

May 2, 2023
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 2, 2023 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 Mark Titus, Chris Naumann, Nathan Peterson and Joe Pell. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Public Works Director Tony Oxborough, Jackson Fire Chief Dave Bond, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services, Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk, Thor Kurtz of the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center, John Weland of the Jackson County Animal Protection Society, Janice Lepinski of PAWS (Precious Animals Worth Saving), Catherine Koppen, Ron Sinn, Marcia Sinn, Judith Sinn, Marilyn Matejka, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff, Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot and Matthew Grisham of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (Alderman Brandon Finck 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 the meeting in-person and by Teleconference and Zoom 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 Brandon Finck.

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 asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

Council Discussion Items:

ANGELA BROWN – PEDDLER’S LICENSE APPLICATION FOR FOOD TRUCK – ANGELA’S EGG ROLL

City Clerk Dave Maschoff said Angela Brown of Mountain Lake was present at the City Council meeting. He thanked Brown for attending. Maschoff said Brown was available to answer any questions from the Mayor or Councilmembers.

Angela Brown said her food truck business is known as “Angela’s Egg Roll”. She said they serve egg rolls and wontons. Brown said this is her fifth year of operating a food truck. She said people have been asking her to bring her food truck to Jackson. Brown noted she was at the Jackson County Fair last year.

Mayor Polz asked Brown if she has ever operated her food truck in Jackson before.

Brown said only at the Jackson County Fair.

Mayor Polz asked if all of the necessary paperwork for Brown's food truck have been submitted to City Hall.

Brown said she had the needed paperwork to submit.

Maschoff said he's been working with Brown and all the necessary paperwork will be taken care of.

Skaret asked Brown if she has a location in Jackson to operate her food truck.

Brown said she's planning to operate her food truck for the Cruise-in on Main Street events this summer. She noted the Cruise-in organizers had reached out to her. Brown noted the other food trucks operate in the parking lot at Schwalbach's Ace Hardware and she will also probably reach out to Ace Hardware to operate in their parking lot when she's in Jackson.

PETERSON/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Angela Brown's Peddler's License application for Angela's Egg Roll Food Truck.

Mayor Polz thanked Brown for attending the Council meeting.

THOR KURTZ – SHELDON JACKSON OUTREACH CENTER

Thor Kurtz said he serves as the Youth and Family Pastor at the First Baptist Church and also oversees the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center in Jackson.

Kurtz explained he was attending the City Council meeting to share where they are at, where they've come from and where they're going with the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center.

Kurtz said he came to Jackson in 2017 as the Youth and Family Pastor at the First Baptist Church. He said the First Baptist Church did not own the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center at that time. Kurtz said while he was in Jackson focusing on the youth, one of the things the Lord revealed to him is there's not really a place for the kids to land, a place for them to hang out in the community other than maybe their homes or in the summertime in the parks.

Kurtz said the Lord put the burden on his heart of what's in town that could be made and created into some sort of a youth center. He said he quickly found out there's really not a lot of spaces in Jackson to create such a center so he kind of put the idea on the back burner. Kurtz said a few years later a new lead Pastor for the First Baptist Church came to Jackson. He said the idea for creating a youth center was discussed and possibilities were looked at again.

Kurtz said that discussion led them to the First Presbyterian Church. He said in 2020, word was received that the Presbyterian Church in Jackson was closing. Kurtz noted the Presbyterian Church also had an education wing on their campus. He explained the Presbyterian Church building was separate from their education wing which was built in the 1960's.

Kurtz said a meeting was held with the Pastor at the time of the Presbyterian Church and inquiries made about their education building. He said they had the opportunity to present to the First Baptist Church Board the idea of creating this space, this environment in the Presbyterian Church education building. Kurtz said the initial idea was focused on creating a space for the youth at that time, but has since evolved as space for more than just the youth, but something in the community for people to use as we're kind of missing that in this community. He said the First Baptist Church Board loved it.

Kurtz said the Board at the First Baptist Church had agreed that they would pray about it, they would process it and they would talk about it. He explained as the church, they're in a position where it's not like they had fundraised and gathered all this money to purchase the building. Kurtz said they prayed about it.

Kurtz said in early 2021, the First Baptist Church Board received word the First Presbyterian Church had agreed to actually sell the education building to the First Baptist Church for a dollar. He said on July 26th, 2021, the Presbyterian Church sold the education building to the First Baptist Church for a dollar. Kurtz said the First Baptist Church paid for all the closing costs and everything. He said it was a huge blessing and the beginning of the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center.

Kurtz said from July of 2021 to July of 2022, during their first year of ownership, they worked on Phase One which was renovating the upstairs of the building. Showing before and after photographs of the interior of the building on the Council Chamber's Smart Screen, Kurtz outlined the renovation work that has been done. He explained the upstairs of the building used to be made up of all classrooms. Kurtz said it was a Sunday School building and was all classrooms. He showed how the recent renovations removed walls and opened up the space to create a fellowship hall. Kurtz said the fellowship hall now features a stage and serving area. He showed Mayor Polz and Councilmembers photographs of the renovation work that's been completed so far in the building. Kurtz also showed a photograph of the pool room just off the Fellowship Hall.

Kurtz said the upper floor was the main focus of the renovation work the first full year from July, 2021 to July, 2022. He said there were thousands of hours of volunteer labor. Kurtz said the entire upstairs of the building was renovated. He said the renovations included new flooring, painting and new lighting was installed.

Kurtz said the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center is now up and functioning. He said the youth have really enjoyed the building since they actually lived through the construction portion of it. Kurtz said now that the youth have been able to see the fruit of all that labor, they really enjoy having someplace to land that's clean and orderly.

Kurtz said other organizations that have used the education building in the past have included Alcoholics Anonymous and they still use it today. He said UCAP had been leasing the building from the Presbyterian Church and the First Baptist Church has allowed UCAP to continue their lease to use the building. Kurtz said interest by other organizations to use the building began to grow in 2022. He said Celebrate Recovery, BIOGirls, a co-op homeschool group, Bible studies, CSP, birthday parties, luncheons and coffees are being held at the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center. Kurtz said people are beginning to meet there and so there's more awareness about the Center in the community and people are beginning to use the space.

Entering into 2023 after having a little break and breather after a year of a lot of labor and work on the building, Kurtz said discussions are underway on what needs to be done and what next steps need to be taken to prepare to make this space a place where people want to get together. He explained everything that's been done in renovating the building has mostly been done upstairs. Kurtz showed the Mayor and Councilmembers photographs on the Council Chamber's Smart Screen of what has been done so far and what still needs to be done on the upstairs of the building.

Kurtz showed photographs of the dining hall on the south side of the second floor of the building of what it was and what the space has been made into. He also showed pictures and outlined the renovations planned for Phase Two in other areas of the building entering 2023 including improvements to a kitchen area providing for more counter space to better accommodate serving.

Kurtz said plans for Phase Three in the very distant future would be to commercialize the kitchen. He said that's a really, really, really far hope because it's not really a big kitchen and there's a lot of rules that goes with commercializing a kitchen. Kurtz said that's a dream of his. He said they want to at least make the space adequate enough so that if someone wants to hold a birthday party or graduation, they don't have just two feet of counterspace. Kurtz said they want to open up the kitchen space to be more accommodating.

Kurtz pointed out they've been working on the landscaping and freshening things up on the 1960's building. He said they've been trying to give it a really good look to make it pleasing.

Kurtz explained a lot of the focus for renovation this year will be on the downstairs of the building. He said everything downstairs is made up of classrooms. Kurtz said they intend to leave it that way so structurally they're not changing anything but aesthetically everything needs to be touched. He noted the building was constructed in the 1960's and it looks like it. Kurtz showed Mayor Polz and Councilmembers photographs of the various rooms in the downstairs of the building. He explained much of what needs to be accomplished in the rooms downstairs is aesthetics. Kurtz said there needs to be new lights, new ceiling tiles, new flooring and painting. He noted furnishings will also be needed for some of the rooms.

On the west side of the building, Kurtz showed a photograph of the Kids Connect room. He said the Kids Connect room is a shared room. Kurtz noted everything in that room belongs to UCAP. He said UCAP uses the room to host families and do observations. However, Kurtz said when UCAP is not hosting families and doing observations, the Kids Connect room is open to the community. He said people can bring their kids, their grandkids or use it as a place to meet for the kids to play. Kurtz said after people are done using the room, they put things away and clean up and they're good. He said the Kids Connect room needs the flooring to be replaced, the paint could be updated along with the ceiling tiles and lights just to give it a fresh look. Kurtz said potentially some new play structures could also be added just because it's fun to give kids something new to play with.

Kurtz also showed the conference room in the building and pointed out some of the planned improvements for that room including flooring, painting, ceiling tiles and lighting.

Kurtz showed photographs of the rooms known as Fireside 1 and Fireside 2. He said the purpose of that space is to provide for comfort and cozy rooms. He said furniture has been donated for those rooms. Kurtz said Fireside 1 and Fireside 2 rooms also need painting, new flooring, window coverings and updated LED lighting and ceiling tiles along with an electric fireplace. He said the intent of the Fireside 1 and Fireside 2 rooms are to provide that homey feeling sitting in front of the fireplace, visiting with friends and relaxing.

Kurtz said they are trying to update the building and create a space for the community to use and desire to use.

Kurtz explained there are three big things that are big ticket items. He said the first one is who they can serve. Kurtz said the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center building is a 60's building and is not ADA compliant. He noted they are in compliance because they haven't changed anything structurally, but they also know that they can't serve grandma if she comes to the Center and can't get upstairs. Kurtz said with all the things that could take place in the Fellowship Hall and dining hall, if grandma can't make it upstairs, a family or group will not have their event at the Center. Kurtz said that bothers him and it limits the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center on who they can serve.

Kurtz outlined future plans for an addition to the building that would include a lift to the second floor of the building and ADA compliant unisex bathrooms on both levels, including ADA compliant roll-in showers. He said the Center would meet code and be compliant on both floors of the building. Kurtz said the Center would then be able to serve everybody at that point regardless if a person was handicapped or not and still provide space for an additional bathroom to what's already currently there.

Kurtz also outlined future needs to install a sprinkler system in the Fellowship Hall in order to meet capacity requirements if there's a gathering of more than 100 people to eat a meal. He noted the other rooms meet capacity requirements regarding exits and would not need to have a sprinkler system.

Kurtz said rough numbers for the proposed addition to the building was \$250,000 and rough numbers for installing the sprinkler system was estimated at \$40,000.

Kurtz said the third big item is installing an indoor security system. He said they want the building to function without the need to call him. Kurtz said the security system could be set up in a way that someone could get into the building without someone physically having to be there to let them in. He said door systems could be set up to work with phones or fobs along with a camera system. Kurtz explained that way people that are using the building can come freely and go freely as they would plan and schedule things. He said the door locking system and cameras would also provide security when the building is empty.

Kurtz said the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center building currently serves the First Baptist, Salem Lutheran and Good Shepherd Church Youth Groups, Alcoholics Anonymous, the BIOGirls, Celebrate Recovery, the UCAP Office, the Homeschool Co-op, CSP (Community Support Program), Youth Worship Practice and Couples Study group. He said the building may also serve as a place for youth to go after school, especially in the winter and as a location for drop-in counseling.

Kurtz noted the testimonials from the BIOGirls, CSP and Celebrate Recovery and how they have enjoyed using the facility.

Kurtz said the First Baptist Church wants to invite people to use the space at the Sheldon Jackson Outreach Center. He asked for the City's endorsement in their efforts to provide a space in the community for families, organizations and groups to use.

Kurtz thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers.

Mayor Polz thanked Kurtz for his presentation.

SECOND CONSIDERATION – ORDINANCE NO. 129 AMENDING THE CITY'S FEES, RATES AND CHARGES FOR 2023

City Administrator Skaret explained Ordinance No. 129 amends the City's Ashley Park Shelter House fees changing them from the current \$50 rental fee to \$25 and also having a \$25 deposit which the renter would get back assuming they left the shelter house in good condition.

Skaret said Ordinance No. 129 also drops the \$20 fee to put a message on the Community Message Board and still keeps messages allowed on the Board by non-profit groups only.

Mayor Polz entertained a motion for second consideration of Ordinance No. 129.

PELL/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Second Consideration of Ordinance No. 129 amending the City's fees, rates and charges for 2023.

CITY HALL LAWCARE PROPOSAL 2023-2024

Skaret said all of the local commercial lawncare companies were invited to submit proposals to take care of the groundskeeping at City Hall for the next two years. He explained the City has contracted out the City Hall groundskeeping for a number of years.

Skaret said the City received one bid and that was from Polz's Lawn Care for \$50 per time. He said the previous contract with Polz's Lawn Care was for \$40 per time. Skaret noted the new contract would be for two years.

PETERSON/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the bid of \$50 per time from Polz's Lawn Care and Landscaping of Jackson for lawn mowing at City Hall for 2023 and 2024.

DOWNTOWN PLANTERS BIDS 2023-2024

Skaret said the City received two bids to take care of the downtown planters, library and City Hall landscaping maintenance.

Skaret said Polz's Lawn Care and Landscaping submitted a bid of \$5,283.74 per year and Singvongsa Landscaping submitted a bid of \$6,610 per year.

Skaret noted Polz submitted the lower bid and had the previous two-year maintenance contract for the downtown planters and landscaping maintenance.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion to approve the low bid for maintenance of the downtown planters, library and City Hall landscaping for 2023 and 2024.

PETERSON/TITUS moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the low bid of \$5,283.74 per year from Polz's Lawn Care and Landscaping for maintenance of the downtown planters, Library and City Hall landscaping maintenance for 2023 and 2024.

LIBRARY STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

Skaret said the Library is planning on having an outdoor movie event in the Library parking lot on Friday, June 2nd starting at 9 p.m.

Skaret said the Library is requesting to have the parking lot blocked off to traffic for a few hours as well as Fourth Street between White and West Ashley Street so they have plenty of room for people to spread out in their chairs.

TITUS/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Library's request to block off the Library's parking lot and Fourth Street between White and West Ashley Street for a few hours on Friday, June 2nd for the Library's outdoor movie event starting at 9 p.m.

DOWNTOWN ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS PAY APPLICATION NO. 1

Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk said the Downtown Alley Improvements Project began in April. He said before the City Council at their May 2nd meeting was the Downtown Alley Improvements Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$28,437. He said the project is moving along pretty well and is recommending approval of the pay request.

Skaret asked Nemmers if the contractor is running on schedule so far.

Nemmers said so far, so good. He said utility work will be starting on May 3rd in the alley behind the Pizza Ranch. Nemmers said new sewer and water lines will be installed in that alley.

Peterson asked when the entire project is scheduled to be completed.

Nemmers said he believes July 23rd is the date for substantial completion of the project.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Downtown Alley Improvements Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$28,437.77 to Jensen Excavating and Trucking, LLC.

SOILS TESTING AGREEMENT – DOWNTOWN ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS

Skaret said since there's excavation and placing of concrete for the Downtown Alley Improvements Project, it's important to make sure the base is adequate which is key to the success of any paving.

Skaret said the City has utilized American Engineering Testing, Incorporated in the past. He said American Engineering Testing has submitted a proposal to do the soil testing for the Downtown Alley Improvements Project in the estimated amount of \$35,585.00. Skaret said American Engineering Testing has always done a good job in the past.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion to approve the proposal from American Engineering Testing, Incorporated.

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the proposal from American Engineering Testing, Incorporated of Mankato, Minnesota to conduct the soil testing for the Downtown Alley Improvements Project at an estimated total cost of \$35,585.00.

UPDATE FROM ENGINEER TROY NEMMERS OF BOLTON AND MENK

Skaret asked Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk for an update on this year's construction projects.

Nemmers said work in the downtown alleys will continue. He said utility work in the alleys will begin on May 3rd. Nemmers said there would be a temporary one-lane closure on Highway 71 to do some sanitary sewer work. He said the disruption should only last a day but traffic will be able to get through on Highway 71.

Regarding Emily Street, Nemmers said the contractor will be moving in equipment to Jackson during the week of May 8th to start with pavement removals on Emily Street along with removals on Westridge and Northridge Drive. He said the contractor is hoping to get removals going and start with the underground work on Emily Street on the week of May 15th. Nemmers said the contractor is looking to come in the following week and do pavement removals on Westridge and Northridge Drive as well as install the new curb and gutter along Riverside. He said there will be a lot of activity over the next couple of weeks.

Nemmers said it's being proposed to have a neighborhood meeting the week of May 8th regarding Emily Street. He said he's been working with Skaret to send out notices to the residents on Emily Street to give them a "heads up" on what will be taking place. Nemmers said there will be a pretty good disruption on Emily Street since there's no alley access or alternate access on that street so they will try and coordinate with residents on that street.

Nemmers said he met with the contractor regarding the work and disruptions that will occur during the construction work on Emily Street.

Nemmers said all of those projects are getting kicked off. He told Mayor Polz and Councilmembers to not hesitate to ask any questions and to let him know if they have any concerns so those concerns can be addressed.

Mayor Polz asked if notifications can be sent out regarding the closures.

Skaret said notifications can be sent out via the City's app.

Mayor Polz said that would be wonderful.

Mayor Polz thanked Nemmers for his update.

Nemmers thanked Mayor Polz.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-0523 DEEDING PLOTS TO UCAP FOR HOUSING PROJECT ON POND DRIVE

Skaret said the City Council actually does not need to take any action on deeding plots to UCAP (United Community Action Partnership) for the housing project on Pond Drive. He explained back in April of 2022, the City Council had already approved deeding the plots to UCAP. Skaret said UCAP just needed a resolution. He said City Attorney Brad Anderson has put together a resolution to send to UCAP basically codifying what the City agreed to a year ago.

COUNCIL BUSINESS CARDS

Skaret said Councilmember Nathan Peterson inquired about business cards for City Councilmembers.

Peterson said he inquired about business cards because he thought it would be nice if the Councilmembers had business cards when they attend outside meetings or meet with residents. He said the business cards could have the Jackson City logo on it and contain the Councilmember's name, phone number and email.

Mayor Polz asked Councilmembers if that's something they wanted to do and, if so, how many business cards should be printed.

Skaret asked if the Councilmembers would like to have business cards.

Mix said she personally doesn't need to have any business cards. She said she doesn't use business cards for work and doesn't think she needs them as a City Councilmember. Mix said if any of the other Councilmembers would like them, she's thinks it's a good thing.

Pell said if the Councilmembers did get business cards, he didn't think that a lot of cards needed to be printed.

Peterson said he thought maybe a hundred business cards could be printed.

Pell noted he has business cards for his work, but he doesn't use them all.

Titus said that's the problem for anybody that's bought business cards. He said you get a 100 or you get a 1,000 for about the same price. Titus said what do you do with the other 900.

Mix said she would make a motion for any Councilmembers that want them to get them. She said she thinks that's perfectly acceptable.

Skaret said if the Mayor or any Councilmembers would like business cards to let him know and he'll order them.

Mayor Polz said he would take a motion to have it on record for the approval of Council business cards for those Councilmembers who want them.

MIX/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve City Council business cards for those Councilmembers who want them.

MAYOR'S MENTAL HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION: MAY 2023

Mayor Polz said the Mental Health Month Proclamation is to make everyone aware that the month of May is Mental Health Month.

Mayor Polz read:

***WHEREAS**, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health; and*

***WHEREAS**, mental illnesses affect almost every family in America; and*

***WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and*

***WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses make important contributions to our families and our communities; and*

***WHEREAS**, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year; and*

WHEREAS, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness; and

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Marcus Polz, Mayor, on behalf of Jackson, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023 as MENTAL HEALTH MONTH. As the Mayor, I also call upon all Jackson, Minnesota citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

Signed, Marcus Polz

PROCLAMATION: HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRANDON!

Mayor Polz said he had a proclamation recognizing the 50th birthday of Brandon Finck.

Mayor Polz read:

WHEREAS Brandon is a blessing for a community which benefits from his knowledge, creativity, and experiences he brings to all; and

WHEREAS Brandon Finck was born April 26th, 1973 in South Dakota and is described as a straight shooter, someone who takes pride in his appearance and overall particular in having all things clean and tidy; and

WHEREAS Mr. Finck is recognized for his years of service serving on City Council; and

WHEREAS Mr. Finck a family man, husband of Bonnie and father of Bailey; and

WHEREAS Mr. Finck is a resident of Jackson, local banker, supporter of youth sports and our community; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Marcus Polz, Mayor of the City of Jackson and on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Jackson, honor Mr. Brandon Finck on a life well lived, and wish him many more.

*Signed this 26th day of April 2023,
Marcus Polz, Mayor*

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 23RD

Skaret said a special City Council meeting is being planned for Tuesday, May 23rd regarding DBS, the housing developer.

Skaret said he and Community and Business Development Specialist Dave Schmidt had a really good Zoom meeting with DBS representatives on May 2nd. He said the DBS staff is moving full throttle ahead.

Skaret said DBS is actually going through the process of right-sizing the project and determining what's going to be built. He said DBS plans on having something to present to the City Council and having the Council execute an agreement for engineering services to go forward with the design of the infrastructure for the development.

Skaret said with DBS's timetable, it's not going to work for DBS to have something ready to present at the City Council's May 16th meeting. He said May is a unique month in that there's an extra week available. Skaret said waiting until June 6th for DBS to make their presentation and execute an agreement will throw a monkey wrench into the tight timetable the project is on in order to get construction started this fall.

Skaret said it's proposed to have a special City Council meeting on May 23rd. He said at that time, DBS will have a concept on what exactly they plan on building as far as apartments and townhomes. He said DBS will also have an engineering agreement for the City to enter into to move to the next phase.

Skaret asked Councilmembers what time worked best for them to meet on May 23rd.

The consensus of Councilmembers was to meet at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Polz entertained for a motion to set a special City Council meeting for Tuesday, May 23rd at 5:30 p.m.

PELL/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to set a Special City Council meeting for Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Other:

Alderman Nathan Peterson – Update on Fire Department’s Platform Truck

Alderman Peterson said he wanted to update the Council on the progress on the assembly of the Fire Department’s new platform truck. He said the truck’s chassis is in Nebraska and in the process of having the ladder installed. Peterson said when that’s completed the truck will come back to Sioux Falls for additional assembly.

Alderwoman Sara Mix – Alamo

Alderwoman Mix asked if it was known when the debris from the demolition of the Alamo building would be hauled away.

Skaret explained the contractor is waiting for a permit from the Minnesota Department of Pollution Control Agency. He said there’s a Revolving Loan Fund Committee meeting at noon on Thursday, May 4th. Skaret said one of the agenda items is to help Bridget and A.J. Lusk finance the rest of their project.

Alderman Joe Pell – Splashpad

Alderman Pell asked when the Splashpad would be started up for the season. Public Works Director Tony Oxborough said he wasn’t sure.

Pell said he just didn’t want to run into an issue like last year when the Splashpad computer malfunctioned and the Splashpad was down for half the summer.

Oxborough said it’s been discussed along with ordering of the chemicals needed for the Splashpad. He said they’ve talked about adding an alarm system so if the Splashpad malfunctions, City staff will be alerted right away instead of finding out it’s not working when you manually check it.

Peterson said it would be good to make sure the Splashpad computer turns on.

City Attorney Brad Anderson – Erickson property purchase completed

City Attorney Brad Anderson reported the City is now the owner of the Erickson property located along Highway 71.

Mayor Polz thanked Attorney Anderson.

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Skaret reminded Mayor Polz and Councilmembers about a number of upcoming meetings.

Skaret the Pool Task Force will be meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd at 5:15 p.m. He noted Alderman Pell was going to be attending in place of Alderman Finck. Skaret said the first meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, May 4th at 5:15 p.m. He said the Park Board will be meeting on Tuesday, May 9th at 5:30 p.m.

Skaret noted he will be gone all day on Wednesday, May 10th to attend Missouri River Energy Service's annual meeting in Sioux Falls.

Skaret said a meeting of the Animal Control Committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 11th at 5:30 p.m.

Skaret noted there's also a Pool Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 4th.

Mayor Marcus Polz

Mayor Polz said he would not be able to attend the May 4th Revolving Loan Fund Committee meeting as he will be attending a National Day of Prayer event that day.

Mayor Polz said he will be taking his wife to London on May 5th to see the King's coronation and will be out of the country until May 15th. He said if a Mayor Pro Tem is needed, contact Alderman Nathan Peterson if something comes up during that time.

Judith Sinn – Questions regarding Feral Cats in Jackson

Judith Sinn said she heard the City Administrator mention about an upcoming Animal Control Committee meeting. She asked if that had to do with the ordinance the City Council has been talking about regarding the feral cat community colony downtown.

Skaret said the ordinance is part of that upcoming meeting.

Sinn apologized for arriving at the City Council meeting late. She said she thought there was going to be something on the City Council's May 2nd agenda regarding feral cats downtown.

Mayor Polz said there was going to be something on the City Council's agenda for Ordinance No. 130 regarding banning the feeding of cats in the downtown district. However, Mayor Polz said the ordinance, as written, needs a little more attention so it was taken off the May 2nd agenda so it was not addressed at the Council meeting. He said that will be brought up at some point at a future date with some modifications.

Sinn said with regard to not feeding the feral cat community downtown, has there been any discussion about removing the animals and putting them somewhere where it's allowable to feed them. She asked what if the feeding was taking place on private property, not City owned property.

Mayor Polz said he's unaware himself exactly where it is people are feeding the cats, but knows the ordinance that was being proposed banned the feeding of cats in the entire downtown district.

Skaret said according to the proposed ordinance, the feeding of cats in the downtown district would be prohibited in the alleys or on private property.

Sinn said she thinks there's only one place downtown where there is a feral cat community where someone has put up little temporary insulated homes for them during the winter. She asked if there's ever been any discussion about creating a place to take the cats.

Skaret said the problem is the City currently doesn't have anywhere to take the cats.

Mayor Polz said there has been discussion. He explained, in fact, one of the reasons he wanted to strike the first reading of Ordinance No. 130 at the May 2nd Council meeting is because he feels that needs to be tied directly into what the City is going to do as far as an animal shelter or a pound. Mayor Polz said a committee has been put together that's been reviewing that. He said the Animal Control Committee is going to be meeting again and going over what that final ordinance would look like. Mayor Polz said they will discuss what's going to be the expectations for animal control and how the City will go about regarding the in-take of an animal and whether it then transfers to JCAPS or PAWS. He said the City is kind of putting that whole process together right now and that's why he felt the City Council wasn't ready to proceed with Ordinance No. 130.

Sinn said she really appreciates that. She said she thinks there's some dedicated people who have been feeding the cats, capturing them, having them spayed, neutered and getting vaccinations for them. Sinn said she doesn't think there's anybody in Jackson that wants to see just immediately stop feeding these animals and having them starving, sick and dying. She said she thinks there has to be something that can be done. Sinn said she thinks there's a lot of dedicated people that would be willing to pitch in.

Mayor Polz said he thinks there's dedicated people and he thinks there's middle ground that needs to be reviewed ahead. He noted there are business owners that expressed their concerns and when the business owners have their concerns, he has his concerns. Mayor Polz said he also empathizes with people that are the cat lovers. He said the City will strive to find what's going to work the best for both parties. Mayor Polz said if in the end, both parties feel they've been slightly hurt, then he probably feels the City Council made the right choice and decision moving forward. He said when a plan has been put together, then the matter will come back onto the City Council's agenda. Mayor Polz said he imagines it's going to be a compromise that neither side is going to be happy with, and that's what it's going to be, a compromise.

Sinn asked if these cats in this feral community have done any harm downtown or is there some damage or something that business owners are upset about.

Mayor Polz said the City has received complaints. He said there's been people that have sent in photographs where they didn't appreciate the cats walking on their cars. He said the City has heard from people that talk about walking around cat feces or the smell downtown. Mayor Polz said whether that's those people's own perception or that's the reality, he hasn't walked it himself so he doesn't know what to say, but those are the concerns the City has heard.

Mayor Polz said he is listening to Sinn and he and the Council are listening to everyone's concerns. He said the City is working to address the concerns so that way it's going to be, he believes, in the best interest of the community as a whole, with the cat lovers, with the downtown folks and a plan to be put together accordingly.

Sinn said she really appreciated that and thanked Mayor Polz.

Mayor Polz thanked Sinn.

ADJOURNMENT

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

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:24 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Marcus Polz, Mayor

