

Jackson, Minnesota
November 13, 2020

The Jackson City Council met in-person and via Zoom/Teleconference at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13, 2020 in the City Council Chambers of City Hall to canvass the municipal election results from the General Election held on November 3, 2020. The meeting was 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 and Dave Cushman. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, Marcus Polz and City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff. Aldermen attending the meeting via Zoom included Aldermen Jeffrey Gay and Nate Peterson. Others attending via Zoom included City Attorney Brad Anderson and Nicole Hall.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Wayne Walter called the City Council meeting to order to canvass the municipal election results from the General Election held on November 3, 2020 along with other items on the agenda. On the roll call, Mayor Walter noted all Councilmembers were present either in-person or via Zoom.

Council Discussion Items

REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 43-1120: CANVASS OF JACKSON MUNICIPAL ELECTION THAT WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020

City Clerk Dave Maschoff referred to the abstract from the Jackson County Auditor's Office regarding the municipal election held in Jackson on November 3, 2020. Maschoff noted copies of the abstract were provided to Mayor Walter and the City Councilmembers.

Reading from the abstract, Maschoff said the number of persons registered as of 7:00 a.m. on November 3, 2020 was 1,954 in the City of Jackson. He said the number of persons who registered to vote on Election Day in the City of Jackson was 115.

Maschoff reported the number of accepted regular, military, and overseas absentee ballots and mail ballots was 727. He noted a lot of people voted before Election Day.

Maschoff said the number of federal office only absentee ballots were 5 and the total number of persons voting in Jackson was 1,793.

Maschoff reported there was a great voter turnout setting a record in the City of Jackson. He noted there was an over 92 percent turnout in Ward One and about a 91-and-a-half percent voter turnout in Ward Two.

Maschoff said in taking a look at the City Councilmember elections, in Ward One, Nicole Hall received 429 votes, Michael More received 365, Brandon Finck received 473 and there were 15 write-in votes.

Maschoff said in Ward Two for City Council, Marcus Polz received 447 votes, Nathan Peterson had 390 and there were 5 write-in votes.

Maschoff reviewed the break-down of the voting in Ward One. He noted there were 964 registered voters in Ward One with 56 people registering to vote on Election Day. He said the total number of persons voting in Ward One totaled 888. Maschoff said in Ward Two, there were 990 registered voters with 59 voters registering to vote on Election Day. He said the total number of persons voting in Ward Two totaled 905.

Taking a look at the totals, Maschoff said there were 1,954 persons who were registered to vote as of 7 a.m. on Election Day with a total of 115 persons who registered to vote on Election Day. He said the total number of persons voting in the City of Jackson totaled 1,793.

Maschoff said in Precinct Jackson Ward One, Nicole Hall received 429 votes, Michael More received 365 votes, Brandon Finck received 473 and there were 15 write-in votes. He said in Precinct Jackson Ward Two, Marcus Polz received 447 votes, Nathan Peterson received 390 votes and there were 5 write-in votes.

Maschoff asked the Canvass Board Members to be sure to sign the abstract before they left the canvassing meeting so it can be put on file.

Maschoff then referred to and read Resolution No. 43-1120. He read ***Be It Hereby Resolved*** by the City Council of the City of Jackson that the results of the municipal election held on November 3, 2020, have been canvassed by the City Council and showed the following results:

First Ward Council Person, four-year term, Nicole Hall, 429 votes, 33.46 percent; Michael More, 365 votes, 28.47 percent; Brandon Finck, 473 votes, 36.90 percent and write-ins, 15 votes for 1.17 percent.

Second Ward Council Person, four-year term, Marcus Polz, 447 votes, 53.09 percent; Nathan Peterson, 390 votes, 46.32 percent; and write-ins, 5 votes, .59 percent.

Be It Further Resolved that the following persons be declared as elected for the terms indicated:

First Ward Council Person (four-year term) Nicole Hall

First Ward Council Person (four -year term) Brandon Finck

Second Ward Council Person (four-year term) Marcus Polz

Duly passed, adopted and approved this 13th day of November, 2020.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 43-1120: Canvass of the Jackson Municipal General Election results from the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Maschoff thanked Mayor Walter.

LIQUOR LICENSE FEE REIMBURSEMENTS DUE TO COVID-19

Skaret said the City Council touched on this agenda item briefly at the City's Council's November 5th meeting and it was tabled to the November 13th Council meeting.

Skaret noted its liquor license renewal time. He said there have been a few requests from businesses with City liquor licenses about some sort of refund or reduction in fees on the licenses.

Skaret gave the Mayor and City Councilmembers a snapshot of where the City is at. He said the City can use CARES Act funds for this type of purpose regarding liquor licenses. Skaret said some cities are doing that. To date, he said \$250,517 of the City of Jackson's CARES funding has been spoken for. Skaret said the City's total amount of CARES funding was \$256,684. He said there's a little bit of funding still available if the City Council wants to do something regarding liquor licenses.

Skaret said the Finance Committee had also talked about sending the balance of the CARES Act funding that was left over to the Chamber of Commerce who had some ideas. He said it's up to the City Council if they want to refund or reimburse a portion of the license fee. Skaret noted there were about two months this year where the liquor establishments were totally or partially closed down.

Skaret said the City Council can do what they want, but noted about setting precedent. He said the Covid pandemic is obviously going to continue on into 2021. Skaret said it's unknown right now what's going to be coming down from the federal and state governments as far as additional funds for businesses or state and local governments. He said to keep that in mind. Skaret said there's a lot up in the air for 2021.

Finck asked how much revenue does the City generate from issuing the liquor licenses.

Skaret said the City generates a total of \$17,500 from the liquor licenses they issue annually. He explained a regular on-sale liquor license is \$2,000.

Finck noted the liquor establishments were closed for two months and then were 50 percent capacity for the rest of this period. He said the liquor establishment businesses were affected for about eight months out of the year. Finck said going forward for 2021, it looks like we're in the same boat right now based on the Governor's conversations last Thursday (November 5th).

Finck noted there's about \$6,000 remaining in CARES Funding. He said the Chamber of Commerce had about a \$3,000 proposal for some grant funding they wanted to use. Finck suggested \$3,000 of the \$6,000 of remaining CARES Act funding go towards the Chamber of Commerce which leaves \$3,000 left. Finck said based on that, what he would love to see done is about a \$5,500 kick-in from the City and it could be done as a credit towards next year's liquor licenses verses a reimbursement. He the liquor license cost could be lowered for the businesses going into next year and use it that way.

Finck noted the \$5,500 from the City and the remaining \$3,000 of CARES Act funding for a total of about \$8,500 which would about that 50 percent of capacity for so many months and then the two months of being shut-down. He said that's how he would look at that. Finck said that was his opinion.

Skaret asked if Finck is looking at doing a \$5,500 credit?

Finck said yes plus \$3,000 from the CARES Act for a total of about \$8,500.

Skaret asked if the action would be to spread it evenly among the on-sale liquor licenses.

Finck said there would be a reduction in the liquor license costs for the 2021 license.

Cushman asked how many vendors would that affect?

Skaret said it would affect about six or eight.

Cushman said a reduction in 2021 liquor license fees could be spread out evenly among the vendors.

Alderman Anderson asked if there would be any reductions in fees for the off-sale liquor licenses.

Skaret said the off-sale businesses weren't affected by the shutdowns. He noted the City has only two off-sale licenses which cost \$150.

FINCK moved with Cushman seconding to put \$8,500 towards the liquor license reimbursements for 2021 in the City of Jackson.

Mayor Walter asked if there were any questions or comments before voting on the motion.

Alderman Anderson asked, under the guidelines, if the CARES Act funds could be used for a credit instead of a reimbursement.

Skaret said he believes the City can do that. He would check on that.

Cushman asked if there was a timeline when the CARES Act funds had to be spent. He asked if the City was spending the CARES Act funds today or for a credit for next year.

Skaret suggested it would be best, just to be safe, to do the credit almost as a reimbursement because the CARES Act funds have to be spent by November 15th.

Finck said he would amend his motion that the \$3,000 in CARES Act funds be a reimbursement and the City's funding of \$5,500 be used as a credit towards next year's liquor licenses.

Cushman said he would second the amended motion.

Mayor Walter noted there's a new motion that's been amended that it's the CARES Act funds that's going to be reimbursed now and the City's funding of \$5,500 becomes a credit on liquor licenses in 2021.

Mayor Walter asked for a vote to the amendment.

Alderman Matt Madden, Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Jeffrey Gay, Nathan Peterson and Dave Cushman all voted in favor of the amendment to the motion.

Mayor Walter said the amendment carries.

Mayor Walter said the Council would proceed to vote on the amended motion. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mayor Walter said seeing none, the Council would proceed to vote.

FINCK/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried that \$3,000 in CARES Act funds be used as a reimbursement now and the City's funding of \$5,500 be used as a credit towards next year's liquor licenses.

HOLIDAY FEST FIREWORKS FUNDING

Skaret said the Chamber of Commerce is planning to hold their annual Holiday Fest Fireworks display on December 5th. He said typically the Chamber and the City split the cost.

Skaret said the total cost is about \$3,200. He said the City's share is half of that amount at \$1,600.

Skaret explained a proposal was made that given the Chamber is hurting due to Covid, that the City pay one hundred percent of the cost of this year's fireworks, rather than a 50/50 split.

Finck asked with Governor Walz's new guidelines issued last week, is the City able to go forward with having the fireworks display? He said he's fine with the suggestion of the City paying for the entire cost of the fireworks display, but the Chamber or City needs to make sure that it's an allowed event within the Governor's guidelines.

Skaret said there's a lot of gray area there. He the Governor's guidelines limits events to 150 people. Skaret said the question is how do you count that?

Skaret said he thinks there's a lot of gray area and unanswered questions as it pertains to the Governor's most recent order. He said if the Council wants, they can approve a motion contingent upon further research that the event can be still held.

FINCK/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried that the City fund the 2020 Holiday Fest Fireworks Display subject that the event complies with Governor Walz's order.

CARES ACT FUNDS

Skaret noted this agenda item was already been taken of earlier in the meeting. He said he doesn't think any more action is needed.

Skaret suggested that after the \$3,000 for the reimbursement on the liquor licenses, the Council make a motion to use the balance of the remaining CARES Act funds as a further donation to the Jackson Chamber of Commerce.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried that the remaining CARES Act funds would be donated to the Jackson Chamber of Commerce.

ACCEPT PART-TIME LIQUOR STORE CLERK JASON BENJAMIN'S RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 30TH, 2020 AND AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING AND HIRING OF TWO PART-TIME CLERKS

Skaret reported one of the liquor store's part-time clerks, Jason Benjamin, submitted his letter of resignation on November 12th, 2020.

Skaret said speaking with Liquor Store Manager Michelle Bratrud, the City Council needs to accept Benjamin's letter of resignation with regrets and authorize the advertisement to hire two part-time clerks.

ANDERSON/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to accept part-time liquor store clerk Jason Benjamin's resignation with regrets effective November 30th, 2020 and authorize the advertising and hiring of two part-time clerks.

Other:

Mayor Wayne Walter

Mayor Walter said he wanted to extend his congratulations to Nicole Hall, Marcus Polz and Brandon Finck. He said he's glad to have new Councilmembers Hall and Polz joining the Council and to have Brandon Finck return to continue serving on the Council.

Mayor Walter also thanked Alderman Matt Madden and Alderman Nathan Peterson for their service on the City Council.

Skaret also thanked Madden and Peterson for their service on the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the City Council meeting at 12:20 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

