

**October 4, 2022
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, October 4, 2022 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Wayne Walter. On the roll call, the following persons were present in-person, Mayor Wayne Walter and Aldermen Jerome Palmer, Brandon Finck, Nathan Peterson and Marcus Polz. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Marty Siefert of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, Jay Moore of the JCC High School CEO Program, Senior Principal Engineer Wes Brown of Bolton and Menk, Engineer Eric Hanson of HDR, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Community and Business Development Specialist Dave Schmidt of Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA), Jackson Fire Chief Dave Bond, First Assistant Fire Chief and Park Board Chairman Michael Haeffner, Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services, Doreen Goeman, Mike Schwartz, Mark Titus, Stephen Foster, Joe Pell, Jeff Johnson, Pastor Eunice Woodberry of Salem Lutheran Church in Jackson and Belmont Lutheran Church, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff and Josh Schuetz of the Jackson County Pilot. Attending the meeting via Teleconference and Zoom were Pam Nelson and Mathew Grisham of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (Aldermen Dave Cushman and Michael More were absent.) (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walter 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 Walter called the regular meeting of the Jackson City Council to order. He said the roll call showed that Alderman Dave Cushman and Alderman Michael More were not present.

There was no Public Hearing, Bid Lettings or Open Forum.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Walter entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Alderman Polz asked to pull Consent Agenda Item 7(E), Accept Assistant Liquor Store Manager Wyatt Engler's resignation effective October 7th, 2022 and Consent Agenda Item 7(K), Liquor Committee Recommendation – Postpone hiring an Assistant Liquor Store Manager for three months and authorize advertising for two Part-Time Liquor Store Clerks.

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented except for Consent Agenda Item 7(E), Accept Assistant Liquor Store Manager Wyatt Engler's resignation effective October 7th, 2022 and Consent Agenda Item 7(K), Liquor Committee Recommendation – Postpone hiring an Assistant Liquor Store Manager for three months and authorize advertising for two Part-Time Liquor Store Clerks.

Regarding the resignation of Assistant Liquor Store Manager Wyatt Engler, Polz said he wanted the City Council to accept Engler's resignation with regrets. He said Engler did a really good job at the Liquor Store and wanted to make sure that was known.

Pertaining to Consent Agenda Item 7(K), Polz said he just wanted to get some clarification from City Administrator Skaret on the reason for postponing hiring an Assistant Manager for three months and when the City will be looking to fill that position.

Skaret explained there's some internal staffing matters that need to be addressed at the Liquor Store. He said the Liquor Committee will re-evaluate in three months.

Polz thanked Skaret for the explanation.

Mayor Walter asked for a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 7(E) and 7(K).

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Consent Agenda Item 7(E), Accept Assistant Liquor Store Manager Wyatt Engler's resignation with regrets effective October 7th, 2022 and Consent Agenda Item 7(K), Liquor Committee Recommendation – Postpone hiring an Assistant Liquor Store Manager for three months and authorize advertising for two Part-Time Liquor Store Clerks.

Unscheduled Guests:

Mayor Walter asked if there were any unscheduled guests in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Walter again asked if there were any unscheduled guests in the Council Chambers.

Seeing none, Mayor Walter said the meeting would proceed with Council Discussion items.

Council Discussion Items

MARTY SIEFERT – COALITION OF GREATER MINNESOTA CITIES UPDATE

Marty Seifert said he works with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities whose membership includes 109 cities outside of the Twin Cities metro area. He said the City of Jackson has been a long-time member and good supporter of the Coalition.

Seifert referred to a handout that was distributed to Mayor Walter and Councilmembers before the Council meeting outlining the final outcomes of Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities' priorities during the 2022 Minnesota Legislative Session.

Seifert said Local Government Aid (LGA) was a top priority of the Coalition during the 2022 State Legislative Session. He said the Coalition proposed a \$90 million dollar increase in LGA, but the tax bill agreement did not make it to the House floor this year. Seifert said the result is cities will have a frozen LGA appropriation.

Seifert said another priority was more than \$299 million in bonding and additional State funding for Public Facilities Authority water infrastructure programs, but no bonding bill was approved.

Seifert said regarding funding for lead line mapping and replacement grants, no funding was approved because there was no health and human services bill passed.

Seifert said a goal of \$10 million in bonding and \$10 million in the General Fund for the Child Care Facilities Grant Program went nowhere because there was no bonding bill. He said a goal of having \$5 million of funding for the DEED Child Care Grant Program for training and business development ended with the Jobs bill agreement not making it to the House floor.

Seifert said a total of \$210 million in funding was approved for expanding broadband in the State with \$50 million in State funding and \$160 million in Federal funding.

Seifert there were no bonding bills approved by the Legislature which would have funded the Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program (BDPI), the Greater Minnesota Housing Fix-Up Fund or the Greater Minnesota Housing Public Infrastructure Grant Program. He said the Jobs Bill Agreement did not make it to the floor so there was no additional funding this year for the Greater Minnesota Workforce Housing Development Fund.

Seifert said the Coalition's goal of at least a \$25 million dollar a year increase each in the Large City and Small City Streets Funding did not occur because there was no transportation bill.

Siefert said the Coalition's goal of at least \$200 million a year with project selection changes to improve regional balance to the Corridors of Commerce also did not occur since there was no transportation bill approved.

Siefert said we'll see how the elections go this November. He urged everyone to get out and vote. Seifert noted 40 percent of the Legislature in 2023 will be made up of new members.

Mayor Walter thanked Siefert for his update and said he appreciates everything he's doing for the City of Jackson at the State Legislature.

JCC HIGH SCHOOL CEO PROGRAM – JAY MOORE

Jay Moore, a member of the JCC High School CEO Program Advisory Board, gave a presentation on the new CEO Program at the Jackson County Central High School.

Moore gave an overview of the new Entrepreneurship Opportunities Program the JCC School District has joined with the Windom and Mountain Lake School Districts. He said basically what the Program is trying to achieve is provide training and information to juniors and seniors in high school and letting them understand that they don't have to leave the community and go to the Cities. Moore said the Program shows students that they can raise a family, get a job in their community or start a business. He said the CEO Program represents creating entrepreneurial opportunities. Moore said the three school districts involved in the CEO Program are working with the Southwest Minnesota Foundation of Education who is providing the financial oversight for the program.

Moore explained the CEO Program needs 35 investors and the investors each provide financial support of \$3,000 over three years. He said currently investors are being sought.

Moore is excited about the program. He explained the CEO Program for students is never in the classroom, but out in the field at a business. Moore said the program will be conducted by a program facilitator hired through the school districts with the oversight of the CEO Program Advisory Board.

Moore explained what the CEO Program is trying to establish is a network for students to get them to understand that they don't have to leave the community that they were raised in and they do have an opportunity to create a business or be an employee of a local business and stay in their home community. He said if that mindset can be established among students coming out of high school, hopefully we'll have more local businesses and more people available for local businesses to hire as employees and so forth.

Moore noted Jackson County committed as an investor in the Program at their meeting on October 4th. Moore outlined the different opportunities in how to be an investor monetarily or in-kind or by providing guest speakers. He said investors can commit \$1,000 per year over three years or make an initial commitment of \$3,000.

Moore said he thinks the most important thing about the CEO Program is that when students get out of high school, they have established a network and they understand the opportunities. He said the Program is certainly available to students who are going to college and students who want to start, for example, a plumbing company. Moore said the Program reaches all students.

Finck asked how the 20 students will be selected for the CEO Program from the three school districts.

Moore said students will have to go through an interview process and will be selected by the Advisory Board members and representatives from the three school districts. He said they want dedicated students that will fill their obligation to the Program.

Moore said the request from the CEO Program is for the City of Jackson to be an investor in the Program.

Mayor Walter asked if any of the Councilmembers would like to make a motion for the City to give the CEO Program some support financially or in-kind.

Peterson said speaking with City Administrator Skaret, funds could be found for the City to support the CEO Program.

Finck said he supports the CEO Program but his concern is that the 20 spots available for students in the Program may all be filled by students from Cottonwood County and there may not be a Jackson County student involved. He said there's no guarantees of that as he understands it. Finck noted it's an interview process. He asked Councilmembers to keep that in mind when the Council is spending taxpayers' money that this Program may not benefit Jackson. But, on the other hand, Finck said the CEO Program could also consist of all students from Jackson County.

Moore said he has confidence in the JCC students.

Finck said he does too.

Moore said we're all in this together. He said it's the Cottonwood-Jackson CEO Program.

Finck said he thinks it's a great program and a great opportunity for students.

Moore noted the business community has received the CEO Program quite well and are excited about it.

PETERSON/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried for the City of Jackson to make a one-time commitment of \$3,000 to the CEO Program and have the City's Water Treatment Plant as a host site.

Moore thanked Mayor Walter and City Councilmembers.

Mayor Walter thanked Moore for all he has done.

TRAIL GRANT APPLICATIONS: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT LETTER OF INTENTS – BUTLER AVENUE AND INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY TRAIL PROJECTS

Luke Ewald of Des Moines Valley Public Health and the Jackson County Trails group informed Mayor Walter and Councilmembers about some grant opportunities and a request for letters of intent.

Ewald explained two proposed trails are being looked at. He said the Butler Avenue Trail Project is more of a sidewalk connection. Ewald said the project would involve constructing a concrete sidewalk to fill in the gap and replace old broken sidewalk going up Butler Avenue from North Highway to the Jackson County Central High School. He said the cost for the Butler Avenue Trail Project is estimated at \$75,000. Ewald said it would be more of a Safe Routes to School Project.

Ewald said the other project the Trails Committee has discussed for several years is constructing a trail along Industrial Parkway. He explained the proposed plan is to construct a paved trail on the south side of Industrial Parkway from County Road 23 to Prospect Lane or even going all the way to Highway 71. Ewald said he frequently sees people walking up to that area of town whether it's to the new housing development, Dairy Queen, or to work in the Industrial Park. He said the goal of the proposed trail would be to create more safe walking and biking to that area of town and people could also use it for recreation as well. Ewald said that distance is about nine-tenths of a mile and is estimated to cost just over \$400,000.

Ewald explained the grants are called the Minnesota State Active Transportation Infrastructure Program. He said it's brand new. Ewald said it's nice because the grant would pay 100 percent of the project costs. He said there would be no City or County match. Ewald said the County would be the sponsoring agency. He said an application has to be made to receive the grant money. Ewald said grant applications would be made for the Butler Avenue Trail and Industrial Parkway projects.

Ewald said a Letter of Intent is needed from the City of Jackson by the deadline of October 14th. He explained the grant process. Ewald said the grants would be awarded in March of 2023. He said if the grants were awarded, construction of the two trails could begin in 2023 or by 2024.

Skaret said the Letter of Intent is not required to apply for the grants, but it's strongly encouraged.

Polz noted that although the grants may pay for 100 percent of the cost of constructing the trails, the City would be required to maintain the trails after they are built.

Ewald said other communities in the area are also looking to apply for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants.

PETERSON/PALMER moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Letters of Intent for the Butler Avenue and Industrial Parkway Trail Projects.

Ewald thanked Mayor Walter and Councilmembers.

Mayor Walter thanked Ewald.

AIRPORT RUNWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PAY APPLICATION NO. 3

Engineer Eric Hanson of HDR said before the City Council was Airport Runway Reconstruction Project Pay Application No. 3 payable to Svoboda Excavating in the amount of \$832,722.58. He said Pay Application No. 3 includes the grading, the dirt work that was done in the runway itself, the fabric, the underdrains, some cleanouts and two-thirds of the gravel that's required for the project.

Hanson said Svoboda's has made really good progress on the project. He said the contractor hopes to be placing gravel the beginning of the week of October 10th. Following that, Hanson said there will be some grading work, seeding of the ditches and then buttoning-up the project for the winter by the end of October.

Hanson said he thinks the project has been going well. He said the weather has been cooperative. Hanson said it's looking like a runway.

Hanson said Pay Application No. 3 is in the amount of \$832,722.58. He said of that amount, the FAA pays 90 percent and MnDOT Aeronautics pays 5 percent of it. Hanson said 5 percent of that will be paid with local funds.

Mayor Walter asked Hanson how many tons of sand was being used for the new runway.

Hanson said there is just shy of 30 inches of sand sub-base material which is some place around 55,000 tons of sand. He said everything has been working well.

Polz asked Skaret if the City has received their reimbursement for the last airport project pay application.

Skaret said the City has received the reimbursement. He said it took about two weeks for the City to receive the it.

POLZ/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Airport Runway Reconstruction Project Pay Application No. 3 payable to Svoboda Excavating in the amount of \$832,772.58.

UPDATED SCHEDULE FOR 2022-2023 STREET AND UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Skaret introduced Engineer Wes Brown, Manager of the Bolton and Menk Office in Fairmont.

Brown explained there's been a staffing change at Bolton and Menk in Fairmont and Engineer Greg Mitchell is no longer with the company. He said he will be taking over as the engineer going forth and hopes to continue to provide the same level, if not better level of service to the City of Jackson as a client of Bolton and Menk's. Brown said he's been living in Fairmont for 14 years and serves as the leader of the Fairmont office. He said he's been familiar with all of the projects that have been going on in Jackson over the years and will continue to have the other staff involved as well moving forward.

Brown said he's worked with a lot of cities as City engineer over the years so he has a good background. He said he's currently serving as the City engineer in Blue Earth and has done so for about 12 years.

Regarding projects in Jackson, Brown said work is scheduled to begin October 5th on Riverside Drive by reclaiming the asphalt surface. He said the underground crew is going to be starting work in the cul-de-sac at Westridge Drive and Northridge Drive to make a couple water repairs to the hydrant service. Brown said after that, the crews will move to Riverside Drive to do the underground work.

Brown said the reclaiming of the pavement on Westridge and Northridge Drives is scheduled to be done at the end of October. He said both Riverside, Westridge and Northridge areas are planned to be paved around November 7th.

Brown said work on Emily Street and River Street have been delayed until next year. He said details are still being finalized with the County regarding the work on River Street. Brown said the work on the downtown alley project has also been delayed until next year. He said there possibly could be some work yet this year regarding the cement pad for the skating area. Brown said there have been conversations recently regarding details for the cement pad.

Brown said that was the latest schedule update with some slight modifications.

Mayor Walter thanked Brown for the update and looks forward to working with him.

PRAIRIE WINDS MOTEL – APPROVE DECLARING THE PROPERTY AN ATTRACTIVE NUISANCE AND PROCEED WITH REMEDYING THE SITUATION

City Attorney Brad Anderson said the City has been working on this project for several years now. He said it's been before the City Council multiple times. Attorney Anderson said multiple letters have been sent to the property owner. He said the Building Inspector has spent a lot of time at the property. Attorney Anderson noted the Building Inspector has made numerous contacts with the owners of the property.

City Attorney Anderson said an on-site visit was held about a year ago. He said the on-site visit showed there was extensive mold development going on within the property. Attorney Anderson said there's no electricity, heat, water or sewer service to the property. He said there was an excessive amount of garbage and refuse located within the structure as well as outside around the structure. Attorney Anderson said there were major structural defects in the property. He said it was almost like a portion of the ceiling on the structure was falling down.

Attorney Anderson said there have been trespass issues over the years at the property. He said some of those issues required all the doors and windows to be covered with plywood to keep people out. He said most of the doors, but not all, are covered.

Attorney Anderson said this property is considered a health risk, a hazard and an attractive nuisance to the community.

Attorney Anderson said one of the steps the City can take in order to remedy this problem is to order the property owner to remove the property, remove anything that's below grade that's structural and return it all to grade. He said if the property owner refuses to do it or is unable to do it, then the City can get a court order and go onto the property and take care of the problem. Attorney Anderson said basically that means demolishing, removing and bringing the property back to grade.

Attorney Anderson said that's an expense the City will have to bear. He said the City can put a lien against the property as a special assessment lien that would be collected along with normal real estate taxes. Attorney Anderson said there's the possibility that the property can even be condemned at that point and taken.

But Attorney Anderson said the first step is for the City to decide to take on that responsibility and take on that project. He said he thinks there were estimates of \$300,000 to clean up the property.

Skaret said the estimate of \$300,000 was to clean up the hazardous materials and demolition. He noted that estimate was a year or two ago so that number could be higher now.

Attorney Anderson said once the City goes down this path, this is a job the City has to finish. He said the City Council is being asked for direction and action if the Council wants the City Attorney's Office to proceed with removing this problem by declaring it an attractive nuisance and have the property removed. Attorney Anderson said this would mean that the Mayor would sign an order which would be served upon the property owner. He explained the property owner would be given 20 days to respond to that order and have to show a work plan that would show that they have, in place, the ability to take care of that problem.

Attorney Anderson said if the City Council wants to proceed, the Council is asked to make a motion and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute an order to remove or raze the hazardous building pursuant to Minnesota Statute 463.15. Attorney Anderson asked if there were any questions.

Palmer asked if the City had documentation that people had been trespassing on the property and that there is garbage and refuse on the property. He said the City has to have some documentation regarding those things.

Attorney Anderson said the City has documentation. He noted the on-site visit that was held about a year ago was with himself, Skaret, the building inspector and the MRES Jackson Distribution Maintenance Foreman. Attorney Anderson said the City has many pictures of the property and multiple eyewitnesses of the condition of the property, plus the building inspector has other documentation that would be part of this. He said the City Attorney's Office has brought the paperwork forward as far as they can at this point. Attorney Anderson said if the City decides to move forward with the order, then the City Attorney's Office will organize all of that documentation and have it prepared because ultimately the City will go before a court of law and a judge. He the City will ask the judge either to declare that this property is an attractive nuisance, a public nuisance, and the City may have to prove it. Attorney Anderson said that's why the City will have documentation prepared and in place.

Polz asked if ultimately the City is looking at this property becoming property of the City of Jackson.

Attorney Anderson said it's possible, yes. He said either that or the City will have a special assessment lien against the property, one or the other.

Polz asked if the property consists of roughly 7 acres of land.

Attorney Anderson said the City Attorney's Office did some work in determining how much land was involved with the property. He said the property consists of 2.87 acres of land, a lot less than originally thought. Attorney Anderson explained that was determined by looking at the deed and confirming it with County officials. He said it was independently determined the property consisted of 2.87 acres and two other sources substantiated that was correct. Attorney Anderson said the size of the property was smaller than originally talked about.

Polz asked if there was anything that would make the property a candidate as a training burn for the Fire Department.

Attorney Anderson said it's possible. He said there would need to be a conversation with the Fire Department to see if that's still possible or not.

Fire Chief Dave Bond said considering the condition that the building is in, it would be more of a situation of lighting it up, but it doesn't sound like it would be safe enough to even do training inside the building. Bond said any asbestos or anything like that would first have to be removed from the building if a training burn was conducted. He said he could reach out to a fire training instructor to make sure if the structure could be used for a training burn.

Attorney Anderson said he didn't know if the Fire Department would have a water source available in that area for a training burn.

Street Superintendent Phil Markman said he thinks there's a fire hydrant on the corner in that area.

Bond said the Fire Department can reach out to their local instructors. He said the instructors have all kinds of documentation they have to do as well through the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and the State. Bond said the main thing would be asbestos. He said someone would have to come and inspect the building and remove the asbestos before a training burn could occur.

Attorney Anderson noted when it would get to that point of having a possible training burn of the property by the Fire Department, then the control over that property would be in the City's hands. He said the City could look at different options and try to fully reduce some of the costs of removing that property.

Polz asked if the option to do nothing just means we continue to look at it forever, basically.

Skaret asked if the City chooses to do nothing, what happens?

Attorney Anderson said if the City chooses to do nothing, then the property will sit there. He said the property owner paid the real estate taxes this year. Attorney Anderson said the property will just be there and the City runs the risk of somebody within the community being harmed or hurt by this health and safety hazard.

Attorney Anderson said the City Council does not have an obligation to move forward. He said the City Council has the ability to move forward, but they don't have an obligation to do it. But Attorney Anderson said once the process starts, there will be a judge that will view this at some point in the whole process. He explained the City Council will make the initial call, then a judge will review that call. Attorney Anderson said once a judge reviews the call and issues an order, then the City is pretty much committed to moving forward. He said if the Fire Department can remove the structure on the property as a controlled burn or practice, that's great. Attorney Anderson said at that point, the City has control of the property.

Palmer asked what are the judge's choices when he rules.

Attorney Anderson said the judge is basically going to have to rule that the property is a health and safety hazard. He said that's just kind of the short story of what it is. Attorney Anderson said the City will have to present evidence to the judge that the property is so dilapidated that it can't be fixed up to improve it or to return it to some usable state.

Palmer said that's one choice. He asked what's the judge's other choice, do nothing?

Attorney Anderson said if the judge says that he thinks the structure can be fixed up, the judge will deny the City's request. He said the property owner would have an opportunity to contest the City's request and prove the City wrong.

Palmer said he thinks the City is going to be in for pretty good-sized battle.

Attorney Anderson noted if the property owner doesn't say something and if they don't do something, the judge will probably not spend too much time on making that decision.

Attorney Anderson said if the property owner wants to fight it, then the property owner could get in engineers, take pictures and bring witnesses to try and prove the City wrong.

Palmer said if the property owner spent the money to purchase the property and someone is going to file an order against them, they will fight to keep it. He said that's what the property owner could do.

Attorney Anderson said the property owner could also consent to the order if the property owner wants to get out of owning the property. He said at some point, the City maybe would want to entertain making an offer to the property owner to help them financially extract themselves from that situation.

Palmer asked what the property owner paid for the property.

Skaret said the property owner paid \$30,000 for the property.

Attorney Anderson said efforts have been made to contact the property owner about selling the property, assisting them with selling it and assisting them with possible renovation. But he said he thinks it's to a point now where the structure can't be renovated.

Palmer said the property is at a nice location. He said he's sure that interested people will be looking at it

PETERSON/POLZ moved and it was carried on a 3 to 1 vote to declare the former Prairie Winds Motel, located at 950 North Highway 71, an Attractive Nuisance and authorize City Attorney Brad Anderson seek a court order that would allow the City to remedy the situation.

Voting in favor of the motion were Aldermen Nathan Peterson, Marcus Polz, and Jerome Palmer.

Voting against the motion was Alderman Brandon Finck.

GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR 2023

Skaret reported the City received information regarding the City's group health insurance renewal for 2023. He said health insurance rates are going up five percent which is much less than what was anticipated. Skaret noted in the union contract it was stipulated that the City would absorb up to nine percent of the increase so the five percent increase is well under that. He said the City still has to negotiate the HSA contribution, otherwise it's pretty straightforward.

Mayor Walter asked if any Council action was needed.

Skaret said no action was required.

Mayor Walter said it was good news that the City's group health insurance rates were only going up five percent for 2023.

UPDATE ON FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH MAMMOUTH SPORTS PERTAINING TO BALLFIELD COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT

Skaret said the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, September 26th with a representative from Mammouth Sports. He said representatives from Mammouth Sports had visited Jackson earlier and looked at Albertus Field and have been doing research on what it would take to make that a useable ballfield complex.

Skaret noted the Finance Committee met with the representative from Mammouth Sports at Albertus Field. He said it was decided that Albertus Field was not the location for the kind of ballfield complex the City is desiring. Skaret explained what is being looked at is basically a three-field complex consisting of one premiere type ballfield. He said the main problem with Albertus Field, as everyone knows, is that it floods. Skaret said in order to alleviate the flooding of Albertus Field to protect the City's investment, the current levee would have to be extended all the way down to Highway 71. He said in order to do that, there would be significant costs and also significant study to determine what the effects extending the levee would cause downstream. Skaret said if the levee was extended, basically a bowl would be created meaning that a plan would need to be developed in order to get water to drain out of the ballfields and make water flow uphill.

Skaret said the consensus of the group was to seek an alternative site out of the flood plain.

Finck explained the consensus was to look at an alternative site for a ballfield complex. He said the suggestion was to maintain a "clean and green" field in Albertus Field, but not make a major investment in that site. Finck noted the MYFL (Minnesota Youth Football League) makes use of Albertus Field for football practices. Finck said to develop a ballfield complex at Albertus Field would not provide a long-term benefit to host events and play on. He said it was not economically feasible to develop that site into a ballfield complex.

Skaret said the long-term goal is to have a ballfield complex that could host tournaments and benefit the whole community. He pointed out the City would be looking at a large dollar amount to develop a complex. Skaret said hopefully, if a site can be chosen and a plan put together, then it's something the City can put forward and get Legislative approval at some point to do a local option sales tax to help pay for that facility. He said a one cent sales tax would generate about \$375,000 per year according to information from the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Finck said the consensus was to look at alternative sites to develop a ballfield complex and then submit a plan to the State of Minnesota regarding enacting a local option sales tax.

Skaret explained the City has to identify up to five potential projects the local sales tax would go to fund. He said the City would need to get Legislative approval and then also get local voter's approval. Skaret said to get voter approval, the earliest it could be put on the ballot would be during the General Election in November of 2024.

Finck said the earliest a ballfield complex project could begin would be in the spring of 2025.

Polz noted the local option sales tax revenue could possibly be used to address other potential projects the City is looking at.

Skaret said not all projects are necessarily eligible to be funded by the local option sales tax.

Finck said a proposed ballfield complex is a work in progress but making progress.

Mayor Walter thanked Finance Committee members and Skaret for the work they've been doing on the ballfield complex project and the many other Committee meetings they've been having.

RESOLUTION NO. 53-1022 APPROVING ADDITIONAL ELECTION JUDGES FOR THE NOVEMBER 8TH, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Skaret said Resolution No. 53-1022 approves additional election judges for the November 8th, 2022 General Election.

FINCK/POLZ moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 53-1022 approving additional Election Judges for the November 8th, 2022 General Election.

DECLARE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT 2009 FORD F250 SINGLE CAB DIESEL TRUCK SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS THROUGH GOVDEALS.COM

Skaret reported the new truck for the Electric Department finally arrived. He noted the new truck was ordered in April of 2021.

Skaret said it's recommended to sell the 2009 Ford F250. He said the truck has an issue with its turbo. Skaret said according to the maintenance staff at the City/County Maintenance Facility, the 2009 Ford F250 is not worth trying to fix. He said the maintenance staff suggests it would be best just to sell it and be done with it.

POLZ/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to declare the Electric Department's 2009 Ford F250 Single Cab Diesel Truck Surplus Property and authorize the solicitation of bids through GovDeals.com

POOL REPORT MEETING – NOVEMBER 2ND, 3RD, 7TH OR 9TH

Skaret noted a while back the City Council had requested a meeting with the swimming pool engineers who had done a study in late 2020 or early 2021 on the pool assessment.

Skaret said he's been working with mostly a new team of engineers who have come to Jackson to study the pool. He said the person that drafted the initial report about the condition of the pool is no longer with the engineering company.

Skaret said the engineers came and looked at the pool on Monday, September 26th. He said they are going to take the initial 100-page study of the pool and break it down to a five-to-six-page executive summary document. Skaret said the engineers are going to be presenting the "meat and potatoes" of the study to the Mayor and City Council.

Skaret said the engineering company is looking to get a date set to meet with the Mayor and City Council. He said the dates the engineering company proposed were Wednesday, November 2nd, Thursday, November 3rd, Monday, November 7th or Wednesday, November 9th.

Following a review of dates, Mayor Walter and Councilmembers chose to meet with the engineers regarding the swimming pool on Wednesday, November 2nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Skaret said the City has been doing the Volunteer Recognition Program since 2016. He asked Mayor Walter and Councilmembers if they wanted to continue with the program.

In the past, Skaret said nominations have been accepted and individuals are recognized in three categories, individual, youth and senior citizen. He said typically during one of the City Council meetings in December, plaques are presented to the honorees and there's refreshments for those attending the Recognition Program. Skaret asked if the Mayor and City Council wanted to do the Recognition Program again.

Polz said he thinks the City Council would like to do the program again. He said he thinks it's been good to give recognition to people who have been good volunteers in the community. Polz said last year he and Alderman More were on the committee that reviewed the nominations and selected the honorees. He said he's sure Alderman More would probably like to serve on the Recognition Program Committee again. Polz said he would volunteer to serve on the Committee again as well.

POLZ/PALMER moved and it was unanimously carried for the City to move forward with the Volunteer Recognition Program for 2022 and establish a committee consisting of Alderman Marcus Polz, Alderman Michael More and City Administrator Matt Skaret to review the nominations and select the honorees.

MAYOR'S MANUFACTURING MONTH PROCLAMATION OCTOBER 2022

Mayor Walter said he had a proclamation to read proclaiming October as Manufacturing Month in the City of Jackson, Minnesota.

Mayor Walter read:

WHEREAS: *Manufacturing is a dynamic and robust industry, crucial to the health and strength of Minnesota's and the City of Jackson's diverse economies; and*

WHEREAS: *Manufacturing added \$56 billion to Minnesota's gross domestic product in 2021, representing the second largest contribution (14%) to the state's gross domestic product by any industry; and*

WHEREAS: *Workers took home \$23.4 billion in wages from Minnesota manufacturing jobs in 2021, the second-largest total payroll among private sector industries; and*

WHEREAS: *Manufacturing in Minnesota pays an average annual wage of \$74,630, which is 10% higher than the state's overall average wage; and*

WHEREAS: *Manufacturing provides over 310,000 highly skilled, well-paying jobs, which significantly contribute to Minnesota's and the City of Jackson's high standard of living and economic vitality.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wayne Walter, Mayor of Jackson, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2022, as MANUFACTURING MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Jackson to be affixed this 4th day of October, 2022.

Signed, **Wayne Walter**, Mayor

Other:

Alderman Nathan Peterson

Alderman Peterson noted that staffing is still a major issue for the Ambulance Department.

Peterson also wanted to make the Mayor and Councilmembers aware the Fire Department is looking at replacing their radios. He said the Fire Department had training on October 3rd and were having some trouble with their radios. Peterson said equipping all the Fire Trucks and Firefighters with new radios will cost about \$100,000. Peterson said the Fire Department is applying for grants to help pay for the cost of the new radios. He said the Fire Department is also still trying to fundraise for the new aerial platform truck that's been ordered. Peterson said he wanted to give Mayor Walter and Councilmembers an update on that.

Peterson noted to help with the fundraising, the Fire Department will be having their annual pancake feed at the Fire Hall on October 16th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Alderman Jerome Palmer

Alderman Palmer noted there are five deer that have been harvested in the City of Jackson by archery deer hunters.

Alderman Peterson said he had a relative that had also harvested two deer within the City of Jackson.

CLOSED SESSION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MN CHAPTER 13D.05, SUBD. 3(C)

Mayor Walter asked for a motion for the City Council to go into Closed Session regarding the purchase or sale of property pursuant to MN Chapter 13D.05, Subd. 3(C).

FINCK/POLZ moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to go into Closed Session at 7:41 p.m. regarding the purchase or sale of property pursuant to MN Chapter 13D.05, Subd. 3(C).

COMING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Walter entertained a motion for the City Council to go out of Closed Session.

PETERSON/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to go out of Closed Session at 8:07 p.m.

POSSIBLE ACTION ON LETTER OF INTENT PERTAINING TO A HOUSING DEVELOPER

Mayor Walter asked for a motion regarding a letter of intent pertaining to a proposed housing development.

Skaret noted the letter of intent is to give the developer the first right of refusal on the property.

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve a Letter of Intent with Hope Housing Foundation pertaining to a proposed housing development.

ADJOURNMENT

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

FINCK/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Mayor Walter thanked everyone for attending.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

