

September 19, 2023
Jackson, Minnesota

The Jackson City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall and also by Teleconference and Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Marcus Polz. On the roll call, the following persons were present in-person, Mayor Marcus Polz, Alderwoman Sara Mix and Aldermen Mark Titus, Chris Naumann, Nathan Peterson and Joe Pell. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Public Works Director Tony Oxborough, Community and Business Development Specialist Dave Schmidt of Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA), John Weland of the Jackson County Animal Protection Society, Jackson County Sheriff Shawn Haken, Stephen Foster, Pastor Ted Carnahan of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Jackson, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff, Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot and Mathew Grisham of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. Joining the meeting via Zoom was Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk, Lori Bonin and Chris Walters of the DBS Development Group, Grant Duchac of Excel Engineering, Jeff Anneke of the DBS Development Group, Matt Goble of the DBS Development Group and Shelley Pohlman of Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA). (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 recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

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

There were no Public Hearings, Bid Lettings or Open Forum.

Unscheduled Guests:

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

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

Mayor Polz asked for a third time if there were any unscheduled guests in the audience.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Matt Skaret noted the Liquor Committee met just before the City Council meeting. He said the Liquor Committee is recommending advertising internally for the position of Assistant Manager at the Liquor Store. Skaret said the advertisement for that position would start on September 20th and would continue through October 2nd.

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented including the recommendation from the Liquor Committee to advertise internally for the position of Assistant Manager at the Liquor Store.

Council Discussion Items

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE FINAL PLAT BELMONT HEIGHTS PHASE 1

Skaret said the Planning Commission met on September 11th and recommended final approval of the final plat for the Belmont Heights Phase One Project.

Skaret said the only changes from earlier plats was, of course, the name change from “Fallbrook Heights” to “Belmont Heights” and changing the name of the through street to “Whitetail Lane”.

Peterson asked about the name of little loop of street that goes south off of White Tail Lane.

Skaret said that would be called “South Whitetail Lane”.

Mayor Polz called for a motion to approve the final plat of Belmont Heights Phase 1.

TITUS/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Final Plat of Belmont Heights Phase 1.

BELMONT HEIGHTS INFRASTRUCTURE BIDS

Skaret said the engineer for the Belmont Heights project, Engineer Grant Duchac of Excel Engineering, was joining the City Council meeting via Zoom. He said also joining the meeting by phone was Lori Bonin and Chris Walters of the DBS Development Group.

Skaret said the bid opening for the Belmont Heights infrastructure was held on September 12th. He said seven bids were submitted.

Engineer Grant Duchac of Excel Engineering said all the bids were reviewed. He said it was a great bidding group that participated in the project.

Duchac said the low bidder was Holtmeier Construction of Mankato, Minnesota with a low base bid of \$2,182,450.95. He said there were a number of alternates that Excel Engineering compiled in association with the project. Duchac said there are a few alternates that Excel Engineering is recommending. He said they include Alternates Number One and Number Three which have a savings of \$142,454.85. Duchac said those two alternate items are associated with stockpiling topsoil nearby the site which will be a significant savings. He said there’s a large quantity of topsoil that will need to be exported in association with the housing project. Duchac said they would also hope to salvage the existing aggregate on-site. He said there’s another alternate that Excel is also recommending after discussion with the City which would actually be an add-on.

Duchac explained Alternate Number 4 would be to install individual sanitary laterals to each unit of each townhome. He said that adds back in \$69,433.85. Duchac said by accepting those three alternates, the bid would come in at \$2,409,394.95 which is consistent with the Excel Engineer's recommendation letter.

Duchac said the unit costs they're seeing from the low bidder are competitive and consistent with what Excel Engineering is seeing in the field. He noted there was a really good bidding field and Excel feels really confident that the low bid is good pricing from what they're seeing. Duchac said the current bidding is for the majority construction to be completed yet this fall in 2023 with paving to be done in the spring of 2024.

Skaret noted while the bid prices for the project were very good, the bids were higher than what was estimated back in June, 2023 primarily because of the additional dirt work that's going to be involved. He asked Duchac if that was correct.

Duchac said that was correct. He explained even through the unit pricing came in well, the bids are higher than what was anticipated earlier on from concept drawings for the proposed project. Duchac highlighted the reasons why the bids came in higher than earlier estimates. He said the actual square yards of pavement is slightly larger. Duchac said they had estimated 5,800 square yards of pavement and the actual bidding, according to the engineering documents, was 6,200 square yards of pavement. He said they had estimated a 14-inch gravel pavement section and a report suggested a 24-inch gravel pavement section. Duchac noted other reasons for the higher bids were due to additional gravel, installing a sidewalk instead of an asphalt path and additional removing, handling, stockpiling and replacement of topsoil.

Mayor Polz asked by what date would the City Council need to have the low bid for the project approved in order to maintain the construction window for this year.

Matt Goble of DBS said the Council would need to take action on the bid by Friday, September 29th in order to provide the notice to proceed. He said they want to be on site starting October 9th. Goble said it would be the contractor's intent to receive the notice to proceed and the contract execution on Friday, September 29th, mobilize the following week and they would be starting work on October 9th to try and beat the weather window.

From a financial perspective, Skaret explained the City would take out about a \$2.9 million General Obligation Bond to pay for the project. He pointed out there was a memo in the Councilmembers' information packets from the City's Financial Advisor Shannon Sweeney outlining that. Skaret said it's a significant undertaking by the City because it's a 22-year bond. Skaret noted the City would have annual debt service payments of about \$210,000.

Skaret said it's a major decision by the City Council. He said the Finance Committee had met to discuss the issue and their recommendation was that the City needed to really solidify and pin down exactly where all the local investors are. Skaret said the City certainly doesn't want to go forward and award bids and, for whatever reason, have a project not come to fruition and end up with a nice road out in the middle of a field with nothing around it. He said the thought was that there needed to be a meeting of the Finance Committee and the investors by the end of this week. Skaret said then there could be a special meeting of the City Council the following week assuming that everybody is on board and everything is a go. He said a special City Council meeting could be held to award the bid next week so that way Excel Engineering and DBS could get the notice to proceed out to the contractor by September 29th as was outlined.

Mayor Polz noted the project is looking at \$3.5 million in private funding and the City wants to make sure that private funding is lined up going forward otherwise the City risks building a road to nowhere. He said he was looking for a motion to table Council action on the Belmont Heights infrastructure bids.

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to table action on the Belmont Heights Infrastructure Bids until a Special City Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

BELMONT HEIGHTS PROJECT \$500,000 DEFERRED LOAN

Skaret explained as part of the City's contribution to the Belmont Heights Project, the City is paying for all of the infrastructure and also doing a partial tax abatement to the developers.

Skaret said the Finance Committee is also recommending a \$500,000 deferred loan to the developers which would be deferred for 10 years at zero percent interest. He said the recommendation would be to approve the loan subject to the bids being approved.

Peterson asked if action on the Belmont Heights Project's \$500,000 deferred loan could be tabled until the September 27th Special City Council meeting.

Skaret said it could be tabled.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to table action on the Belmont Heights Project's \$500,000 Deferred Loan until the City Council's Special City Council meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

DOWNTOWN ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PAY ESTIMATE NO. 5

Skaret noted Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk was joining the City Council meeting via Zoom.

Nemmers said the contractor finished up the concrete work about a week ago. He said the subcontractor will be finishing some paving work along the edges in the transition areas. Nemmers said the Downtown Alley Improvements Project will be substantially complete for the fall. He said some punch-list items will be completed in the spring.

Nemmers said Pay Estimate No. 5 was in the amount of \$79,648.35. He recommended to the Council to approve the Pay Estimate request.

PETERSON/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Downtown Alley Improvements Project Pay Estimate No. 5 in the amount of \$79,648.35 to Jensen Excavating and Trucking LLC.

2022 STREET AND UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PAY ESTIMATE NO. 6

Engineer Troy Nemmers of Bolton and Menk said regarding the 2022 Street and Utilities Improvements Project, the contractor was able to get some sod and seed down last week on most of the project. He said the contractor was also actually able to start the Northridge Drive resurfacing on September 19th

Nemmers explained over the month of August, there wasn't a lot of work done so Pay Estimate No. 6 is for \$91,025.42. Nemmers said he was recommending approval of Pay Estimate No. 6.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion to approve Pay Estimate No. 6.

TITUS/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve 2022 Street and Utilities Improvements Project Pay Estimate No. 6 in the amount of \$91,025.42 to Duininck, Incorporated.

RESOLUTION NO. 36-0923 ACCEPTING STATE GRANT AGREEMENT FOR PARALLEL TAXIWAY PROJECT

Skaret noted the City Council had earlier approved a Grant Agreement with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) for the Parallel Taxiway Project. He explained the FAA will pay 90 percent of the costs, or about \$3.547 million. Skaret said the State of Minnesota will pay five percent of eligible costs, or about \$273,088. He said the City's share is the remainder amounting to \$221,812.

Skaret said approval of accepting the Grant Agreement is needed before the City can submit any expenses for reimbursement on the Parallel Taxiway Project.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. 36-0923 accepting the State Grant Agreement.

MIX/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 36-0923 accepting the State Grant Agreement for the Parallel Taxiway Project.

2024 PEIP HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

Skaret said the City received a pleasant surprise on Friday, September 15th regarding the City's group health insurance renewal information. He said the City's health insurance premiums are only going up about 4.7 percent which is pretty reasonable. Skaret noted the City some years ago was receiving insurance premium increases from the COOP the City belonged to of 37 and 25 percent. He said an increase of 4.7 percent is a lot more palatable.

Skaret said this agenda item regarding the health insurance rates was an informational item for the Mayor and Councilmembers at this point.

Skaret said the employee and employer shares of the premium costs will be determined through Union negotiations.

Skaret said there was no action the City Council had to take right now regarding the 2024 PEIP Health Insurance Rates. He said this agenda item was for informational purposes only.

RESOLUTION NO. 38-0923 SETTING THE PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN 2024 AND SETTING THE TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

Skaret said the Finance Committee consisting of Alderman Brandon Finck, Mayor Marcus Polz and Alderman Mark Titus met on Wednesday, September 13th with a continuation of their meeting on Friday, September 15th.

Skaret said the biggest change to be highlighted is that the City is adding several new levies to the City's budget. He said with all the things the City has going on, the City needs to start levying for these things.

Skaret said regarding the Little Huskies building, it's not known what's going to happen there but it's a possibility that the City ends up negotiating to purchase the building. He said then the City is going to have to levy to pay back that financing to purchase the building. Skaret said some calculations were done and it added a \$38,930 line item in the levy for the purpose of purchasing the Little Huskies building. He said there is also a Little Huskies Operating Levy of \$30,000. Skaret said it's certainly the goal and the hope to get Little Huskies operating to as close to net-zero as possible. He said the City is not there yet. Skaret said the Little Huskies Board has been meeting and the finances are improving. He said hopefully by December, when the City Council sets the final levy, they'll be able to reduce that operating levy amount. Skaret said the Finance Committee set the Little Huskies Operating Levy amount at \$30,000 because, with the preliminary levy that the City Council is suppose to set by September 30th, that's the levy number that will go out on the tax statements. He explained the City Council can always reduce the preliminary tax levy after September 30th, they just can't raise it. Skaret said the levy is starting at what is thought to be a safe level.

Skaret said Nuisance Abatement and Community Beautification has been another top priority of the City Council and has been talked about at the Council's Strategic Planning Sessions. He said the amount for the Nuisance Abatement Fund started out higher but had to be reduced. Skaret said it's proposed to levy \$20,000 for a Nuisance Abatement Fund. He said the Nuisance Abatement Fund would be used to either clean-up nuisances in cases where people are unable or unwilling to clean-up or to take down dilapidated buildings. Skaret said the funds could be used for either purpose. He said if the Nuisance Abatement Fund has \$20,000, it might be enough to pay for demolishing two houses. Skaret said that doesn't sound like a lot, but that's more than the City has been doing the last couple of years.

Regarding Pool Improvement, Skaret said it's known that there are some major expenses coming up with the pool. He said the City is still waiting to receive the second study of the pool from Burbach Aquatics. Skaret said it's known the City will have to provide a substantial amount of cash for the pool. He said a \$50,000 levy was put into the budget to start building up the City reserves to be used for the swimming pool.

Regarding the Ambulance, Skaret said the City has certainly changed their operating model the last couple of years. He said the Ambulance is having more paid staff and more fulltime staff. Skaret said the City is still working with Medicare and Medicaid. He explained when the City made changes to the Ambulance Department in 2022, it resulted in the Ambulance having to abandon their old Tax ID number and go underneath the City's Tax ID number. Skaret said that process has been quite an ordeal to get that worked out. He said the City is still working on that so the City is not getting all of their Medicare and Medicaid payments. Skaret said it's believed the City is on the right path now. He said the City is working with a new person with the Ambulance's billing company. Skaret said the City needs to start a levy for the Ambulance. He said the Ambulance is not self-sufficient anymore just by collecting fees itself. Skaret said it's proposed to have a \$50,000 levy.

Overall, Skaret said the Finance Committee is proposing a 12.45 percent increase in the tax levy which brings the levy up to a flat \$2 million.

Mayor Polz noted when the Finance Committee began working on the budget, they were presented with a budget that would have represented a levy increase of 36 to 37 percent.

Skaret said the Finance Committee rolled up their sleeves and went to work. He said when they started working on the budget, the proposed levy was roughly three times higher than the preliminary levy being presented to the City Council. Skaret said there were some hard decisions the Finance Committee had to make. He said the City Council has a lot of things they want to do and a lot of things they want to achieve. Skaret said there were some hard decisions that had to be made.

Skaret said the preliminary levy can always be lowered before December but it can't be raised. He said taking a look at the overall big picture, the market value as a City continues to go up. Skaret said that reflects the additional valuation with improvements and just the general valuation. He said houses are selling for a lot more money, at least in the past year.

Skaret said the City's tax base has grown by about \$35 million which is a good thing so the pie gets bigger. He noted the City's tax rate, with a 12.5 percent levy increase, actually stays about the same. Skaret said the rate that property is taxed at is not going to be going up. He said, however, if the valuation on a person's property goes up, that's where the property owner will notice the jump in taxes. But Skaret said the actual tax rate per thousand dollars of valuation does not change. He said if a property owner's valuation stayed the same at \$100,000 and the valuation has not gone up, the property taxes would not change. Skaret noted most people's valuations are going up.

Peterson noted the County Assessor's Office sets the valuations.

Skaret said that was correct.

Skaret said a motion was needed to set the preliminary levy and also set the date for the City Council's Truth in Taxation hearing for December 19th at 6:30 p.m.

MIX/TITUS moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 38-0923 setting the City's Preliminary Tax Levy collectible in 2024 at a 12.45 percent increase over 2023 and setting the date for the Truth in Taxation Hearing for Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

DOWNTOWN BIKE RACK LOCATION AUTHORIZATION – SECOND AND ASHLEY STREETS

Skaret said the Jackson County Friends of the Trails Committee is requesting the City Council authorize putting a bike rack on the northeast corner of the intersection of Second and Ashley Streets. He said there's a desire for more bike racks downtown. Skaret said unfortunately, the sidewalk gets in the way of that.

Skaret said there is some room out on the street. He said they don't want to take up a precious parking spot but there's kind of a dead spot at the intersection of Ashley and Second Street on the northeast side of that intersection between the intersection and the first parking stall. Skaret said a bike rack would probably fit pretty nicely in that location. He said the bike rack would be removeable in the wintertime so the Street Department doesn't have to work around it with snow removal.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion to approve the request for the bike rack.

PETERSON/NAUMANN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Jackson County Friends of the Trails Committee's request for a downtown bike rack northeast of the intersection of Second and Ashley Streets.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 139 REGARDING HOME OCCUPATIONS

Skaret said the Planning Commission talked about Ordinance No. 139 this summer in relation to a situation that arose that caused the City to look at their regulations pertaining to home occupations. He said currently if someone is operating a business out of their home, the person is required to obtain a Conditional Use or Interim Use Permit. Skaret said the process is pretty simple and straightforward. He said the person goes before the Planning Commission which holds a public hearing. Skaret said that request then gets forwarded on to the City Council. He said 99.9 percent of the time, the Conditional/Interim Use Permit gets approved with little fanfare.

Skaret said some of the examples of home occupations that have obtained Conditional/Interim Use Permits without any problems have included hair stylists along with others.

Skaret said the Planning Commission took a look at the current City ordinance regarding home occupations. He said ordinances pertaining to home occupations from other communities were reviewed. Skaret said the Planning Commission looked at streamlining the process by basically giving the Zoning Administrator and the City a little bit more discretion. He asked does someone baking a loaf of bread, cake, pizza or whatever out of their home to sell at a market really need to come before the Planning Commission and get a Conditional Use Permit?

Skaret said Ordinance No. 139 would loosen up restrictions regarding home occupations. He said in those cases, the person would not need to go before the Planning Commission. Skaret noted Ordinance No. 139 does set some basic standards for home occupations and home businesses to follow. He said if it looks like there's going to be more of an imprint or more of a noticeable change to the neighborhood, there is a provision in the ordinance where the City could ask the person with the home occupation to note that what they're doing is above and beyond what's covered in Ordinance No. 139 and they'll need to seek a Conditional Use Permit. Skaret said an example of that would be hypothetically if someone decided to open an auto repair shop out of their garage. He said a lot of times those things start innocently enough. Skaret said someone may just plan to fix their neighbor's car and then slowly it snowballs and they start having other cars parked in the driveway, on the street and in the yard and then it starts to become more of a neighborhood nuisance. He said Ordinance No. 139 would give the City a tool in the toolbox to address those situations and have the person go through the Conditional Use process.

Titus said he wanted to be clear regarding Ordinance No. 139. He asked if he was making bread and selling the bread that he's baking, what is the threshold when he needs to seek approval.

Skaret said basically when it starts to affect traffic and if it affects the character of the neighborhood in some way. He said, for example, if someone starts baking bread and all of a sudden they're operating a bakery out of their house and having a retail store out of their basement, that would probably be where the line is crossed.

Mayor Polz asked for a motion to approve first consideration of Ordinance No. 139.

PETERSON/PELL moved and it was unanimously carried to approve first consideration of Ordinance No. 139 regarding Home Occupations.

APPROVE HOMECOMING PARADE ROUTE AND CLOSURE OF BUTLER AVENUE FROM NORTH HIGHWAY TO SPRINGFIELD PARKWAY ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Skaret said the Jackson County Central homecoming parade is coming up on Friday, September 29th. He said in addition to the route of the parade that was included in the City Councilmembers' informational packets, the school is requesting that Butler Avenue from North Highway to Springfield Parkway be closed all day so they don't have people trying to use that street for parking and then cause a disruption.

Skaret noted Sheriff Shawn Haken was present at the Council meeting. He asked Sheriff Haken if he had any objections or concerns with the parade.

Sheriff Haken said he spoke with school officials on Monday about the parade and things are good to go.

Mayor Polz said a motion was needed to approve the parade route.

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Jackson County Central Homecoming Parade route and closure of Butler Avenue from North Highway to Springfield Parkway on Friday, September 29, 2023.

JACKSON QUARTERLY STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING REMINDER – OCTOBER 2, 2023

Skaret said this agenda item was a reminder of the October 2nd quarterly strategic planning meeting. He noted the Council wanted to have representatives from the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce and Southwest Minnesota Broadband at the October 2nd meeting.

Skaret said the meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. He said the meeting will probably last for two hours. Skaret asked if they wanted to have any food delivered or just go through the meeting without a break.

It was the consensus of the Councilmembers to just go through the meeting without a break for food.

Other:

Alderman Chris Naumann

Alderman Chris Naumann asked if there were any updates regarding the former Coast to Coast building.

Skaret said he finally heard back from the engineer that inspected the former Coast to Coast building. He said the final engineering report is going through the engineering company's quality control process. Skaret said the draft of the report is done and the City should be receiving it later this week.

Alderman Mark Titus

Alderman Mark Titus asked for an update regarding the former Prairie Winds Motel.

City Attorney Brad Anderson said the owners of the property have been served with the Court order. He said the owners were given until September 25th to clear out all their personal property. Attorney Anderson said the owners were informed that anything left after that date could be loaded up and hauled to the landfill.

Attorney Anderson said Skaret received a bid on September 19th to demolish and remove the building. He said Skaret is still looking to receive another bid. Attorney Anderson said other than that, things have been quiet. He said Skaret could explain the bid he received for demolishing and removing the building.

Skaret said the bid he received is from a contractor that would do the environmental hazardous materials abatement, demolition, site restoration, bring everything up to grade and seeding. He said the contractor submitting the bid indicated they would do all of that. Skaret noted there is also another contractor looking at the site.

Mix asked if the contractor that submitted the bid has the capacity to remove the building yet this year?

Skaret said yes.

Alderman Chris Naumann

Alderman Naumann asked if there was any news regarding the lots where the former Alamo building had been located.

Economic Coordinator Dave Schmidt explained there are parts of three actual lots that are at the location of the former Alamo site, but it is two parcels which is what he received the bid from the realtors for. He said the numbers that the City received, the \$25,000 to \$30,000 for the lots covers everything the City owns.

Mix asked if the \$25,000 to \$30,000 was per lot.

Schmidt said the \$25,000 to \$30,000 is for both parcels.

Peterson said the sale of the lots could be added to the agenda for the City Council's special meeting on September 27th.

Skaret said that could be added to the September 27th agenda.

Alderman Nathan Peterson

Alderman Nathan Peterson said the Fire Department's new platform fire truck is going through its final inspections at the manufacturer. He said no delivery date for the truck has been announced.

Alderwoman Sara Mix

Alderwoman Sara Mix asked if there was any update regarding the façade of the laundromat.

Economic Coordinator Dave Schmidt said he talked with laundromat owner Lee Porter. He said Porter applied for a facade grant last year but the laundromat was actually denied a grant. Schmidt said the Porter's business of Exit Realty received a Downtown Building Improvement Grant, but not a facade grant for the laundromat. He said Porter is waiting for grant funds for next year and he will reapply for the facade grant at the first of the year.

Mix commented about the façade of the laundromat looking the way it is for that long. She said it's a very big eyesore on a very heavily traveled road. Mix asked what options does the City have then?

Pell said he agreed with Mix.

Skaret said unless something is a public health or safety hazard, he doesn't know if there's anything the City can do.

Mayor Polz said there's not an ordinance against ugly.

Mix said the front of the laundromat doesn't even look finished.

Peterson said he agreed with Mix.

Mix asked what if Porter applies for the facade grant next year and doesn't get it, are they going to just leave it like that?

Peterson asked if the City had an ordinance regarding facades?

Skaret said the City doesn't have an ordinance regarding the appearance of a facade.

Mix said it's disappointing, very disappointing.

Mayor Polz asked Mix if she had anything else.

Mix said just disappointment.

Alderman Joe Pell

Alderman Joe Pell said he just wanted to talk about the alleys. He said he noticed the dumpsters have been moved back into the alleys. Pell said he would just request from the businesses that have those dumpsters to make sure the dumpster covers don't fly open. He said he's seen issues in the past where there's been cardboard boxes and garbage get blown out of the dumpsters by the wind and it just stays in the alleys and there's not an attempt to pick it up. Pell said just a request to the businesses that have those dumpsters to keep everything cleaned up so the alleys can remain clean. He said they look nice and would like to keep it that way.

Alderman Chris Naumann

Alderman Chris Naumann asked if the City received some good reviews or how many things were picked up on the fall clean-up days.

Mayor Polz there were some good and then there were some places where items weren't picked up because some property owners were unaware that apartments are not picked up.

Skaret said apartments are not included in the Citywide clean-up because apartments contract on their own for garbage service similar to commercial businesses. He said apartments and commercial businesses are responsible for contracting with their own contractor for garbage service.

Mayor Polz noted there's been an abundance of trash that's been seen on a couple of properties that hopefully will get dealt with.

Skaret said the City has actually already updated their flyer for the spring clean-up making a point on the flyer that the Citywide Cleanup is for single-family residential properties only.

Mix asked if the City has reached out to the owners of the apartment buildings that they need to clean up their pile of garbage.

Skaret said City Clerk Maschoff has been in contact with one of the apartment owners about cleaning up their pile of garbage.

Pell suggested it would be nice in the future to have the prices to pick up mattresses, electronics and the like posted on the City's Facebook page. He said he noticed people were asking about what it cost to discard certain items on Facebook. Pell said it would be nice to have that price information available. He said it was just kind a food for thought.

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Skaret reported U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar visited the Jackson Airport on Saturday, September 16th. He said Senator Klobuchar was visiting communities in Southern Minnesota with a final stop at the Turkey Days parade in Worthington.

Skaret said Senator Klobuchar was very impressed with Jackson's airport and the runway. He noted the Jackson airport has received \$9.2 million in Federal grants for projects the City has been doing at the airport during the last couple of years.

Skaret said also discussed with Senator Klobuchar was the issue the Jackson airport is having with the Flight Service. Skaret said the Flight Service still lists the Jackson airport's runway as being closed because the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) hasn't done an aerial inspection that the Flight Service needs in order to list the Jackson Airport's runway as open. He said the aerial inspection keeps getting pushed back and back. Skaret said the latest word was that the FAA wasn't going to do their survey until January so the Jackson Airport is going to be listed as closed through the Flight Service through January. Skaret said Senator Klobuchar and her staff are going to work to get that issue resolved. He said before he even returned home on Saturday, a Klobuchar staff member from Washington, D.C. called to learn more about the issue. Skaret said Klobuchar's staff is going to start working on that issue right away.

Titus asked what is the effect of not having Flight Service list the Jackson Airport runway as open.

Mayor Polz explained there's what's known as a Notam (Notice to Airmen) that basically says the Jackson airport is closed and notifies all pilots flying by instruments (IFR) that the runway is closed. He said pilots flying visually can land at the airport, but those flying with instruments are not allowed to land at the Jackson Airport. Mayor Polz said how it affects the community is that Sanford will probably require IFR to land at the airport. He said if there's a medical emergency, it jeopardizes the Sanford plane being able to land at the Jackson airport with it listed as closed.

Skaret said he also wanted to thank Congressman Brad Finstad for visiting Jackson on Monday, September 11th. He said Congressman Finstad had a meeting at AGCO. Skaret said both he and Mayor Polz attended the meeting. Skaret said Congressman Finstad's topic at that meeting was hearing from individuals about the farm bill.

Mayor Polz said Congressman Finstad also touched on immigration reform at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

PETERSON/MIX moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:27 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Marcus Polz, Mayor

