

Jackson, Minnesota
May 21, 2019

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Wayne Walter. On the roll call, the following persons were present: Mayor Wayne Walter, Aldermen Matt Madden, Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Jeffrey Gay, Donnie Schoenrock and Dave Cushman, City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Real Estate Representative for the Minnesota Department of Transportation Chad Bleess, Fort Belmont Foundation Chairman Ken Kruse, Fort Belmont Foundation Vice Chairperson Cec Handevitd, Chelsea Honnette and Jen Tewes of the Splash Pad Committee, Sheldon and Janell Johnson, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Public Health and Human Services, Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Jackson Ambulance Director Mike Muchlinski, Jackson Fire Department First Assistant Chief Dave Bond, Pastor John Schuetz of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff, 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 noted the roll call showed all Councilmembers were present.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Cushman asked that Item 6(D) be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

SCHOENROCK/MADDEN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented minus Consent Agenda Item 6(D), Park Board recommendation to approve CMBA Architects' proposal estimated at \$15,500 for service for the Ashley Park Shelter House renovation.

Cushman said he was curious about what the \$15,500 would be spent on for an architect design of the Ashley Park Shelter House.

Cushman said he thinks everyone agrees the shelter house needs some much needed work. He said those needs have been identified such as replacing the garage doors and providing a sink area with counters that can be used for serving food. Cushman said there are about six or seven bullet points that have already been identified.

Cushman said he was just curious why the \$15,500 would be spent and why the City couldn't get something locally done for a part of the actual bid process when we're doing projects like this. He said maybe someone could clarify that for him.

Alderman Anderson said he was out of town and didn't attend the May 14th Park Board meeting. He said he would refer the matter to City Administrator Skaret.

Skaret explained part of the challenge the Park Board has had with the Ashley Park Shelter House is that the Park Board has some ideas on what improvements they want to do but they have had little to no response from contractors who have been approached about putting together a bid to do the work.

Skaret explained the idea behind having the architect involved is to get some coordination and uniformity involved in the process and also to suggest some mixed recommendations and provide some alternatives for the Park Board to look at. He said the Park Board members are not contractors or building people. Skaret said hopefully the architect's work will be done for less than the \$15,500 estimate and also provide some uniform specifications to bid the project out so everyone is bidding on the same scope of work to be done. He said it will provide some uniformity and organization to the process.

Gay said he agreed with Cushman. He said he would think the contractors that are in Jackson could come up with ideas and put them together to fit what the City wants for the shelter house and do it.

Alderman Anderson said the problem is getting a response from the contractors.

Gay agreed that is an issue.

Alderman Anderson said you can't twist the contractor's arm to submit a bid.

Skaret said the Park Board has tried to get bids from contractors for the last couple of years but with no success.

Cushman asked what would change if the City had a plan put together by the architect and the same contractors are approached for this project; why is the response different now.

Skaret said the City would have a uniform set of specifications. He pointed out the City could take those specifications and bid those out to a wider pool of contractors. Skaret said maybe the local contractors in Jackson are too busy or not interested in the project. He noted you might be able to get some contractors that are maybe just outside the local realm who might be able to give the City a competitive bid.

Schoenrock asked if anyone has spoken to a draftsman at the lumberyard in Jackson to see if they could draw up some plans.

Alderman Anderson said he didn't know if anyone from the Park Board has spoken to a draftsman at Boekett Lumber.

Cushman said everyone agrees the shelter house at Ashley Park needs some help. He said he hates to see spending half the budget on engineering. Cushman said he thinks the engineering can be done for a lot less than \$15,000. He said his other fear is that the City is going to spend \$15,500 and realize the City can't afford to do anything. But, Cushman said he understands that the City won't know that until they go through that step and he understands that's how the process works.

Skaret said this isn't the first step by choice. He said the Park Board has been pushed into this corner because they don't know where else to turn.

Cushman asked where the \$15,500 in funding for the engineer would come from.

Skaret said the funding would come out of the City's General Fund for parks.

Cushman called for a vote on Consent Agenda Item 6(D) to approve CMBA Architects' Proposal for Services estimated at \$15,500 for the Ashley Park Shelter House Renovation.

Mayor Walter asked all those voting in favor to say "eye".

(There was no response.)

Mayor Walter asked for those opposed to vote by same sign.

Alderman Matt Madden, Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Jeffrey Gay, Donnie Schoenrock and Dave Cushman all voted no.

Mayor Walter declared the item failed.

Cushman said the item failed with regret.

Gay asked if this matter could be brought up at the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Walter said the matter needs to come back with different ideas. He said he isn't going to spend 15, 20 minutes talking about the same thing the City Council just did. Mayor Walter said someone needs to take the ball now and run with it.

Alderman Anderson said there won't be a Park Board meeting before the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Walter said somebody needs to say this is what we want done and get some contractors lined up. He said he needed some volunteers.

Cushman said he would volunteer.

Gay said he would also help.

Mayor Walter said Aldermen Cushman and Gay will look into the matter.

Cushman said it's his understanding the reason the City has these committees is for them to take the ball and run with it and not to have volunteers from the Council.

Mayor Walter said that's right and he believes the Park Board dropped the ball and agreed with Cushman 100 percent.

Cushman said he'll be happy to do it.

There were no unscheduled guests who attended the meeting.

Council Discussion Items

CEC HANDEVIDT AND KEN KRUSE – FORT BELMONT REQUEST TO HOST A FLEA MARKET AND CAMPING IN THE FORT BELMONT PARKING AREA DURING THE JACKSON NATIONALS JUNE 27TH, 28TH, AND 29TH AND ALSO TO ALLOW CAMPING DURING THE RHYTHM OF THE RIVER ON JULY 12TH AND 13TH

Ken Kruse, President of the Fort Belmont Foundation, explained the Rhythm of the River Organization has requested allowing for primitive tent camping during the Rhythm of the River on July 12th and 13th at Fort Belmont.

Kruse said there has always been camping by those with vendor booths at the Rhythm of the River. He said the request has been made to allow others to also camp. Kruse said he told the Rhythm of the River organization that they don't have regular campground facilities and can't have camp trailers and the like. He said Fort Belmont didn't feel there would be too much of a problem if someone wanted to tent camp.

Kruse said the other event they are looking at is possibly hosting a flea market in the parking lot area of Fort Belmont during the 2020 Jackson Nationals. He said the Fort Belmont Foundation is still doing a lot of research on that to see if it's possible. Kruse said he's spoken with Jackson Motorplex Manager Doug Johnson. He said Johnson is hopeful Fort Belmont can host a flea market because race fans are looking for something to do during the day in-between the National's races.

Kruse said Fort Belmont is just in the early stages of researching schedules, advertising and determining whether hosting a flea market would be possible.

FORT BELMONT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Kruse outlined highlights to the Mayor and Council regarding activities at Fort Belmont.

Kruse said Fort Belmont is hosting school tours again this spring. He said Fort Belmont hosted a wedding this past weekend. Kruse said another wedding is also planned to be held at Fort Belmont.

Kruse said Word, Worship and Watermelon will be held again this summer on 10 Sunday evenings.

Kruse said the Fort Belmont Foundation thanks the City for their financial and overall support of Fort Belmont. Looking back at the records, Kruse noted the City has been involved with Fort Belmont for 44 years. He said Fort Belmont was started 61 years ago in 1958 by the Watland family. Kruse said the Watland family donated Fort Belmont to the City in 1975. Kruse noted he's been involved with Fort Belmont for 31 years.

Kruse said having the Rhythm of the River at Fort Belmont in 2018 showed there are opportunities to do more marketing of the Fort and provide other opportunities for the City. He said there were probably around 1,500 people who attended Rhythm of the River last year. Kruse said many of those attending were local people who had never visited Fort Belmont before. He said the Rhythm of the River gave Fort Belmont exposure and let people see what the Fort has to offer and hopefully bring more people to visit. Besides local residents, Kruse said it also helped to promote the Fort to people who live further away.

Handevitdt said having the Rhythm of the River at Fort Belmont in 2018 was the best thing that happened to both groups. She said the Rhythm of the River was very pleased with the Fort Belmont site. Handevitdt said it's certainly been a great experience for Fort Belmont. She said a Fort Belmont Board member has been a liaison between the Rhythm of the River and Fort Belmont Foundation meetings. She said the ideas they have include more than just the Rhythm of the River on July 12th and 13th. Handevitdt said there are some other activities that they will continue to work on with the Rhythm of the River group. She noted there is a music event that the Rhythm of the River does on the first Thursday of the month in June, July and August and she thinks that will be held at Fort Belmont this year. She said the church at Fort Belmont also opens up some other possibilities for specialized events for not only the Rhythm of the River, but for the rest of the summer as well. Handevitdt said they are grateful the Rhythm of the River chose the Fort Belmont site for their event and Fort Belmont is grateful to be able to host the event. She said it's a good win-win for both organizations.

Kruse reported the Rhythm of the River Committee acquired a grant to upgrade the electric service at Fort Belmont. He said work on the electrical upgrade will be starting soon. Kruse the upgrade will benefit Fort Belmont for a long, long time for Rhythm of the River and other events.

Kruse said he wanted to thank Street Superintendent Phil Markman and the Street Department for keeping the road to Fort Belmont plowed open during the winter months.

Kruse thanked the City for all their support and financial help over the years for Fort Belmont.

Mayor Walter asked if Fort Belmont needed anything for the flea market.

Kruse said they don't need anything from the City regarding the flea market for this year. He noted they are still doing a lot of research on whether hosting a flea market would be feasible. Kruse said he just wanted to make the Mayor and City Council aware a flea market is something they are looking into for 2020. He said they are looking at ways to provide entertainment and improve things to keep people in Jackson during the Nationals at the Motorplex.

Mayor Walter thanked Kruse for his annual report.

Mayor Walter asked Kruse and Handevidt about the request regarding camping at Fort Belmont during Rhythm of the River. He noted last year the City allowed camping for vendors.

Kruse explained the Rhythm of the River Committee asked if there could be additional camping besides vendors for the 2019 Rhythm of the River. He said he didn't know how many people would be camping.

Handevidt said there would be camping spaces available for only about 20 campers at the most.

Kruse added it would be primitive camping only.

SCHOENROCK/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to allow Fort Belmont to provide primitive camping in the space they have available during the Rhythm of the River at Fort Belmont on July 12th and 13th, 2019.

Mayor Walter thanked Kruse, Handevidt and the Fort Belmont Foundation for all their hard work.

HIGHWAY 71 TEMPORARY EASEMENT FOR 2020 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Chad Bless, Real Estate Representative for the Minnesota Department of Transportation in Mankato, spoke to the City Council.

Bleess explained Highway 71 from Jackson to Windom is going to be reconstructed in 2020. As a part of that project, Bleess said there are a few locations along that portion of Highway 71 where MNDOT will be replacing or updating culverts. He said one of those locations happens to be on property that the City owns just north of the airport off of the runway.

Bleess said MNDOT is requesting a temporary easement to facilitate this culvert whether it's a replacement, repair or just extending the ends. He said the temporary easement is to facilitate the construction and would be just during the construction period.

Bleess said the temporary easement agreement presented to the City Council does have a five year term on it from the date of the bid letting which will be in November. He pointed out that typically once construction is completed next summer MNDOT can, if the City requests, release their easement. Otherwise, Bleess said MNDOT keeps their easement in place in case there's any warranty work that needs to be done so MNDOT doesn't have to come back to the City Council and obtain a permit or anything else from the City.

Under the easement, Bleess said anything disturbed would be replaced. He noted currently the City leases the land to the Fransen's who farm it. Bleess said the Fransen's are aware of the Highway 71 project in 2020 and MNDOT has obtained an easement from the Fransen's on the west side of the highway.

Bleess explained MNDOT's easement request from the City would include an area located just south of that property at the intersection of Highway 71 and 810th Street. He said it's about a 170 foot long strip and 20 feet wide and totals approximately seven-hundredths of an acre. Bleess pointed out the valuation report done by the MNDOT appraiser showed the value was less than what MNDOT's minimum compensation is which is \$500. He said MNDOT's compensation offer to the City for the temporary easement is \$500.

Bleess said a resolution is available for the City Council to approve and paperwork to sign.

Attorney Anderson asked if MNDOT is also working with the FAA regarding any FAA regulations that would need to be followed since the easement area is in a primary landing zone for the airport.

Bless said the easement is just north of the actual runway flight path and MNDOT's contracts would have to abide by any FAA regulations as far as height restrictions and things like that.

SCHOENROCK/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the temporary easement requested by the Minnesota Department of Transportation on City property along Highway 71.

Bless said typically an easement agreement requires two signatures.

Skaret noted typically the Mayor and City Administrator will sign the agreement.

Bless thanked Mayor Walter, the City Council and City Administrator Skaret.

Mayor Walter said a motion was needed on Resolution 23-0519 pertaining to the easement agreement between the City and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

MADDEN/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 23-0519 granting a temporary easement on City property to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Highway 71 reconstruction.

AMBULANCE DIRECTOR MICHAEL MUCHLINSKI – REQUEST TO HIRE TWO PART-TIME EMT'S ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS

Jackson Ambulance Director Michael Muchlinski asked the City Council for the ability to hire some EMT's that could cover shifts when he and Assistant Ambulance Director Carey Simmons are on vacation or out of the office.

Muchlinski said the Ambulance Service is really limited on having available EMT's during the day especially for transfers. He said his request was to hire two but he would like to have a pool of EMT's. Muchlinski said a meeting was held on May 20th and there were four EMT's who were interested in helping fill in shifts.

Muchlinski said the four part-time EMT's would serve on an as needed basis. Muchlinski said the part-time EMT's would be working in the office when he and Simmons were gone. He noted the four part-time people are already EMT's and are already on the Ambulance Department. Muchlinski said the pay rate would be \$15.00 an hour which is the normal training rate.

Muchlinski pointed out a normal transfer can take four to five hours. He said in April, the Ambulance Department had 78 calls for service. Muchlinski said he doesn't know how many of those were transfers. He noted there were volunteer EMT's that had 50 hours in the ambulance during April. Muchlinski said it's getting really difficult to cover day shifts and by law the Ambulance Department has to have coverage 24 hours a day.

Muchlinski said he just needs to have a pool of EMT's. He said he has four people who are willing to serve as part-time EMT's.

SCHOENROCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Ambulance Department's request to hire four part-time EMT's on an as needed basis.

Muchlinski thanked Mayor Walter and the City Council for approving his request.

TOWN AND COUNTRY DAYS STREET DANCE ON JUNE 1ST IN DOWNTOWN JACKSON

City Clerk Maschoff said Bridget Kolander-Gilbert was unable to attend the Council meeting. Maschoff said he had spoken with Gilbert earlier and the request for the Town and Country Days Street Dance on June 1st is the same as last year.

Maschoff said the Council would need to declare Town and Country Days a "Community Festival" which would allow the City to approve the serving of alcohol on City property without seeking approval from the State. He said the Council also needs to approve closing Sherman Street from First Street to Highway 71 and Main Street (Second Street) from West Ashley to Grant Street as requested for a street dance on Saturday, June 1st.

Similar to last year, Maschoff said the Council will also need to approve allowing Pillar's Pub and Eatery, Bridget's Bucksnots Brew Ha Ha and Grill and Kat's Hog Heaven to serve alcohol in the designated area of the streets that are blocked off, insurance would have to be in place and all aspects of the City liquor ordinances will need to be followed.

Maschoff said the request also includes allowing the bands to play downtown for the Street Dance until 12:30 a.m., with everyone to leave by 1 a.m. on June 2nd, 2019.

Maschoff said the setup and requests for the dance are the same as last year.

MADDEN/GAY moved and it was carried to declare Town and County Days a “Community Festival”.

Voting in favor of the motion were Aldermen Matt Madden, Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Jeffrey Gay and Dave Cushman.

Alderman Donnie Schoenrock abstained.

Regarding the Street Dance and the serving of alcohol, City Attorney Anderson noted there needs to be an area designated to serve alcohol and the establishments need to have insurance as required by the state.

ANDERSON/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to allow Pillar’s Pub and Eatery, Bridget’s Bucksnots Brew Ha Ha and Grill and Kat’s Hog Heaven to serve alcohol in the designated area of the streets that are blocked off, insurance would have to be in place and all aspects of the City liquor ordinances will be followed, bands are allowed to play downtown for the Street Dance until 12:30 a.m., with everyone to leave by 1 a.m. on June 2nd, 2019.

ANDERSON/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried to close Sherman Street from First Street to Highway 71 and Main Street (Second Street) from West Ashley to Grant Street as requested for a street dance on Saturday, June 1, 2019.

SPLASH PAD COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A NEW LOCATION AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND DETAILS REGARDING THAT

Chelsea Honnette said she and Jen Tewes wanted to give the Mayor and City Council an update regarding the Splash Pad project.

Honnette said the Splash Pad Committee is requesting the City Council approve a Letter of Intent to be signed and entered into with the School District to have the splash pad located on school property at the high school. She said the Splash Pad Committee has an agreement to move forward at this point with the School Board to enter into this Letter of Intent. Honnette said the Splash Pad Committee would ask that the Council and the Mayor also consider that. She said next week the Splash Pad Committee would go to the School Board to finalize it.

Alderman Anderson asked what area of the high school they are looking at to locate the splash pad.

Honnette said there are a couple of areas being looked at. She explained the most promising location they are requesting would be outside of the pool. Honnette said it would be closer to the northwest in the parking lot area so that part of the parking area would be closed off.

Honnette said the Splash Pad Committee would not like to focus so much on the specific location, but more on being located on school property. She said the exact location is something that needs a little more flushing out with the School Board at this time.

Finck commented he thinks the move to the school property is a win-win situation for both the City and the School District.

Cushman agreed it's a great move. He asked if a City representative could attend the Splash Pad Committee to keep the City Council informed since the City will be taking care of the maintenance of the splash pad. Cushman said Councilman Schoenrock has indicated he would serve as the City's representative on the committee to keep the line of communications open.

City Attorney Anderson pointed out because of the timeliness and the possibility of the Splash Pad Committee losing some of the funding that they had, the Committee needed to have this permission from the City to be able to start moving forward before there is actually a maintenance agreement in place. Attorney Anderson said the idea is that both the City and the School District will negotiate in good faith along the lines that are outlined in the Letter of Intent to come up with a maintenance agreement. He said the other part of it was that there are some variables out there yet that can't be identified.

Attorney Anderson said we need to get a little bit further down the road before a maintenance agreement can be really worked on. He said he thinks the contingencies outline the major components of that agreement and both legal entities are willing to move ahead in good faith based upon that. Attorney Anderson said that's why the Letter of Intent was brought forward to the City Council to keep moving on this and maybe get some construction done this summer.

Honnette said if all things fall in place, it's estimated that full construction of the Splash Pad would be completed by the end of August. She said they would hope for a really warm September and would stay open past Labor Day to be able to utilize the Splash Pad. She said if materials and equipment were ordered now or next week, it would be 10 weeks for delivery. Honnette said it would take the contractor three to four weeks to complete construction.

Honnette said there are many efficiencies gained by having the splash pad on the school property such as shared space and things like that.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to enter into the Letter of Intent with the Jackson County School District 2895 for the splash pad to be located on School District property subject to the School District's approval.

Mayor Walter thanked Honnette and Tewes for attending the meeting.

SHELDON JOHNSON – 1016 WHITE STREET SEWER LINE DAMAGE CLAIM

Sheldon Johnson introduced himself and his wife Janell to the Mayor and City Council. Johnson outlined what occurred regarding his sewer line and the length of time it has taken to get an insurance settlement payment from contractor Karian Peterson whose work during the 2017 underground electric conversion project allegedly damaged the sewer line on Johnson's property at 1016 White Street.

(Background) On January 18, 2019, the sewer line on property owned by the Johnson's collapsed. About seven inches above the area of the break was the electric line that was replaced as part of the 2017 Electric Underground Conversion Project.

While it has not been proven, it's alleged that when the electric line was bored in it caused a rock to get wedged against the sewer service line causing it to weaken and eventually collapse. The work was performed by electric contractor Karian Peterson of Montevideo. Once the City was notified of the sewer collapse, an insurance claim was immediately filed with the City's insurance carrier, the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Invoices were also submitted. They investigated and the claim was tendered over to Karian Peterson as the City is not liable for work performed by the contractors it hires. The City's contract contains provisions that Karian Peterson holds the City harmless for any claims arising from the work and names the City as an additional insured. Karian Peterson was slow to file a claim with their insurance carrier. In turn, their insurance carrier has been slow to respond.

Johnson asked the City Council for help in resolving the matter. He pointed out the contract for the underground electric conversion project was between the City and Karian Peterson.

Because there had been a slow response from Karian Peterson's insurance company, City Attorney Brad Anderson said he was directed to send a letter to Karian Peterson regarding the matter. Attorney Anderson said Karian Peterson responded with a letter about six weeks ago saying they were taking care of it and the matter was in their insurance company's hands.

Skaret said he's been following up with the City's insurance adjuster with the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust about the matter. He said Karian Peterson's insurance company has been very slow in responding. Skaret said the City's insurance adjuster is still investigating.

Johnson asked the City to continue working towards getting an insurance settlement. He said he doesn't want to spend a lot of legal fees on this matter. Johnson noted the claim is for just under \$5,000.

Johnson thanked the Mayor and City Council for their time. He said he'll stay in touch.

Mayor Walter said the City is keeping the Johnson's in mind.

LUKE EWALD WITH ACTIVE LIVING COMMUNITY UPDATE

Luke Ewald of the Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services gave the Mayor and Council an update on the Jackson Active Living Plan. He noted the Jackson Active Living Plan was created in June of 2015 by the Southwest Regional Development Commission and is a working document. Ewald said those involved with the implementation, maintenance and sustainability of the program include the City of Jackson and Jackson County, Friends of the Jackson County Trails, Jackson Park Board along with community input and engagement activities.

Ewald pointed out the non-infrastructure projects that have been done since 2015. Among the completed projects, Ewald noted the trash receptacles along the trails, crosswalk painting, school zone speed limits at Riverside Elementary, sidewalk snow removal, bike parking, stop for pedestrian signage and the trail adoption program. Ewald said a lot of the non-infrastructure projects were completed in one to two years.

Ewald also noted projects in the plan that have not yet been completed such as the North Highway West Sidewalk Gap, Jackson County High School Gap-Southeast, Thomas Hill Sidewalk Gap, Ravine Trail North, Des Moines River Trail Crossing-Dann's Island Wayside Park, Disc Golf Course Connection, Buff Avenue Gap and Sunrise Estates Connection. He said funding for those projects will be sought through grants.

Moving forward, Ewald said the City of Jackson will maintain and make updates to the Active Living Plan along with the Trails Committee. He said new goals and strategies can always be worked on along with considering allowing for public input and engagement. He said SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership) will work with the Friends of the Jackson County Trails Committee to determine non-infrastructure goals and strategies to work on.

Gay asked if there's any snow removal on any of the trails.

Markman said the trails were built on the premise of no winter maintenance.

Gay said he looks at safety and the only thing he noticed is the trail from the grocery store up the hill to the apartments. He pointed out the trail in that area was snow clogged and saw people walking along the highway again.

Schoenrock said that's a topic the Trails Committee is looking at and talking with Markman about.

Gay said he also wanted to thank Ewald for stopping by his office and providing Senior Linkage Line information.

Mayor Walter thanked Ewald for his report.

DEWEY STREET SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAIL CONNECTION BIDS

Skaret reported bids for the Dewey Street Safe Routes to School Trail Connection Project were received on May 10th. He said only one bid was received from Hulstein Excavating of Edgerton, Minnesota for approximately \$281,000. He said the engineer's estimate for the project was around \$100,000.

Skaret said the Safe Routes to School Program is 80 percent federally funded and the City and School District split the local match. He noted Jackson County is the engineer for the Safe Routes to School projects. Skaret said the County engineer representatives were unable to attend the May 21st City Council meeting. He said the County engineer's recommendation is for the City Council to reject the bid and re-bid the project. Skaret said if the project was rebid, the County engineer would provide a wider range of dates for the contractor to complete the project. He said the new completion date would be October 31st, 2019. Skaret said when it was bid the first time, the completion date was July 31st.

SCHOENROCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to reject the bid from Hulstein Excavating of Edgerton, Minnesota and move forward with seeking new bids.

FIRST CONSIDERATION: ORDINANCE 100 AMENDING CHAPTER 96 OF THE JACKSON CODE OF ORDINANCES PEERTAINING TO MAILBOXES

Skaret explained mailboxes were a big thing this past winter with all the snow. He said there were a lot of mailbox claims

Skaret said the City apparently doesn't have a written process, procedure or ordinance regarding mailboxes. He said the past practice has been that people usually report a damaged mailbox right away and then Street Superintendent Markman goes out to look at it.

Skaret said if it looks like a snowplow hit the mailbox or the snowplow operators report hitting a mailbox, then the City will either repair the mailbox or reimburse the property owner for the repair of the equivalent amount. He said that usually works well but there have been instances where people have reported a mailbox being damaged months after the incident. In those cases, Skaret said there's no way for Markman to investigate that.

Skaret said in order to provide a little bit more detailed procedure, Ordinance 100 spells out that a resident would have three days after a snowplowing event to make a claim to City Hall that their mailbox has been hit. He said as the City currently does, the incident would be investigated and if the snowplow hit it the City would either fix the mailbox if they can or provide reimbursement to the property owner of up to \$75 for a single mailbox, up to \$150 for a two to three mailbox group and up to \$225 for four or more mailboxes in a group. Skaret said if the City does reimburse a homeowner, the homeowner has up to six months to submit the receipts that it's been repaired or they have gotten a new mailbox and they would be reimbursed.

Markman said the practice in the past as it was explained to him by former Street Superintendent George Tauer is if the snow hit the mailbox it would be the homeowner's responsibility because the mailbox should be able to withstand the snow. He said the new mailboxes are designed to pop off so they are not damaged. Markman said if the snowplow hits the mailbox, then it's the City's responsibility. He said sometimes the snowplow driver can feel it when they hit a mailbox and sometimes they can't.

Markman said the other issue now is every time a house is sold, the Post Office has a rule that the mailbox is supposed to be located along the street. He said the Street Department is starting to see more mailboxes along the street. Markman said during the last couple of years with the heavy snows it's become harder and harder to avoid these incidents of mailboxes getting hit by a snowplow. He said Ordinance 100 gives everybody the same rules now.

SCHOENROCK/MADDEN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve first reading of Ordinance 100 amending Chapter 96 of the Jackson Code of Ordinances pertaining to mailboxes.

Other:

Southwest Minnesota Broadband

Schoenrock reported on a service outage by Southwest Minnesota Broadband a week ago. He said a line was cut in the Twin Cities area. Schoenrock noted there has been redundancy built into the system over the past year and the outage was kept to a minimum of about 20 minutes.

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Skaret said the search is still on for a person to fill a vacancy on the Utilities Commission. He said if anyone knows of someone to please let him or Mayor Walter know.

Skaret said the hot mix plant in Worthington is now open for the season.

Markman said the hot mix plant opened on May 20th and the City got 16 ton of hot mix. He said the Street Department repaired the hole at the intersection of North Highway and Park Street where a water main break occurred this winter. Markman said they also repaired the area where a storm sewer break occurred on White Street and Dewey. He said they had some hot mix left over so they also fixed a frost boil on Dewey Street.

Markman said the only downfall is the hot mix plant in Worthington is tentatively only going to be open each week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He said he had no explanation why. Markman said the hot mix plant's former operator recently left the company. He said the closest other hot mix plant available is in New Ulm. Markman said he's heard that Dunnick's may have a temporary hot mix plant off of old Highway 16 west of Jackson.

Markman said he's been made aware of a hot mix plant located in the Milford, Iowa area. He said he's going to get further information about that.

Markman said he's hoping that the Worthington hot mix plant gets the volume of business that will necessitate the plant to be open for more than three days a week.

Skaret said the South Highway Project is coming along.

Engineer Greg Mitchell said the utility work in River Street has been completed and the street has been reopened again. He said the utilities have been stubbed up the hill but the contractor has jumped to the east end of the project to work on the force main. Mitchell said the contractor has made the connection and is now starting to work back to the east. He explained that's actually Phase One which is to do the force main part of the work. Mitchell said because of the small utilities that were still being relocated and also due to the high flows of the lift station, the contractor jumped into Phase Two which was the River Street portion and now they're working back on the force main which is part of Phase One. He said hopefully when they get back to the lift station; conditions will have dried out a bit so they can make the actual connection.

Cushman asked if River Street will now be open for some time.

Markman said it will.

Mayor Wayne Walter

Mayor Walter asked Street Superintendent Markman to put up the "Event Ahead" caution signs along Highway 71 near the cemeteries on Thursday or Friday ahead of the Memorial Day weekend to let motorists know there are activities and people coming and going from the cemeteries.

Markman said he would have the signs put up.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, ANDERSON/GAY moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the City Council meeting at 8:02 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

