

May 7, 2024
Jackson, Minnesota

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall and also by Teleconference and Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Marcus Polz. On the roll call, the following persons were present in-person, Mayor Marcus Polz, Alderwoman Sara Mix and Aldermen Mark Titus, Chris Naumann, Nathan Peterson and Joe Pell. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Shelley Oltmans, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Public Works Director Tony Oxborough, Jackson Ambulance Department Director Grant Landbo, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services, Mary Brandt, Bridget Kolander-Gilbert, Area Manager Jason Kjenstad of HDR Engineering, Water Business Development Manager Gabe Laber of HDR Engineering, Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk, Stephen Foster, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff, Joshua Schuetz of the Jackson County Pilot and Mathew 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 in-person and by Zoom and Teleconference recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

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

See and hearing no unscheduled guests, Mayor Polz said the Council would move onto the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Polz entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

Council Discussion Items

MARY BRANDT – FLOWER BOXES ON MAIN STREET

Mayor Polz welcomed Mary Brandt to the Council meeting.

Brandt said she was attending the Council meeting because she has extended an invitation to the Downtown Jackson merchants to participate in a beautification project. She explained the project would consist of merchants placing flower pots along the front of their businesses. Brandt said the flower pots are 12-inch by 24-inch rectangular plastic flower pots. She said Michael Dahlin from Bob's Fleet Supply in Jackson ordered the flower pots for the merchants. Brandt said Dave and Laura Stubbe at the Flower Market planted the flower pots which are currently in their greenhouse and growing.

Brandt said there were about 20 to 25 flower pots that were committed to by downtown merchants to place outside their doors for the summer.

Brandt said she was attending the City Council meeting requesting the Council's approval for the downtown merchants to place the flower pots in front of their businesses.

Brandt said the purpose of the flower pots is to draw some beauty to downtown and make it a welcome and inviting place for people to come. She said the flower boxes would be outside of each individual business's storefront. Brandt explained each business would be responsible for maintaining the flower boxes and watering them. She noted each business is also responsible for purchasing the flower boxes.

Brandt said once the summer season is over, the flowers boxes will be removed from the sidewalks in front of the stores and returned back to the Flower Market greenhouse for the winter. She noted the flowers used in the flower boxes will be annual flowers so their use will be done at the end of the summer season.

Brandt said hopefully the flower boxes will be used by businesses annually and any other businesses will be welcomed each year to join in on the project moving forward.

Alderswoman Sara Mix said she loved the idea of the flower boxes.

MIX/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve allowing flower boxes to be placed in front of businesses in Downtown Jackson.

Mayor Polz thanked Brandt for attending the meeting.

BRIDGET KOLANDER-GILBERT AND JESSICA PEDERSON REGARDING FUNDRAISING EVENT ON JUNE 9, 2024

Bridget Kolander-Gilbert said on Sunday, June 9th, from 11 a.m. to possibly 6 or 7 p.m., plans are to have a community cook-out as a fundraiser for the Madden Hein family.

Kolander-Gilbert explained plans include having the cook-out along with family-oriented activities. She said the family-oriented activities include having a bouncy house, maybe a dunk tank and those types of activities. Kolander-Gilbert said planning for those activities is still underway.

Kolander-Gilbert said she was requesting approval from the City Council to close Sherman Street from the alley on the north side of her business down to First Street and from the intersection of Sherman and First Street to Ashley Street in front of the Jackson American Legion. She noted she had already talked with Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken who approved of the street closings.

City Clerk Dave Maschoff said he had spoken earlier in the day to Kolander-Gilbert and Pederson. He said just to clarify, there will be no liquor served or carried out onto the street. Maschoff said the outdoor activities will just include the cookout and family activities.

Mayor Polz entertained a motion to approve the requested street closures.

MIX/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the street closures on Sunday, June 9th, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sherman Street from the alley north of Bridget's Bucksnots Bru Ha Ha and Grill to the intersection of Sherman and First Street and closing First Street from the intersection of Sherman and First Street to Ashley Street in front of the Jackson American Legion.

In regards to the street closures, Kolander-Gilbert also asked for use of the City's picnic tables.

Mayor Polz said there shouldn't be any issue for using the City's picnic tables.

Public Works Director Tony Oxborough asked Kolander-Gilbert to coordinate with him regarding the street closures and bringing the City's 25 picnic tables down to the site of the fundraising event.

Mix said the City will make it happen.

Kolander-Gilbert said volunteers will also help Oxborough in bringing the picnic tables to the fundraising event.

BRIDGET KOLANDER-GILBERT – RHYTHM OF THE RIVER ON JULY 12TH AND 13TH, 2024

Kolander-Gilbert said Rhythm of the River will be held on July 12th and July 13th at Fort Belmont. She said she was requesting permission to serve alcohol on July 12th and 13th on a contractual basis with the Rhythm of the River organization under the Rhythm of the River's Temporary Liquor License. Kolander-Gilbert said the hours of operation will be from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight on Friday, July 12th and from 12 noon to 12 midnight on Saturday, July 13th. She said the same protocols would be in place as have been used before.

TITUS/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Temporary Liquor License for the Rhythm of the River organization for the Rhythm of the River event at Fort Belmont on Friday, July 12th from 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. and on Saturday, July 13th, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Kolander-Gilbert thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers.

PRESENTATION BY HDR ENGINEERING

Mayor Polz welcomed HDR Area Manager Jason Kjenstad and HDR Water Business Development Manager Gabe Laber to the Council meeting.

Kjenstad thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers for inviting them to the meeting. He said he and Laber's goal was to give the Council an introduction to what HDR is, what engineering services they provide and the HDR staff.

Kjenstad said HDR was founded in 1917 with their corporate headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. He said since that time, HDR has branched out to have offices in all 50 states of the U.S. Kjenstad said HDR also works globally in about 40 different countries. He said HDR has about 12,500 employees in 250 offices around the United States. Kjenstad said HDR works in most market sectors of the engineering business. He said HDR is a full-service engineering company.

Kjenstad and Laber proceeded to outline the services HDR can provide and provided photographs of some of the project HDR has been involved with. Laber also explained the contract for services that HDR offers.

Kjenstad said HDR would certainly like to do work for the City of Jackson.

Mayor Polz and Councilmembers thanked Kjenstad and Laber for their presentation.

RECOMMENDATION TO CREATE 3 FULL-TIME PARAMEDIC POSITIONS FOR THE AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

Jackson Ambulance Director Grant Landbo said he was looking for the City Council's approval to open up three full-time paramedic positions and to hire people to fill those positions.

Landbo said it will probably be a two-month turnaround time from when the positions are posted to hiring people to fill the positions and they're ready to work.

Landbo explained the three things hiring three full-time paramedics will do. He said it will help bring in more revenue for the Ambulance Department. Landbo said currently the Ambulance Department is a Basic Life Support only service. He explained just on normal 911 calls, the Ambulance Department will see at least a seven percent increase in revenue as an ALS (Advanced Life Support) service and hopefully retain more money.

Landbo said having three full-time paramedics will provide a better quality of care for residents. He said currently there's a lot of services the Ambulance Department can't provide as a Basic Life Support-only service that they could provide at the Advanced Life Support level. Landbo said it will provide better care for residents who live here.

Landbo said hiring three full-time paramedics will also help with the Ambulance Department's massive staffing deficient. He explained the Ambulance Department is critically short over 700 hours a month on staffing and the hiring of three paramedics will help alleviate most of that.

Landbo said on April 29th, the Ambulance Advisory Board approved the recommendation to create three full-time paramedic positions. He said the Personnel and Finance Committees also approved the recommendation on May 6th.

Mayor Polz said he understands that this recommendation is projected to actually be under budget for this year.

Landbo said that was correct.

Peterson noted there's a lot of people graduating from college at this time of the year and it's a great time to post the paramedic positions as people are looking to relocate.

Mayor Polz asked Landbo to elaborate about Community Para-Medicine Services.

Landbo explained one of the Ambulance Department's long-term strategic plans is to incorporate Community Para-Medicine. He said the idea behind Community Para-Medicine is to fill the void of being in somewhat of a health-care island.

Through Community Para-Medicine, Landbo explained anyone that's at risk of being admitted into a nursing home or at risk of being re-admitted to a hospital can be cared for in their home, out of the hospital.

Landbo said in 2016, the Affordable Care Act was passed which switched payment structures and incentivized hospitals to be reimbursed for quality of care rather than for fees for services and to keep people out of the hospital and not to run a bunch of tests, provide a bunch of treatments and the like. He explained currently hospitals are massively penalized if patients go back and are re-admitted and cannot stay out of the hospital. Landbo said hospitals are limited. He explained they're the hospital and they don't go to the patient's home. He said that's where the Community Para-Medicine comes in. Landbo said Minnesota is the only State that he knows of that allows Community Para-Medicine to bill Medicaid for those services. He said all the other states in the Country start Community Para-Medicine pilot programs funded by grants. Landbo said the grant money runs out after a couple of years and then the Community Para-Medicine Program shuts down. Landbo said patient providers can also prescribe Community Para-Medicine Services to people in Minnesota and that would allow the Ambulance Department to get paid by private insurance like Blue Cross/Blue Shield for those services.

Landbo said starting Community Para-Medicine Services is a plan for one to two years from now. He said there's certainly a need for that type of service in the community. Landbo said the Ambulance Department doesn't have an overwhelming number of calls for service, so what can the Ambulance Service provide the community during the times when they're not doing calls that fills the void. He said providing the Community Para-Medicine is a solution to fill that void.

Titus asked how hiring three full-time paramedics would change the Ambulance Department.

Landbo explained currently the Ambulance Department is a Basic Life Support Service which is either two EMT's on the Ambulance or an EMT and an EMR. He explained they cannot provide any medication for pain, cannot provide any cardiac medications, cannot do cardiac monitoring and cannot do cardiac procedures. Landbo said there's some airway adjuncts they can use but not the full amount that a paramedic can do. He said they're limited to epinephrine, oxygen, aspirin and nitro for medications.

Landbo said providing Advanced Life Support will be quite an enhancement in services from Basic Life Support. He noted there's a lot of manufacturing in Jackson and the community has a lot of people aging at home. Landbo said the Ambulance Department really needs to provide a higher level of care that most of the Country has right now.

Titus asked if the staff the Ambulance Service currently has can provide the Advanced Life Support service of care.

Landbo said the current staff can provide Advanced Life Support services if they're working with a paramedic. He said by hiring three full-time paramedics, none of the Ambulance Department's part-time employees will lose hours. Landbo said there are enough hours open that as long as the Ambulance Department doesn't hire anymore part-time EMT's, the current part-time staff will not lose any hours and all of their hours will be protected. He said same thing holds true with the Ambulance Department's volunteer EMT's. Landbo said the hiring of three paramedics will be a nice addition and will compliment what the Jackson Ambulance Department currently has very well.

Mix said she appreciated Landbo's forward thinking. She said what Landbo is doing for Jackson is exactly what the City Council hoped he would do and the fact that he's adding to the Ambulance Service instead of taking away is a huge win for the community.

MIX/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the recommendation to create three full-time Paramedic Positions for the Ambulance Department.

Mayor Polz thanked Landbo for his presentation.

Landbo thanked Mayor Polz and Councilmembers.

WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT ON FIFTH STREET

Public Works Director Tony Oxborough said he wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to update some water main in conjunction with the new Government Services and Law Enforcement Center construction project. He explained the County is updating the connection between an 8-inch and 4-inch water main. Oxborough said the 4-inch water main to the south of the connection will be abandoned. He said he wants to continue the replacement of water main to the intersection of Fifth and Sherman Streets. He said the cost would be no more than \$15,000 by Svoboda Excavating.

Oxborough said the water main update was not budgeted for, but he does have the money in the Water and Sewer Budget to pay for it. He said the cost of the asphalt being replaced at the intersection of Fifth and Sherman will be a part of the County's project.

MIX/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Water Main Replacement on Fifth Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-0524 DESIGNATING THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CITY OF JACKSON AS A MEMBER OF MISSOURI BASIN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY D/B/A MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES

TITUS/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 20-0524 designating the authorized representative for the City of Jackson as a member of Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency d/b/a Missouri River Energy Services.

City Attorney Brad Anderson noted that a person had to be designated for Resolution No. 20-0524.

Oltmans noted she had received an email requesting updating the authorized representative since former City Administrator Matt Skaret has left.

TITUS/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to amend the motion to designate City Administrator Shelley Oltmans as the authorized representative and Alderman Joe Pell as the alternate representative for the City of Jackson as a member of Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency d/b/a Missouri River Energy Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-0524 – DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION FOR WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Mayor Polz entertained a motion to designate City Administrator Shelley Oltmans as authorized representative and Alderman Joe Pell as the City of Jackson’s alternate representative for the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency.

MIX/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 21-0524 authorizing and appointing City Administrator Shelley Oltmans as the representative and Alderman Joe Pell as the alternative representative of the City of Jackson, Minnesota to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of the Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA).

MAYOR’S PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Mayor Polz said he had a Proclamation regarding the National Day of Prayer which was observed on Thursday, May 2nd. He noted individuals gathered outside at the flag pole at the Jackson County Courthouse. Mayor Polz said he read the Proclamation at that gathering as people gathered together for prayer.

Mayor Polz read a Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer.

WHEREAS: *Throughout history America has faced trials and triumphs, and Americans have responded in prayer seeking courage and comfort, inspiration and joy-filled celebration. Faith compels us to seek and cling to the Light in times of darkness and spread light to those in need.*

WHEREAS: *From the first gatherings of our Founding Fathers, elected officials have prayed and entreated those they serve and represent to join them in prayer, including the authors of our Declaration of Independence, wrote that they, “the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world...” and carried on to present day in Presidential Proclamations such as last year’s invitation to “join him in asking for God’s continued guidance, mercy and protection.”, and*

WHEREAS: *A National Day of Prayer has not only been a part of our heritage since it was declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775, but it is a Public Law established in the United States Congress in 1952 approved by a Joint Resolution and amended by Congress and President Reagan with Public Law 100-307 in 1988, affirming that it is essential for us as a nation to pray and directs the President of the United States to set aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May annually as the National Day of Prayer; and*

WHEREAS: *In every state across America the observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, with the theme, "Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World," based on the verses found in 2 Samuel 22:29-31, "For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness...This God-his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him." and*

WHEREAS: *Unified prayer is mobilized across America every first Thursday of May on the National Day of Prayer as neighbors come together to join their hearts and voices in reading sacred Scriptures and attending services to seek God for the City and Country where we live, learn, work, worship, serve, and desire all to thrive; and*

WHEREAS: *We express our faith and exercise our freedom in prayer, then unite our hearts and voices in personal prayer and public gatherings across America with fervent praise, repentance, love, and humble intercession for our neighbor and nation, holding fast to the promises throughout the Holy Scriptures that the Lord hears and avails much as He answers the faith-filled prayers of His people.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARCUS POLZ, MAYOR of the CITY OF JACKSON, MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the CITY OF JACKSON and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2024, as a National Day of Prayer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

Mayor Polz said he had another important Proclamation designating May 19th to May 25th, 2024 as Emergency Medical Services Week. He noted the theme of this year's EMS Week is honoring our past, forging our future.

Mayor Polz read:

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are a vital public service, and
WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and
WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and
WHEREAS, emergency medical services have grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating the Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, I, Marcus Polz, Mayor of Jackson, Minnesota, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 19 through the 25th, 2024, as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

The 50th Anniversary of EMS Week theme is **EMS WEEK: HONORING OUR PAST, FORGING OUR FUTURE**. I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Signed: Marcus Polz, Mayor of Jackson, Minnesota.

Other:

Alderman Joe Pell

Alderman Joe Pell said he and City Administrator Shelley Oltmans had discussed the former Coast to Coast building and what the City wants to do with that building. Pell reported there's some old appliances in the building that need to be disposed of.

Pell asked Councilmembers if the City wanted to seek bids from scrap metal operators to remove those items or could he go ahead and contact somebody about removing those appliances so the City doesn't have that cost. He asked what the best course of action would be.

City Attorney Brad Anderson said it's the City's property so the City can do what they want with it.

Mix said the items in the building are not City surplus items. She said the City inherited those items.

Attorney Anderson concurred with Mix.

Pell said there quite a few items in the building. He said there's a lot of freezers, TV's, microwaves, bathroom fixtures and other items.

Peterson said there's probably enough items to fill two semi-trailers.

Attorney Anderson asked if there would be any risk of someone injuring themselves if they go into the building to remove items.

Pell said he and Peterson went into the building about two or three weeks ago and the place is a mess. He said the roof leaks and there were puddles of water all over in the building.

Pell said he had an individual in mind that may be able to remove the items in the building. He asked Attorney Anderson, Mayor Polz and Councilmembers if it would be OK for him to contact the individual to remove the items from the building.

Attorney Anderson said it would be OK for Pell to contact the individual to see if he would remove the unwanted items from the building.

Pell said after the items are removed, the City Council should probably decide on what they want to do with the building.

Mix said she agrees with disposing of the items in the building if someone is willing to take them, but questioned whether it's safe for someone to enter the building.

Pell said the floor in the building is very sturdy.

Oltmans suggested having the City's Building Inspector Harry Jenness go inside the building and determine if it would be safe for someone to go in and clean out the appliances and other items. She noted the City has a structural engineering report that states the building is structurally sound.

Mix suggested having the person that will clean out the building sign a waiver.

Attorney Anderson said he spoke with Economic Development Director Wendy Anderson who is working to see if there's some grant money available to determine if the City has options to deal with the former Coast to Coast building. But, he said, it's going to take some time and time is not on our side because of the leaking roof.

Alderman Nathan Peterson

Alderman Nathan Peterson noted the City has owned the former Erickson Truck Sales lot along South Highway 71 in Jackson for a year. He said there's been no direction and was curious on what the City is going to do with that lot. Peterson said he was wondering if the Trails Committee or Parks Board should get on board to figure out what to do with the lot because it's just sitting there. He said a plan needs to be developed.

Mayor Polz said, initially last year, it was decided to let the lot sit for a year because it was going to be utilized for storing materials during the street reconstruction project and then the future use of the lot would be re-evaluated. He said this is a good time to evaluate what the City is going to do with it.

Pell, a member of the Park Board, said he doesn't know if the Park Board wants to have another park to take care off.

Oltmans said she spoke with Public Works Director Tony Oxborough about the former Erickson Truck Sales lot. She suggested allowing some time for options to be looked at by City Staff and then brought forward before putting a plan together for that property.

Peterson asked if a letter could be sent to Jackson County asking that Springfield Parkway between Park Street and Highway 71 at Riverside Elementary be designated as a School Zone. He said the letter would be to support the Jackson County Central School District's request to designate that portion of Springfield Parkway, which is a County road, as a School Zone.

Peterson explained the School District has been trying for three years to have the County designate Springfield Parkway from Park Street to Highway 71 as a School Zone. He said the County keeps delaying the designation. Peterson said he's had some schoolboard members ask if the City would support the School District's efforts.

Mayor Polz said the Letter of Support from the City could be added to the next City Council agenda.

Alderman Mark Titus

Alderman Mark Titus asked if there was any update regarding the former Prairie Winds Motel.

City Attorney Brad Anderson said May 15th is when the Court will consider the case. He said at this point, both sides in the case have filed a brief. Attorney Anderson said there's a three-judge Court of Appeals to review the case. He said there will be no oral arguments and the Court of Appeals will look solely on the written briefs that have been filed.

City Administrator Shelley Oltmans

City Administrator Shelley Oltmans said she was proposing some changes regarding discussion items at City Council meetings.

Oltmans proposed the City Council hold workshops to discuss items that the Council was not looking to take immediate action on. She said the workshops would allow the Council to discuss issues without feeling as those they needed to take immediate action. Oltmans said that would also allow for City Staff to gather more information if the City Council would like more information on an issue.

Oltmans said the City Council could hold workshops before the regular Council meeting, they could hold a workshop after the Council meeting or have the workshop on a separate night. She said the workshops allows the Councilmembers to have discussions without feeling a decision has to be made at that meeting. Oltmans said it also keeps the business meeting portion of the Council meeting shorter, compact and more business focused.

Mix asked about the purpose of the workshops when items have already been discussed by the City Council's various Committees and Commissions who make recommendations to the Council. She asked whether Oltmans was proposing to dissolve Committees. Mix asked about the addition of another meeting when Councilmembers already have way too many meetings.

Oltmans said the idea is to take the current City Council meeting and cut that down so the business portion of the meeting is shorter, more compact and making decisions when you've had the time to discuss the issues ahead of time in the workshop sessions.

Mix said the Committees make recommendations to the City Council and the Council reviews the recommendations and makes decisions on that. She said the Council's agenda is provided ahead of the Council meeting in case Councilmembers have any questions. Mix said she's not against change but doesn't want to have another meeting for the sake of having another meeting. Mix said the Council relies strongly on their Committees.

Attorney Anderson noted the workshops allows the Council to take a deeper dive on issues or recommendations from the Committees.

Following further discussion, Mix proposed leaving things as they currently are. Mix said not that things can't be changed, but she would like Oltmans to have a little bit more time as City Administrator before the Council makes any big changes. She said adjustments can be made, but to hold off doing any major changes to the process of the Council meetings at this time.

Oltmans said she doesn't want to be surprised by things that are put on the agenda as the City Administrator without having background information on the topic. She said that's the idea of having the time to discuss an item at the workshop in order to have City Staff gather background information.

Oltmans also suggested having liaisons from the Committees to report to the Council on the major things their Committee discussed that eventually may be coming in front of the City Council. She said that currently could be added under “Other” on the Council’s agenda.

City Attorney Brad Anderson

City Attorney Brad Anderson said that a big portion of the former Erickson Truck Sales lot is in the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s right-of-way. He noted there’s not a whole lot of flat ground that can be built on at that location.

On another note, Attorney Anderson said the berm or buffer at the City’s housing site was discussed at the May 7th JEDC (Jackson Economic Development Corporation) meeting. He said he thinks the City Council already took action on that in which the City exchanged about three acres with the JEDC to have a buffer and that value would be credited to their development.

Mayor Marcus Polz

Mayor Marcus Polz reported last week he had the opportunity to welcome a lot of people from AGCO and other agricultural industries for the grand opening of the Fendt Lodge. He said several hundred people attended the grand opening and it was really, really exciting for the community.

Mayor Polz said AGCO is looking at bringing in 8,500 visitors to the Fendt Lodge for the remainder of this year. He said AGCO noted they already have 10,000 people scheduled to visit the Fendt Lodge next year. Mayor Polz said that’s just the beginning of some of the things the Fendt Lodge will have underway at their facility.

Mayor Polz said the Fendt Lodge is now open to the public and invited people to stop in and take a look at it.

On another note, Mayor Polz showed everyone the award the City received two weeks ago at the Minnesota Airports Conference at Breezy Point, Minnesota. He said the City was presented the award for the Project of the Year for the Intermediate Small General Aviation Airport for the participation of the State, contractor Svoboda Excavating and consultants HDR Engineering. Mayor Polz said the award was neat for the community as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Polz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MIX/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Polz said the City Council meeting was now adjourned.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Marcus Polz, Mayor

