure everyone else is on the same page. He said it sounds like potentially funding will open up to do another street project in 2025.

Finck said that funding may be for a major street project, but he was referring to mill and overlays of streets. He noted the City has way more streets that need fixing than what the City has money to do the full infrastructure and so forth. Finck said a couple of years ago there was discussion about doing a mill and overlay of streets and he hasn't seen anything come of that yet.

Oxborough said it's all about spending that kind of money for just asphalt. He said you get your biggest bang for the buck when you do utility work as well. Oxborough said there's definitely options. He noted that was done on North Ridge and West Ridge Drives as they also updated utilities when they paved those streets. Oxborough said they definitely try to work the utility projects into the street paving projects.

Oxborough said it would be best to talk about street improvements at a Street Committee meeting so everyone is on the same page.

Oxborough noted the City will do \$60,000 worth of seal coating this year which is the process for a new street and will spend up to \$75,000 on patching streets. He said he has a plan for moving the City forward with certain streets. Oxborough said the City is very lucky to have a group of personnel in the Street Department that spend a majority of their time physically applying a lot of asphalt. He noted while some communities only apply about 10 tons of asphalt a day, the Jackson Street Department is applying 18 tons, if not more, per day. Oxborough said the Street Department has a good group that are trying to keep the City's streets alive, it's just going to take time.

On another topic, Finck asked what the progress was regarding discussion on the ice-skating warming house.

Oxborough explained \$100,000 was budgeted for both the animal shelter and construction of a Memorial Park shelter house. He said the estimate for construction the animal shelter came in around \$100,000. Oxborough said the plan was for the City to repurpose the current ice-skating warming house to be used as an animal shelter and construct a new shelter at Memorial Park that could be heated in the winter and used as a warming house for the ice-skating rink. He said the new shelter house would be more than what the City budgeted for so it will take until 2025 to move forward with the new Memorial Park shelter house/warming house before anything can be done with the animal shelter.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR SHELLEY OLTMANS

City Administrator Shelley Oltmans said work is progressing on the final plat for the Belmont Heights Housing Subdivision. She noted information had been sent to Mayor Polz and Councilmembers. Oltmans noted discussion about changing the name of Prospect Lane that runs past the south side of the Liquor Store to Whitetail Lane so it would coordinate with the street named Whitetail Lane that goes into the Belmont Heights housing area.

Finck asked about who would take care of coordinating the name change of the street with the Post Office, Google and the like. He said he was really challenged to change the name from Prospect Lane to something else.

Oltmans said if the name isn't changed, there will be a road that doesn't connect. She noted Prospect Lane will connect into Whitetail Lane.

Peterson pointed out Whitetail Lane will travel east and west and Prospect Lane will be a north and south road.

Oxborough pointed out the Liquor Store would be the only address that would be affected. He said changing the name of Prospect Lane on the south side of the Liquor Store could be accomplished.

Oltmans said the people working on the final plat of Belmont Heights have suggested that if the street name is going to be changed, now is the time to do it before the plat is finalized.

Oxborough said for consistency and simplicity, it makes sense to change the name of Prospect Lane, south of the Liquor Store, to Whitetail Lane.

Alderwoman Sara Mix

Alderwoman Sara Mix asked for an update regarding lighting for the ballfields at Albertus Fields.

Oxborough said potential grant funding for lighting at the ballfields fell through. He said the City can't fund the cost of lighting by themselves. Oxborough said City Administrator Oltmans has found another option. He said the City is currently working through another grant program for possibility moving forward with the lighting plan.

Oltmans said in partnership with the City and the Friends of the Trails group, a grant application has been submitted to the Bank Midwest Community Foundation for installing lights on at least one ballfield at Albertus Fields.

CLOSED SESSION AS PERMITTED BY ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SECTION 13D.05, SUBDIVISION 3(B) TO DISCUSS REAL-ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS

Mayor Polz entertained a motion for the City Council to go into Closed Session as permitted by Attorney-Client Privilege, Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(b) to discuss real-estate negotiations.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to go into Closed Session at 6:49 p.m. as permitted by Attorney-Client Privilege, Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(b) to discuss real-estate negotiations.

COMING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Polz asked for a motion for the City Council to come out of Closed Session.

PETERSON/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to come out of Closed Session at 7:21 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:22 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Marcus Polz, Mayor

