

May 17, 2022
Jackson, Minnesota

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall and also by Teleconference and Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Wayne Walter. On the roll call, the following persons were present in-person, Mayor Wayne Walter and Aldermen Michael More, Jerome Palmer, Brandon Finck, Nathan Peterson, Marcus Polz and Dave Cushman. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services, Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken, Jackson Fire Chief Dave Bond, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, John Weland, Jackson County Assessor Karla Ambrose along with Dennis Bannister, Chris Chonko and Taylor Dunker from the Jackson County Assessor's Office, Kari and Michael Byam of the Itsy Bitsy Ice Box from Lakefield, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff, Pastor Russ Steele of the Jackson United Methodist Church, Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot and Mathew Grisham of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. Joining the meeting via Zoom was Jackson Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief and Park Board Chairman Michael Haeffner. (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

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

BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION RECESSED FROM APRIL 19, 2022

Mayor Walter asked for a motion to open the Board of Appeal and Equalization that was recessed from April 19th.

CUSHMAN/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to open the Board of Equalization that was recessed from April 19th.

Jackson County Assessor Karla Ambrose introduced herself along with members of her staff, appraisers Dennis Bannister, Taylor Dunker and Chris Chonko.

Ambrose noted she provided Mayor Walter and Councilmembers with updated information with the corrected values that initially had been sent out incorrectly. She said there were 47 property owners in the City of Jackson who received corrected property tax valuations since the initial property tax statements were mailed out.

Ambrose pointed out the first page of the information she provided showed the average property valuations for the townships in Jackson County. She said the second page showed a change for the total Citywide market changes. Ambrose said at the April 19th meeting, the total market change in the City of Jackson was \$29,804,600 representing a 13.53 percent increase from last year. She said the new figures show a market change of \$31,241,100 in the City of Jackson representing a 14.17 percent increase. Ambrose noted all the other entities went up about 20 percent in market changes with commercial property values not changing in the City of Jackson. She said those were the only changes she had from the April 19th meeting.

Following Ambrose's comments, Mayor Walter asked if there was anyone attending the meeting that wanted to appeal their property values.

Seeing none, Mayor Walter asked for motion to close the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

PETERSON/MORE moved and it was unanimously carried to close the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

Mayor Walter thanked County Assessor Karla Ambrose and appraisers Dennis Bannister, Taylor Dunker and Chris Chonko for attending.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Walter asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

PEDDLER'S PERMIT APPLICATION – ITSY BITSY ICE BOX – KARI & MICHAEL BYAM OF LAKEFIELD

Kari Byam introduced herself and her husband Michael to Mayor Walter and City Councilmembers.

Kari Byam said they own the Pumpkin Patch north of Lakefield. She said they have a food trailer that serves shaved ice and cotton candy and were requesting a Peddler's Permit from the City.

Cushman asked City Clerk Maschoff if all of the necessary paperwork for the Byam's Peddler's Permit had been submitted.

Maschoff said all the proper paperwork has been submitted.

FINCK/POLZ moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Peddler's Permit application for Kari & Michael Byam's Itsy Bitsy Ice Box.

Skaret asked the Byam's if they have chosen a location in Jackson where they will be parked at.

Kari Byam said they are still working at finding a location. She said they would really like to set up at the parks or at the school's ballparks when there are games.

TYLER TECHNOLOGIES ONLINE BILL PAY TRANSACTION QUOTE

Skaret explained the City Council had approved some time ago about getting an online pay portal on the City's website for people who want to pay their utility bills and other miscellaneous bills such as for crushed concrete, mowing and the like online.

Skaret said the City has been working with Tyler Technologies, the City's software company, in getting that set up. He noted included in the Mayor and City Councilmembers' informational packets was the agreement with Tyler Technologies in order for the set up to go forward.

Skaret said as with every credit card processing system, there are associated fees. Skaret went on to outline the fees for miscellaneous bills that people pay. He explained it would be a 3.75 percent fee that would be added to the bill which would automatically be charged to the customer.

Skaret explained the second charge, the client card cost of .65 percent, is the fee that's charged to the City plus 65 cents per transaction. Skaret said the direction he is looking for from the Council is does the City absorb that cost or does the City add a convenience fee which is what a lot of Cities do. He pointed out for the Council to keep in mind that if the City absorbs the cost, there are some potentially large industrial clients that could have a bill of thousands of dollars where a client decides to pay their bill on line and the City would be absorbing that larger convenience fee. Skaret suggested the City could charge a convenience fee of 1.25 percent on a customer's bill to pass on that cost which would be a break-even cost for the City.

Peterson asked if there would be a way to separate residential verses commercial customers who paid their bills online.

Skaret said there was not.

Finck asked why the City was using Tyler Technologies for the online pay portal.

Skaret explained Tyler Technologies is the vendor for the City's accounting and utility billing software.

Finck asked Skaret if he thought there would be a lot of usage of the online pay portal.

Skaret said the City already has the option to accept basic credit card payments for City bills. He said there's about 125 to 150 customers a month who use a credit card to pay their City bill. Skaret noted the customer currently pays the full 2.75 percent convenience fee.

Finck said having the option for customers to use a credit card to pay their bills via a credit card portal is a nice convenience. He asked how most Cities handle the convenience fee.

Skaret said some Cities absorb the convenience fee and others pass it on to the customer.

Peterson suggested having the City absorb the convenience fee and see how it goes. He said the City could then reevaluate how it's working.

Skaret said it could be reevaluated.

PETERSON/POLZ moved and it was approved on a vote of 5 to 1 for the City to move forward with the Tyler Technologies Online Bill Pay and to charge customers a convenience fee of .325 percent of the customer's total bill plus 65 cents per transaction and reevaluate in six months.

Voting in favor of the motion were Aldermen Michael More, Brandon Finck, Nathan Peterson, Marcus Polz and Dave Cushman.

Voting against the motion was Alderman Jerome Palmer.

REVISED APPLICATION FOR CONNECTIONS TO CITY WATER OR SEWER

Skaret said this agenda item is a follow up to a lengthy discussion that was held at the May 3rd City Council meeting regarding water and sewer connections and clarifying the application that people fill out when they want to connect to City water and sewer services.

Skaret explained City Attorney Brad Anderson worked to add a line to the application that stipulates that the customer is responsible for getting any easements for repairs and maintenance.

Attorney Anderson also noted that the City cannot grant an easement across somebody else's property. He said that's the landowner's responsibility. Attorney Anderson said he thinks the whole extra paragraph in the application tries to make clear that the property owner is responsible from the main all the way back to their property. He said it's up to the property owner to take care of maintenance and repair and to secure any necessary easements to cross anybody else's real estate. Attorney Anderson said the City is just trying to make sure everybody's on the same page.

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the revised application for connections to City water and sewer lines.

DUST CONTROL REQUEST

Skaret referred to a letter addressed to Mayor Walter and City Councilmembers from Ron Richards, a resident who lives at 203 County Road 51 about getting some dust control on the road going out to the City's lagoon ponds.

Skaret said he's already spoken with Street Superintendent Phil Markman about the dust control on County Road 51. He said the City is going to add that road to the list of gravel roads that the Street Department does dust control on during the summer.

Skaret said at this time there was no action required by the City Council. He said this agenda item was an informational item for the Mayor and Councilmembers.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Jackson Cycle Sewer Repair Bill Update

Skaret noted at the May 3rd City Council meeting, the City Council approved a motion to look for ways, within the parameters of the law, to assist Jackson Cycle up to \$2,100 for the repairs due to their sewer line freezing up this winter.

Skaret said in consulting with the City's Financial Advisor, Shannon Sweeney and the City's auditors, they said probably the best and most solid legal route to provide assistance would be through the EDA.

Skaret said Jackson Cycle's request for assistance was discussed at the EDA meeting last week. He said the EDA basically approved doing a forgivable loan as a last resort provided that the owner, Larry Clymer, contacts the contractor and attempts to get full payment or reimbursement for the repair expenses. Skaret said if the contractor does not comply, then Clymer must file a claim in Reconciliation Court, also known as Small Claims Court and will be eligible for receiving the forgivable loan from the EDA if the petition in Small Claims Court is denied. Skaret also said to be eligible for the forgivable loan, Clymer must get an easement from the School District to run his sewer line on the School District's property.

Skaret said if those conditions are met, then there would be a forgivable loan in the amount of \$2,100 assuming that Clymer stays in business for two years and meets all the other requirements.

Skaret noted the update on the Jackson Cycle sewer repair bill was an informational item for the Mayor and Councilmembers.

Dog Park Fencing Update

Skaret said the City Council had previously approved up to \$10,000 in fencing for the dog park to be situated on the south ballfield at Albertus Field. He said the dog park would utilize the infield and the outfield grass basically lining up with first base and going straight south.

Skaret said the Council approved up to \$10,000 for the fencing provided that the City could get an additional quote for the fencing. He said Street Superintendent Phil Markman has been trying and trying to get an additional quote. Skaret asked Markman what he has come up with.

Markman said he hasn't had any response regarding quotes. He said he's contacted two companies in Sioux Falls but hasn't had any response. Markman said the only quote he's received is from Boltjes Fencing from Fairmont.

Skaret asked Markman if Boltjes Fencing has provided fencing for the City in the past.

Markman said they have.

Skaret noted the quote from Boltjes Fencing for the dog park fencing was about \$8,300.

Polz said he has received numerous emails, phone calls and text messages regarding using the south ballfield at Albertus Field for a dog park. He noted Chris Scholten attended the Park Board meeting stressing his concerns about taking away the second ballfield. Polz said according to Scholten, the south ballfield is used for baseball. He said he's also had phone calls from parents saying both ballfields are used at Albertus Field. Polz said he's been told about 40 children have games scheduled for this year that will be using both fields. Polz said those parents have expressed their concerns about the proposed removal of a ballfield. He said he has taken no less than eight phone calls with concerns about removing a ballfield from Albertus Field.

Polz said he's kind of having a change of thought, not about a dog park, but about the location. He said he wanted to bring up the concerns while the Council was talking about the subject of a dog park.

Finck asked what 40 games are scheduled at the Albertus Field ballparks and who has scheduled them. He said he's driven by the Albertus Field ballparks for four years and hasn't seen a ballgame there. Finck said the MYFL uses the Albertus Field in the fall but they do not use the infield. He said the ballfield that's being proposed for the dog park is the south field which still leaves the other ball diamond. Finck said he would say the ballfields aren't even usable anymore. He asked who's maintaining the ballfields and creating and making them field ready. Finck said the dugouts are starting to get in rougher shape and everything is kind of getting dilapidated. He said he's really surprised to hear the comments about the ballfields at Albertus Field.

Finck said he's heard from the other side from those that want a dog park and are looking for a place for it. He said there's no doubt that a dog park is a modern amenity for a community. Finck said whether Albertus Field is the right place or wrong place for a dog park, he doesn't know. He noted the benefits is that there's a parking lot available at Albertus Field and bathrooms that were updated by the City. Finck explained the thought process at the last Council meeting regarding a dog park is that there was some existing fencing that the City could work with. He said his understanding was that the City would work towards the amenities that go into a dog park once the fencing is installed.

Markman said since the last flood, there hasn't been any organization that has approached the City for any specified use in Albertus Field. He said the electricity has been shut off since 2018. Markman noted the lights haven't been turned around since the dam project so there's been nothing taking place in Albertus Field after dark. He said there's been no request from any association regarding holding any games in Albertus Field.

Finck said the use of Albertus Field has changed since the three ballfields were constructed at the high school where the fields are maintained. He noted the youth baseball program uses those fields. Finck said he's confused where the comments regarding the ballfields at Albertus Field would come from because he hasn't seen any activity there and he drives by those fields daily.

Polz said he had a parent call from Lakefield who said baseball games were played at those ballfields at Albertus Field during Covid because the public school's ballfields were closed for use.

Finck said the only activity he saw taking place at the ballfields at Albertus Field during Covid was four softball players that were there doing some hitting. He said that was during the day and maybe there's something going on during the evenings that he doesn't see. Finck said the softball players doing some hitting is the only thing he's seen taking place at Albertus Field during the day. He said it just hasn't been used. Finck said he doesn't understand the big debate on repurposing City property for a dog park.

Markman noted no association has paid the City anything for maintenance at Albertus Field. He said the City has been footing the bill for upkeep. Markman said as Street Superintendent, in the grand scheme of things, Albertus Field has been a very low priority for maintenance because no one has contacted him requesting any maintenance or anything for the ballfields.

Finck noted there are five ballfields that Community Ed has available to them through the school. He said there's two baseball fields and three softball fields at the school plus a ballfield at Dumont Park along with two fields at the elementary school. Finck said there's eight or nine ballfields available for usage. He said he's not seeing 11 fields of need. Finck said he sure would like to hear from someone regarding the need for the second ballfield at Albertus Field. He said no one was present at the City Council meeting.

Polz said he would like to hear from those concerned as well. He noted Chris Scholten is the person who expressed his concerns at the Park Board meeting. Polz said unfortunately Scholten has a baseball game on May 17th so he wasn't going to be attending the City Council meeting.

Polz said one of the mothers of a fifth-grade baseball player said her child is among 40 players who are using Albertus Field this summer.

Polz said he hasn't seen a lot of use at Albertus Field. He said he's seen people running their dogs at Albertus Field.

Finck asked Markman to contact Community Ed and find out what they have scheduled and bring back that information to the City Council in the next two weeks. He said he would like to know if there's 40 games scheduled for the fields at Albertus Field. Finck said the quote for the fencing could be approved at that time.

Finck noted Park Board Chairman Michael Haeffner was attending the meeting via Zoom. He asked Haeffner where the Park Board was at regarding having the dog park at Albertus Field.

Haeffner said he would have to say that the Park Board is in favor of still developing the south ballfield at Albertus Field as a dog park. He said Park Board feels the ballfield hasn't been utilized. Haeffner said he lives in the area of Albertus Field and can verify that there hasn't been a whole lot of activity on the south ballfield.

Markman said the other thing to consider is if the dog park is moved to another location, the cost of the fencing will be tripled since there is already existing fence on three sides of the proposed dog park at Albertus Field. He said that location also has existing grass and water available. Markman said there is also existing gating that could be utilized for the dog park. He said the ag lime would be removed and silt from the last flood could be used and seeded with grass. Markman said locating the dog park on the south ballfield of Albertus Field would be the least cost to accommodate the development of a dog park.

Skaret noted the proximity of the trails to Albertus Field. He said people want something that's walking accessible. Skaret said the location also provides for ample parking. He said it's been suggested using Benes Park for a dog park, but it was unusable for the disc golf because the area was always flooded and was basically unusable. Skaret also said Benes Park is not very accessible to the rest of the town certainly not by foot.

Markman said Dan's Island was also suggested for a dog park but then you would be starting from scratch with fencing and the cost would quadruple.

Peterson noted the outfield at Albertus Field would still be available for MYFL even if the dog park was located on the south field.

Markman said it would be just a small area that would be used for the dog park at Albertus Field. He said the area will be approximately 85 feet by 300 feet. Markman said day to day you see more people with their dogs already using Albertus Field.

Cushman said there's been a lot of good comments on both sides of the issue. He said his concern is once the ballfield is removed and it's turned into a dog park, it will never be converted back to a ballfield. Cushman noted you're still down in a bright, sunny area running your dog in the summer. He said he doesn't see the usage that some think it will get. Cushman said he's a dog owner and he's not going to take his dog down there. He said he's going to stay in the shade where he feels comfortable with his animal.

Cushman asked Markman if he's noticed if people are picking up after themselves when they use Albertus Field to run their dogs.

Markman said he hasn't noticed anything being picked up by the wheels of the mower when they mow Albertus Field. He said others have said when they are down at Albertus Field for MYFL that it's a mess.

Cushman said that's his concern that once the City installs the dog park at Albertus Field, we're never going back. He said he thinks, more so, from the comments he's received, that it's looked at not for scheduling purposes, but looked at for practicing purposes. Cushman said there's a difference. He noted some of the younger kids that need a place to go that aren't going to get to the B Squad field or not going to get to use the other ball diamonds that are utilized for other games during the day and no so much at night.

Peterson asked if the fields have to be scheduled if they're going to be used for practices.

Cushman said if someone and their buddies want to get together and practice, they just get together and use the field.

Finck concurred with Cushman that practices aren't always scheduled. He said if players want to get together to practice, the school has always let them if there's no games underway. He said it's never been an issue. Finck noted games are scheduled.

Cushman said he went down to look at the ball fields at Albertus Field before the City Council meeting. He said the dugouts are terrible, there's no bleachers, there's nothing down there and it looks terrible. He said it's not been maintained, nor should the City maintain them for the use that it gets. Cushman said it's a real fine line that we walk here, but once that ballpark is taken out, it's never going to be put back.

Palmer said the Park Board has discussed the ballparks at Albertus Field. He said it's been noted that every time Albertus Field floods, the baseball diamonds get all full of mud and the ag lime has to be picked up and replaced. Palmer said it's probably true that once it's changed from a ball diamond to a dog park it won't be returned to a ball diamond. He said maybe it should be looked at. Palmer said sometime if more ball diamonds are needed, a place should be looked at where it doesn't flood so all the maintenance doesn't have to be done all the time following a flood. He noted that was discussed at the Park Board meeting.

Cushman said there are pros and cons both ways on the issue. He said he just wants to make sure that if a ball diamond is converted to a dog park, that it's done for the right reasons and not just out of convenience.

Polz said he's reluctant to move forward with the dog park without a little bit more due diligence. He said he would really like to find out if there are plans to use the ball fields at Albertus Field for practices and if both ball fields are being fully utilized.

Finck said it would be nice to find out if there's truly a need for the second ball diamond at Albertus Field and whether there are practices scheduled at those ball diamonds. Finck said those in favor of keeping the second ball diamond at Albertus Field need to attend the next City Council meeting.

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to table action for two weeks to do due diligence regarding moving forward with the Dog Park Project.

Missouri River Energy Services Annual Meeting Update

Skaret reported he attended the Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls. He said there are 61 members, including the City of Jackson, that are members of Missouri River Energy Services. Skaret said the major happenings within MRES were outlined at the meeting.

Skaret said a new Electric Supervisor has been hired to fill former MRES Jackson Distribution Maintenance Foreman Jeremy Boogerd's position. He said the new Electric Supervisor will begin his duties as the Supervisor of the Jackson and Lakefield line crews beginning on May 23rd.

Mayor Walter asked if the new Electric Supervisor would be moving to Jackson.

Skaret said the new Electric Department Supervisor will be moving to Jackson after the next school year. He said they have a child who is a senior in high school in a neighboring town. Skaret said after that, they plan to move into the area to meet the minimum response time. Skaret said the new hire is an experienced individual and has a good track record.

Among the issues discussed at the annual MRES meeting, Skaret said WAPA will be increasing their rates starting on January 1, 2023 for a variety of reasons. He said during the Polar Vortex in February of 2021, WAPA had to buy extra power because demand was really, really high. Skaret said that cut into WAPA's reserves so now WAPA has to add that to replenish their reserves. Also, he said another reason is due to the drought in Montana and the Northern Rockies. Skaret said the reservoirs on the Missouri River where WAPA gets about half of their electric power are at low water levels. He said WAPA is projecting not being able to meet their required allocations this year so WAPA will have to go out on the market and buy power which is more expensive.

Skaret said cyber security was also a major topic at the MRES meeting. He said MRES has a new cyber security assessment program that the City may want to take advantage of at some point. Skaret said the meeting also featured a variety of other speakers from WAPA and the American Association of Public Power. He said it's also always good to visit and network with representatives from other communities.

North Highway and South Street Street and Utilities Improvement Updates

Skaret said he had a brief update from Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk on the City's various street projects.

Skaret said the Downtown Alley Project, Emily Street and Riverside Drive projects are currently out for bid. He said the plan is to have bids submitted for those projects at the next City Council meeting.

Skaret said as far as the old project of North Highway and South Street, the concrete sub-contractor will be in Jackson on May 18th working on repairing some curb and gutter, sidewalks and driveways.

Skaret said on Thursday and Friday, May 19th and 20th, weather permitting, the contractor plans to pave the patches on North Highway and redo the edge on Frost alley where there were tire marks. He said they also plan to pave the final lift on South Street. Skaret said on the week of May 23rd, the contractor will not be paving. He said paving will resume after Memorial Day weekend on North Highway and the rest.

Finck noted the paving has been dug out at the intersection of North Highway and Dewey Street by the Food Shelf to be redone.

Citywide Deer Hunt Status Update

Skaret updated the Mayor and Council regarding the discussion held at the May 3rd Council meeting pertaining to a Citywide Deer Hunt.

Skaret said he has had some correspondence with the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and the City is able to go forward with something as least for the upcoming Archery Season. He explained since archery hunting is already allowed in the City limits, the DNR is looking at allowing two bonus permits. Skaret said the hunt would take place with the permission of people on private property. He said people can hunt on private property with permission of the property owner. Skaret said that's the route the DNR is suggesting the City take this year. He said for future years, the DNR is suggesting getting a local committee together to plan for a Citywide Deer Hunt. Skaret noted the Sheriff's Office has a lot of information about the deer herd in Jackson.

Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken said the Sheriff's Department already took a look at other communities around the State that hold Citywide deer hunts. He said there's at least 20 other communities or more that hold deer hunts. Haken said the Sheriff's Department looked at seven or eight communities and the procedures and rules that they have in place to make sure the deer hunt is done safely. After reviewing what other communities have done, Haken said a Citywide archery deer hunt could be done in Jackson and could be done safely.

Haken said the Sheriff's Department can provide a pretty good estimate on the number of deer in Jackson. He said there's really two different deer herds. Haken said there's the spring, summer and fall herd and then there's the winter herd.

Haken said during the spring, summer and fall, on any given day there's about 40 to 50 deer within the City limits. He said in the wintertime, the deer population doubles. Haken said when the corn starts to come out of the fields, the deer start to come into town. He said when deer season begins, some more deer come into town and by the time the snow flies, there are an estimated 80 to 100 head of deer that are in the City limits on a given winter day. Haken said in the winter, there's a lot of deer in town.

In terms of the deer hunting the ordinance already allows in Jackson, Haken said there's about 10 to 12 hunters who bow hunt in the City limits every fall. He said there would be interest in archery deer hunting in the City limits if the City determined the number of permits they wanted to issue.

Finck noted the City of Ortonville, Minnesota has a really nice deer hunting program within their City limits. He said it's been really well received by the citizens in the community in how the hunt is handled. Finck said Ortonville would be a good example to look at. He said Ortonville has had their archery deer hunting program in place for about 20 years.

Haken said he can contact the City of Ortonville to see how their deer hunting program has worked.

Skaret said it's looking as though there will be at least something for hunters as far as being able to obtain a bonus tag this fall. He said then for 2023, the City can have a more formal, organized archery deer hunting program.

Haken said there would be a couple things the City Council may have to decide before a Citywide deer hunt. He said the Sheriff's Department could assist the City Council in making those decisions.

Water Department Tour by Third Grade Students from Riverside Elementary School on Friday, May 6th

Skaret reported there were about 80 third grade students who toured the City's Water Plant on Friday, May 6th. He said the students had the time of their lives. Skaret said hats-off to Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough and the Water Department staff and the third-grade teachers and students.

Skaret said students learned all about drinking water and wastewater and learned the toilet is not a garbage can. He said students also had the opportunity to draw and color about water on the pavement in the Water Department's parking lot.

Skaret said the Water Department had different educational stations set up for the students and it was a really good event.

Finck said hats off to Oxborough and the Water Department crew.

Community Gardens

Skaret said last year the Community Gardens started as a pilot program with three separate garden units. He said this year the Community Gardens was expanded to six garden units and all the units are spoken for. Skaret said the Community Gardens was another Park Board project and it's going really, really well.

Skaret said hats off to the Park Board, SHIP, Public Health and everybody who's been involved. He said thanks also to Sentence to Serve for constructing the boxes.

Polz thanked John Weland for his donation to the Community Gardens. He said that was nice.

Other:

Alderman Dave Cushman

Cushman said he noticed there's been a lot of work done on the City dump road and it's been narrowed up quite a bit. He asked Markman about the reason for narrowing up the road.

Markman explained the road was narrowed up to return it to its original width. He said the property owner along the dump road was getting concerned that the road was impeding on his right-of-way so it was marked to its original width. Markman said grass has been seeded along the side of the dump road and some of the grass has already emerged.

Markman said the road seems narrow right now, but once the grass is established the markers will be removed.

Cushman said the work along the dump road looks good.

Alderman Marcus Polz

Polz noted the no parking signs have been posted along the west side of Dewey Street between Springfield Parkway and North Highway so the school buses can turn in and out of the parking lot on the northwest side of the high school.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Walter entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:36 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

