

AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
May 31, 2022
5:00 p.m.
Jackson City Hall Council Chambers

A regular meeting of the City of Jackson Airport Commission was held in the Council Chambers of the Jackson City Hall at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 with the following persons present: Airport Commission members Paul Clymer, Tom Stoner, Kerry Ella, Marcus Polz and FBO Paul Sanders. Also attending was City Administrator Matt Skaret, Engineer Eric Hanson of HRD and Recording Secretary Dave Maschoff. (Airport Commission Chairman Chris Handevitd and Vice-Chairman Richard Hample were absent.) (A quorum of the Airport Commission was present.)

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

In the absence of Airport Commission Chairman Chris Handevitd and Vice-Chairman Richard Hample, City Administrator Matt Skaret called the regular monthly meeting of the Airport Commission to order.

AIRPORT PROJECT UPDATE WITH ERIC HANSON

Engineer Eric Hanson of HDR reported bids were submitted and opened for the Airport Runway Project. He said the Jackson City Council awarded the bid to Svoboda Excavating of Jackson for the concrete option. Hanson noted the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) has also signed off regarding Svoboda's bid for the concrete option for the new runway.

Hanson said the grant application has been submitted. He said the grant actually has been announced by the FAA and we are just waiting for the grant to make its way through the process. Hanson said the Wheaton, Minnesota airport had a little extra money that will be shifted to the Jackson Airport Project so the request for Airport Discretionary Funds won't be as large.

Hanson said Svoboda Excavating is apparently ahead of schedule on their ditch project. He said he recently spoke with Paul Fishel of Svoboda Excavating who indicated Svoboda's could start dirt work at the airport as early as sometime in June. However, Hanson noted that since discretionary money is being used to fund the Airport Project, no work can start until the grant is physically in the City's hands. Hanson explained with discretionary money, anything that's done before the grant is physically in the City's hands is possibly ineligible for funding. Hanson said no work at the airport can start until the grant is physically in the City's hands.

Hanson said he anticipates certainly by sometime in July, work should begin unless something unforeseen occurs or there's a delay due to wet weather.

Regarding the airport rezoning, Hanson said the zoning ordinance was sent to MnDOT (Minnesota Department of Transportation) to be reviewed. He said he's been in conversations about the rezoning process with MnDOT South Region Planning Staff member John Fleming.

Hanson noted there was one tree stump that wasn't removed among the trees that were cut down in the airport right-of-way easement on Knute and Kaye Meneely's farm north of the airport. He said Thate's Tree Service anticipated returning at the end of this week (May 30th through June 4th) to remove that stump, spread black dirt and level that spot out.

Hanson said Meneely has not yet indicated what type of new trees he would like planted in the area where the old trees were removed in the easement. Hanson said in a recent conversation with him, Meneely indicated he wanted to seed grass prior to planting new trees.

Hanson said Meneely needs to decide soon on what kind of trees he would like so quotes can be received on planting the trees.

Hanson said meetings have been held with Matt Benson and the Fransen's regarding what land at the airport could and couldn't be farmed this year due to the airport project. He said Jacobson-Westegard marked the area where construction work will be taking place and what areas could be, and couldn't be farmed this year.

Hanson said the land farmed by the Fransen's wasn't really affected in a major way. He noted the biggest impact was to the land farmed by Matt Benson.

Skaret asked Hanson if he had information on the number of acres Benson is losing because of the airport project. He said the City will have to give Benson a refund on his farm rent for the acres that cannot be farmed.

Hanson said he didn't have information on the number of acres Benson won't be able to farm. He said the number of acres will be determined.

Hanson noted the City of Jackson is owed about \$26,000 for the hangar project from MnDOT. He said he doesn't know why MnDOT hasn't already paid.

Skaret said it seems that MnDOT lost one of the credit applications that he submitted. He said MnDOT was asking for invoices that were already sent in to them.

Hanson said he isn't sure why MnDOT has been slow in paying what they owe. Hanson said MnDOT still doesn't have an Aeronautics Director hired since Cassandra Isackson retired from that position. He said Ryan Gaug is serving as the Interim Aeronautics Director. Hanson said there are currently a lot of vacancies at MnDOT.

Skaret said there's a lot of money that's being distributed by the Federal Government to the States that's supposed to get funneled down to airports. He said with the various Covid Relief bills and Infrastructure bills that were passed in Washington, there's billions and billions of dollars that are being funneled down to the States. Skaret noted a lot of these funding programs are not written yet.

Hanson concurred with Skaret. He said Minnesota's Channeling Act states that all those Federal funds get routed through the DOT. Hanson said there are so many programs. Hanson said MnDOT had a lot to do before with a small staff and now they have a lot more to do. He said he thinks the MnDOT staff is doing the best they can.

FLY-IN BREAKFAST

Skaret said it's that time of year to start planning for the annual Airport Fly-In Breakfast. He said it's time to make arrangements and get the list together of where to advertise the event.

Skaret said the Airport Commission needs to pick a date for the breakfast. He said he was told the organization that sponsors the annual kite fly at the airport has chosen to hold this year's event on Saturday, September 10th.

FBO Paul Sanders said the Kite Fly and Fly-In breakfast have typically been held the weekend after Labor Day.

Skaret said in the past the Kite Fly has been on Saturday and the Fly-In Breakfast has been held on Sunday.

Skaret said he spoke with Jackson Lions Club member Don Kuehl who said the Lions Club would probably be interested in serving the pancake breakfast again.

Skaret asked the Airport Commission members if the City should plan on having the Fly-In Breakfast on Sunday, September 11th.

It was the consensus of the Airport Commission members to hold the Fly-In Breakfast on September 11th.

Stoner asked who would be sending the flyers out promoting the breakfast.

Skaret said the flyers will be sent out by City staff. He said the breakfast can also be promoted in the Minnesota Flyer's magazine or on Minnesota and Iowa websites catering to pilots.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, STONER/ELLA moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Airport Commission meeting at 5:22 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Recording Secretary

