

Jackson, Minnesota
September 1, 2020

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 1, 2020 with the meeting called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Madden. On the roll call, the following persons were present, Alderman and Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Madden, Aldermen Larry Anderson, Brandon Finck, Dave Cushman and Nathan Peterson. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, Street Superintendent Phil Markman, Jackson Ambulance Director Stephanie Beranek, Jackson Fire Department Second Assistant Chief-Training Officer Kirk Dunlavey, Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk, Robert Grunewald and City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff. Also attending via Teleconference and Zoom were Alderman Jeffrey Gay, Kathy Fransen, Justin Lessman of the Jackson County Pilot and Dave Schmidt of KKOJ/KUXX Radio. (Mayor Wayne Walter was absent.) (A quorum of the City Council was present.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Madden announced the Pledge of Allegiance would be said before the City Council meeting was called to order.

Those present in the Council Chambers recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Matt Madden called the regular meeting of the Jackson City Council to order. He said the roll call showed all Councilmembers were present and Mayor Wayne Walter was absent.

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

Unscheduled Guests

Mayor Pro-Tem Madden asked if there were any unscheduled guests in the audience. Seeing none and hearing none, Mayor Pro-Tem Madden said the Council meeting would proceed with the consideration of the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

CUSHMAN/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Council Discussion Items

JACKSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS OUTDOOR CONCERT – KATHY FRANSEN

Kathy Fransen joined the Council meeting via Zoom. She explained the Jackson Center for the Arts would like to request that Second Street (Main Street) in front of the Center for the Arts between White and Ashley Streets be closed to traffic on Sunday afternoon, September 20th for a street concert.

Alderman Anderson asked what time the concert would be held.

Fransen said it's believed the concert will be held from 4 to 6 p.m.

Finck asked Street Superintendent Phil Markman if he had any concerns regarding closing a block of Main Street for the concert.

Markman said he had no concerns.

Cushman noted the City currently has a lot of picnic tables located at downtown businesses. He asked Fransen if the picnic tables would be of any use for the street concert on September 20th.

Fransen said they may have a use for the picnic tables. She explained the Center for the Arts has talked about possibly scheduling a food truck to be at the street concert. Fransen said they would be using one of the food trucks that already has a peddler's license to operate in the City of Jackson.

Fransen said the street concert would be a small event respecting social distancing. She said the Center for the Arts is going to be asking people attending to bring their own chairs.

Cushman said he was just making the offer regarding the picnic tables.

Fransen thanked Cushman for the offer. She said she would talk to the Center of the Arts' Board regarding the offer to use the picnic tables and will let the City know what their intentions are.

Finck informed Fransen to coordinate with Markman if they want to use the tables.

Markman said the Street Department will drop the traffic cones off as they have done in the past to close off Second Street in front of the Arts Center and will get the picnic tables staged if the Arts Center wants to use them.

Fransen thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Madden and the City Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Madden thanked Fransen.

FINCK/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve closing Second Street (Main Street) from White Street to Ashley Street from approximately 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, September 20th, 2020 for the Jackson Center for the Arts street concert.

AMBULANCE SEAT BELT POLICY

Jackson Ambulance Director Stephanie Beranek said the Ambulance Department is putting a seat belt policy into place. She noted a fatal traffic accident the past weekend in South Dakota involving an Iowa ambulance returning home from Sioux Falls. Beranek explained one of the EMT's in the accident was a passenger and ejected from the ambulance and pronounced dead at the scene.

Beranek said the Jackson Ambulance Department is being proactive in starting to encourage the ambulance members to start thinking about their own safety. She said the ambulance members' safety is important because if they don't think about their own safety then there won't be people to respond to their patients who need them.

Beranek said the Jackson Ambulance Department has a proposed ambulance seat belt policy that was provided to the City Council in their informational packets. She asked if there were any questions.

Skaret noted there is a provision in the policy for ambulance personnel to get out of their seat and not be seat belted if it's necessary or critical for the care of the patient.

Beranek said the Ambulance Department is very fortunate with the ambulances they have and the ones they've designed. She said they worked very hard to try and design them to meet their care needs so the ambulance personnel can reach what they need and remain seat belted. Beranek noted they are also working on changing the ambulance personnel's safety mindset to stop and think what they could possibly need for treatment for their patient before the ambulance starts rolling. She went on to say that in certain situations, the ambulance may be pulled over to the side of the road because that may be the safest way to treat a patient and also provide safety for the EMT's in the rig. Beranek said there is a provision in the policy regarding the care of patients. She noted there may be moments when restraining EMT's isn't going to be in the best interest in caring for a patient.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Jackson Ambulance Department's Seat Belt Policy.

APPROVE HIRING PATTY VIDANA AND JEREMY FRICKE AS PART-TIME EMT'S FOR THE AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENT UPON SATISFACTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS

Beranek explained the Ambulance Department conducted interviews this week for two part-time positions. She said one of the part-time positions was filled in-house with Patty Vidana.

Beranek reported the Department had four really great candidates with three of them that excelled. She said an offer was extended to Jeremy Fricke. Beranek said fortunately for the Ambulance Department, the other three candidates who interviewed are going to accept and become members of the Jackson Ambulance crew. She said the Ambulance Department really gained a lot from conducting the interviews.

Skaret noted the other three new Ambulance Department members Beranek referred to were approved by the Council on the Consent Agenda.

Skaret noted the two part-time positions are considered temporary until December 31st, 2020. He said the positions will then be re-evaluated to determine whether to continue them after that.

Beranek said that was correct.

ANDERSON/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to approve hiring Patty Vidana and Jeremy Fricke as part-time EMT's for the Jackson Ambulance Department contingent upon satisfactory background checks.

SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

Skaret noted the Sanitary Sewer Extension Project has been on hold for a couple of years due to high water in the river.

In providing background information, Skaret said the Sanitary Sewer Extension Project was a project that was conceived around 2010 or so. He said the project was bid a few times back in 2012 and 2014. Skaret said due to a variety of reasons including that the bids were too high or there wasn't enough funding available, the project was put on hold.

Skaret said in 2015, the project was rebid. He said the right combination of a good enough bid and funding available primarily through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority made it possible for the City to approve the bid from Svoboda Excavating back in March of 2015.

Skaret said the project commenced in 2016. He said it essentially entailed extending the sanitary sewer to enable the hooking up of 28 properties who had non-compliant septic systems. Skaret said it was kind of a hodge-podge of properties around Jackson that were affected. He pointed out there were some properties that needed to be hooked up to sanitary sewer on Springfield Parkway, Moore Street, Ballard Avenue and down along River Street.

Skaret explained about three-quarters of the project was completed. He said the main hold-up the last couple of years has been a river crossing that's needed with the sanitary sewer pipe. Skaret said the water level of the river had to be down to basically where it's at today (September 1st, 2020) in order to successfully and safely make that crossing.

Skaret pointed out Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk has been talking with Svoboda Excavating during the last few weeks about getting going on the project again.

Skaret said in taking a look at the reality of the situation, the complexity of the work and also what is thought will be a small window to get the river crossing done, it's a job for more than one contractor. He explained crossing the river is not necessarily in Svoboda's wheelhouse so the City has contacted Geislinger and Sons Incorporated from St. Cloud. Skaret said Geislinger and Sons will be basically working together with Svoboda's to make this river crossing happen. He noted Geislinger and Sons can start mobilizing as early as the middle of this week. (September 2, 2020)

Skaret said the City Finance Committee met on Monday evening, August 31st. He explained there's a change order that's needed since there will now basically be two contractors working on the project crossing the river.

Skaret said Geislinger and Sons is providing labor and equipment and Svoboda's is providing materials and some help with labor. He explained as a negotiated change order to get this project done, the Finance Committee is recommending approving Change Order No. 1 for a cost of \$75,000.

ANDERSON/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Sanitary Sewer Extension Project Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$75,000.

Skaret noted assuming the river crossing work is completed during this window of low water levels in the river, it is potentially possible, weather permitting, that the last leg of the of the Sanitary Sewer Extension Project could be completed yet this year. He said it could possibly be completed by the end of October.

Mitchell said Paul Fishel of Svoboda Excavating needs to talk with some of his subcontractors for the horizontal directional drilling that has to be done yet and see where they're at. Mitchell said it's all of course dependent on getting across the river. He said the river crossing will be done first before tackling the rest of the project.

North Highway Reconstruction Update

Skaret asked Mitchell to give the Council an update on the North Highway Reconstruction Project.

Mitchell reported reconstruction work on North Highway started last week. (August 24th through the 28th) He said the contractor reclaimed the pavement and aggregate and stockpiled the material at the City/County Maintenance Facility. Mitchell said the contractor also removed the curb and driveways. He said this week, they have started working on the watermain portion of the project.

Mitchell said for the first phase of the project, the contractor is over half-way completed with the water main after just two days of work. He said on August 31st, they had to install a hot tap valve so that took up part of Monday morning's work. Mitchell said based on what the contractor completed on August 31st and September 1st; they should be getting close to the bottom of the hill on North Highway so they can start heading up to the end of phase one.

Mitchell said the material has been good and the weather has been good. He said as soon as the project started, it rained a few times but nothing severe so it hasn't really slowed the project down. Mitchell said things have been moving along very well.

MMUA SAFETY GROUP CONTRACT 2020-2021

Skaret said the City has their annual safety contract with MMUA (Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association) up for renewal for 2020-2021. He explained MMUA's fiscal year runs a little bit different than the City's so that's why the contract is for 2020/2021.

Skaret said the City basically has safety training two days per month on a variety of topics ranging anywhere from CPR-First Aid to ladder safety, confined spaces, bucket trucks plus a host of other topics. He said it's a very good program.

Skaret said the MMUA contract is proposed to be in the amount of \$17,906.23 which is just a slight increase of \$102.58 over this year.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the MMUA Safety Group Contract for 2020-2021.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER FOOT CARE SERVICES

Skaret said the Senior Center has been closed basically since March. He noted there's been no congregate dining, senior citizen's activities and the Center hasn't been rented out to private groups.

Skaret explained for the past few years before everything was shut down, Paula Finke, who works for Sanford, has provided foot care services to senior citizens. He said Finke's monthly services have included clipping toe nails, callouses and so forth at the Senior Center. Skaret said Finke was asking if she could start providing foot care services again at the Senior Center. He noted Finke provides services once a week and charges \$25 per person each time she provides services.

Skaret said Finke stated she would follow all the safety protocols, require everyone to wear masks, and work in a separate room at the Senior Center.

Skaret said he wanted to know the City Council's thoughts on whether the City wanted Finke to resume providing foot care services at the Senior Center.

Cushman asked who would come in to clean at the Senior Center once Finke conducted her foot care services. He asked if cleaning would be Finke's responsibility or City staff or what would the City be doing for sanitation after the foot care services are held?

Skaret said right now nothing is set up for sanitation services. He noted before the Covid-19 pandemic, Lutheran Social Services had a person cleaning the Senior Center when the congregate dining was being held there. But since Lutheran Social Services has stopped serving meals at the Senior Center, Skaret said there really hasn't been anyone cleaning other than the cleaning that Lutheran Social Services does of the meal site for the Meals on Wheels Program.

Cushman said things are different now. He said if the City is not going to have the Senior Center open for eating, how is the City going to sanitize safely the building when someone is doing footcare services. Cushman asked who would sanitize the building and if Finke would do that?

Skaret said he would recommend if the City would allow Finke to provide foot care services at the Senior Center, that she would be responsible for the sanitizing of her area where she provides foot care services and also any waiting area.

Finck said he assumes the City would want Finke to sign some kind of Covid liability waiver to protect the City.

City Attorney Brad Anderson said he would assume the foot care services would be the only activity that would be going on at present in the Senior Center. He said he thinks Finke should be responsible for the sanitizing and cleaning and sign some kind of waiver. Attorney Anderson said Finke should also be responsible to comply with all State Health guidelines and rules.

Cushman commented it just seems odd that the City would take their Senior Dining Center and turn it into this type of service. He said he really don't understand why the City would even consider it. Cushman said the foot care service is almost a mobile business that can go anywhere and do this type of work. He said that was just his opinion.

Attorney Anderson asked why Finke couldn't go into client's homes and provide the foot care services.

Cushman said he's sure there's a need for the services, he doesn't doubt that at all.

Alderman Anderson said he questions whether allowing the Senior Dining Center to be used for foot care services will spur other people to request using the Center for other things.

Peterson said that was his thought also. He asked Skaret if the Sanford Medical Center had a place in their facility for Finke to provide foot care services.

Skaret said he asked Finke if there was a place she could use at Sanford and she said she had never thought of that.

Peterson said that would be a logical place for Finke to provide foot care services.

Alderman Anderson said maybe Finke should check to see if there's space available at Sanford.

Skaret said Finke said she was going to check with Sanford, but he never heard back from her.

Alderman Anderson said Sanford has a lot of unused rooms.

Peterson also noted Sanford has cleaning staff available to sanitize.

Alderman Anderson concurred with Peterson that Sanford had cleaning staff available year-round.

Alderman Anderson asked if the City Council could table action on Finke's request or just say the City is probably not going to open the Senior Center just for that.

Attorney Anderson said the City Council could certainly table action and allow Finke to explore other options before taking Council action.

CUSHMAN/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to table the request by Paul Finke to use the Senior Citizens Center building for foot care services.

RESOLUTION NO. 34-0920: RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE BONDING BILL 2020

Skaret explained the resolution urging the State Legislature to approve Bonding Bill 2020 is something the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities is encouraging their members to approve. He noted at the City Council's August 18th meeting when Shane Zahrt from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities gave a legislative update and talked about the Coalition's efforts to urge state lawmakers to pass a bonding bill.

Skaret said the Legislature did not pass a bonding bill during the past Legislative Session. He said it looked like the Legislature was poised to do so and then the Covid-19 pandemic hit in March and it was everything Covid all the time and things were shut down.

Skaret said the Legislature has been having Special Sessions once a month relating to the Governor's Emergency Powers. He said the Governor can extend the emergency powers 30 days at a time but the Legislature has to be in session when he does that. Skaret said the bonding bill has gotten put on hold and it's become somewhat of a political football.

Skaret explained the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities is trying to put some extra pressure on the Legislature to approve a bonding bill.

Skaret noted the City of Jackson doesn't have any projects in the current bonding bill. He said in the past, the City has received bonding money for the library renovation and the Memorial Park Project.

Skaret said there's a lot of cities in Greater Minnesota who are members of the Coalition that would benefit from the bonding bill.

Skaret said he presented the resolution to the City Council to see what the level of interest was.

Cushman said he asked Skaret to put Resolution No. 34-0920 on the agenda because the City of Jackson is part of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. He said the Coalition has helped the City in the past. Cushman noted the City of Jackson currently has no projects included in the current bonding bill, but if the City shows solidarity in this instance, it may help grab some traction for the future. He said it may show that the citizens, cities and the towns are united and maybe will get the bonding bill moving forward for some cities that do have some bonding interests this coming season or this year. Cushman said he thinks approving the resolution helps the City of Jackson. He noted even though Jackson doesn't have any direct impact right now, the City could very possibly have going forward. Cushman said approving the resolution doesn't hurt the City of Jackson. He said that was his take on it.

CUSHMAN/FINCK moved and Resolution No. 34-0920 urging the Minnesota State Legislature to approve Bonding Bill 2020 was approved on a 3 to 1 vote.

Voting in favor of Resolution No. 34-0920 were Aldermen Dave Cushman, Brandon Finck and Larry Anderson.

Voting against Resolution No. 34-0920 was Alderman Nathan Peterson.

DECLARE 1997 FIRE TRUCK AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS

Skaret reported the new fire truck has finally arrived. He said it arrived early last week. (Week of August 24th, 2020) Skaret said he's seen the new truck and it looks great. He said the Fire Department was having their training on the new truck on September 1st.

Skaret said he asked Fire Chief Dave Bond to bring the new fire truck and park it in the City Hall parking lot before the September 15th City Council meeting so the Mayor and Council can look at it. Skaret said the new fire truck is really nice and he knows the Fire Department is very appreciative.

Skaret explained the 1997 Fire Truck still has quite a bit of value. He said it was thought initially that some of the smaller, neighboring Fire Departments might have an interest in it, but it appears that interest has faded. Skaret said what he would recommend is for the City Council to declare the 1997 Fire Truck as surplus property and authorize the solicitation of bids.

Skaret said the 1997 Fire Truck can be advertised locally as well as on the Minnesota State Fire Association's web site for surplus equipment.

Cushman asked if the solicitation of bids would be handled through the Fire Department or City Hall.

Kirk Dunlavey said the Fire Department would like to work with City Administrator Skaret regarding the solicitation of bids.

Skaret said he and Dunlavey would write the ad for the solicitation of bids together and get the ad published and posted. As far as answering questions about the truck specifically, Skaret said he would want those interested to contact someone with the Fire Department directly who is more knowledgeable about the specifics of the truck.

Cushman asked if the Council will approve the successful bid.

Skaret explained once the bids are submitted, the bids will be presented to the City Council for consideration and the Council will have the opportunity to approve or deny the bids.

Peterson asked how long the bidding process would be.

Dunlavey said there are some people who are interested in the truck. He said the 1997 truck is in pretty good shape. Dunlavey explained there are some processes interested buyers may need to go through before they submit a bid. He said if the City would put the truck on an auction, they probably wouldn't get much for it.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to declare the 1997 Fire Truck as surplus property and authorize for the solicitation of bids.

APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SPLASHPAD JOINT POWERS COMMITTEE

Skaret explained the City entered into an agreement with the Jackson County Central School District as the School District was generous to allow the City's splashpad on their property.

Skaret said the City and School District entered into a Joint Powers Agreement that basically had voting representatives, two representatives each from the Schoolboard and the City Council. He said the Splashpad Joint Powers Committee sets the rules and oversees the operations of the splashpad.

Skaret said the splashpad is getting very close to being completed. He said at some point in the near future, the Joint Powers Committee needs to get together to go over the rules and talk about some operational issues. Skaret said the City Council needs to officially appoint two voting members to serve on the Splashpad Joint Powers Committee.

Finck said he would serve on the Splashpad Joint Powers Committee.

Peterson said he would also serve on the Committee.

CUSHMAN/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to appoint Alderman Brandon Finck and Alderman Nathan Peterson as the City of Jackson’s representatives to the Splashpad Joint Powers Committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Madden extended congratulations to Aldermen Finck and Peterson.

FLOORCOAT MIDWEST MANHOLE REHABILITATION QUOTE – APPROVE LEVELING PROPOSAL

Street Superintendent Phil Markman said he was approached by Midwest Manhole Company. He explained the City has several manholes downtown that have basically “dropped”.

Markman said Midwest Manhole has a tool called “Mr. Manhole” that is used to cut the manhole out and relevel it resulting in a nice uniform edge. He said Midwest Manhole has come down in their price to make the repairs. Markman said Midwest Manhole will do ten manholes for a total of \$10,000, basically a \$1,000 apiece. Markman said he showed Richard Hanson from Midwest Manhole Company the manholes he had marked for repair on August 31st.

Markman said some motorists think they are potholes, but they are actually manholes that have sank.

Markman said compared to what Midwest Manhole Company can do in a certain time frame because that’s what they do for a living, the Street Department can’t adjust the manholes and repair them in a timely manner. Markman said a couple Street Department personnel were sent over to Sherburn to watch the manhole repair process and said it was impressive. He noted Midwest Manhole Company has also been doing some work in Truman.

Markman said in addition to the releveling of manholes, Midwest Manhole Company also does the rehabilitation of manholes where they inject a solution into the manhole and recoat the manhole's interior. He said the company would like to do one of the manholes in Jackson as a sample.

Markman said he thinks the releveling of the manholes would be a huge plus for the downtown.

Alderman Anderson asked if Mr. Hanson explained what their time frame would be to relevel ten manholes.

Markman said Hanson indicated it would take a couple of days and would result in minimal traffic interruptions. He said the equipment to relevel the manholes is run off a bobcat or skid loader so it's a fairly compact unit so it would only take up one lane of traffic and still keep the road open. Markman said there are a couple manholes to be relevelled that are side by side, two by the Pizza Ranch alley on Bailey Street.

Markman said Midwest Manhole Company is eager to show the City what they can do in Jackson.

Cushman asked Markman how did the Street Department relevel manholes in the past.

Markman explained in the past the Street Department would cut out the manhole, jackhammer it and put rings underneath the manhole and then have to get asphalt back into place.

Markman noted now the Street Department has other projects that they're dealing with and asphalt is only available two days a week from Worthington which is weather dependent. He said Midwest Manhole cuts out the manhole and fills it back in with concrete. Markman explained they turn the manhole so it's like a diamond so when the Street Department plows snow, they will hit the point first instead of the abrupt edge. He said it's a pretty slick deal.

Cushman asked about the items on the informational sheet provided by Midwest Manhole Company. He noted there were a lot of bullet points on the sheet, but asked if the Street Department was only considering the first item on the sheet pertaining to the releveling of the ten manholes.

Markman said there were several options presented on the information from Midwest Manhole. Markman said Midwest Manhole is willing to do one manhole as a sample where they would inject a coating into the manhole. He said Midwest Manhole would do the coating of the manhole for the cost of material only just so the Street Department can see what it is.

Markman said in talking with Skaret, Street Department personnel, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough and Engineer Greg Mitchell from Bolton and Menk, the City needs to do an assessment of the manholes all around town to get a good feel of what's out there and what's left to do. He noted the City has an I&I (Inflow and Infiltration) problem with old manholes, a lot of brick and mortar manholes verses precast manholes. Markman said a list needs to be compiled and that may turn into a project like the City did with the slip lining years ago and then replacing a lot of manholes. Markman said he doesn't want to put a band aid on something and then two years later have to rip it out. He said he doesn't want to spend \$4,000 or \$5,000 on a manhole if the City is going to end up doing a project and replacing it anyway. He said there are certain situations where injecting the manholes could be applied to the City's needs. But, Markman said on a broad scale, he thinks the City needs to get a big picture of what the condition is of the City's manholes that are left to be rehabbed.

Markman noted the downtown was last redone in 1984-1985 and it's starting to show some wear. He said the Street Department has been patching the best they can downtown. Markman said he knows there's been discussion about a possible mill and overlay of downtown, but the City has other projects ahead of that right now. He said the last two years have really taken a toll on the downtown.

City Attorney Anderson asked Markman if the Street Department is only talking about bullet point one on the informational sheet from Midwest Manhole to just relevel ten manholes.

Markman said right now they are just looking at releveling the ten manholes in the downtown area and then Midwest Manhole is willing to do a coating on one manhole on Center Street by the fertilizer plant as a demo.

Alderman Anderson asked if the coating of the one manhole would be at no cost.

Markman said the cost for the coating would be just the cost of material. He said Mr. Hanson took the measurements of the manhole on Center Street that's proposed to be coated as a demonstration. Markman said Hanson hasn't contacted him yet on how much product it would take to coat the manhole.

Markman said tonight's request is just for the releveling of the 10 manholes in the downtown area. Markman said he would come back to the Council at another time regarding the cost of the material to coat the manhole on Center Street as a demonstration.

Skaret said a motion would be needed to approve the quote for Midwest Manhole to rehabilitate the 10 manhole tops in the downtown area.

FINCK/ANDERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Floorcoat Midwest Manhole rehabilitation quote of \$10,000 for the leveling of 10 manholes in the downtown area.

Other:

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Skaret reported the City reached a milestone this past week with the City's AMI metering project.

Skaret said for those that have had meters installed, either water, electric or both, the City Hall office successfully got the meter readings transferred from the meters into the billing system. Skaret explained the bills that were sent at the end of the month and will be arriving in mailboxes this week, will reflect the current readings for those who have the new AMI meters. He noted those readings were transferred over on August 25th.

Skaret said if a utility customer had a new meter installed, their utility bill is probably going to be a little bit higher than it normally is. He explained right now on the utility bills, a customer is paying for usage that's roughly, depending when you read your meter, two months behind. For instance, Skaret said if a customer turns their meter reading into City Hall on August 1st, those bills will be sent at the end of August and that's basically for July's usage. He said you would be paying that bill in September under the old system.

Under the new AMI System, Skaret said if the system takes the reading on August 25th, the utility customer will be paying for the usage before August 25th. Skaret said for those customers who have their new AMI meters installed, they're most likely going to see a higher utility bill because the City is basically getting them caught up.

Skaret said he wanted to make the City Council aware of that in case any of the Councilmembers hear any comments or sticker shock from anyone. He pointed out the City is sending letters out with MRES Jackson Distribution Foreman Jeremy Boogerd and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Tony Oxborough so when they change out meters, they can give the letter to utility customers explaining that their first bill with the new meters is probably going to be higher than they're used to.

Madden asked how many new AMI meters are in service.

Skaret said the Electric Department has over 300 new AMI electric meters in service as of last count and the Water Department has over 100 new AMI water meters in service. He said installing the new water meters takes a lot longer than installing the new electric meters. Skaret explained it takes two people from the Water Department about an hour to install a new AMI water meter. He said on a good day, if the Water Department is only working on meters, they can get six to eight water meters installed. Skaret said the installation of the new AMI electric meters goes a lot faster because the Electric Department personnel don't have to go into homes. He noted it takes more time to change a water meter.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, ANDERSON/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:10 p.m.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

