

September 20, 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, September 20, 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 Michael More, Jerome Palmer, Brandon Finck, Nathan Peterson, Marcus Polz and Dave Cushman. Also attending in-person were City Administrator Matt Skaret, City Attorney Brad Anderson, 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, Nicole McNea of the Jackson Women of Today, Addie King of the Southwest Crisis Center, Tiffany Lamb of the Jackson County Central Positive Actions Towards Health Program (PATH), Joe Pell, Mitch Jasper, City Clerk/Council Secretary Dave Maschoff and Josh Schuetz of the Jackson County Pilot. Attending the meeting via Teleconference and Zoom were Lee Porter, and Raina Holbrook. (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 all Councilmembers were present.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Walter asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Alderman Polz asked to pull Consent Agenda Item 7(E), Jackson Cycle Claim Determination, for further discussion.

FINCK/PALMER moved and it was unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented minus item 7(E), Jackson Cycle Claim Determination.

Consent Agenda Item 7(E) Jackson Cycle Claim Determination

Polz explained he pulled Consent Agenda Item 7(E) for further clarification regarding the Jackson Cycle Claim Determination.

Polz said he sees how the determination was made but asked what was being sought regarding City Council action.

City Administrator Matt Skaret explained the City had referred Jackson Cycle's claim regarding their lift station that had burned out because of a frozen sewer main to the EDA. He said the EDA recommended approval of a \$2,100 forgivable loan pending reopening of the case. Skaret said the EDA wanted the City's insurance carrier, the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust to reevaluate Jackson Cycle's claim. He said if the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust would deny the claim again, the EDA would go ahead and issue the \$2,100 forgivable loan.

Polz commented so the matter is still going forward and there's no hang-up. He asked if the Jackson Cycle Claim Determination was just an informational item.

Skaret said it was just an informational item.

Mayor Walter asked for a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item 7(E).

POLZ/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Consent Agenda Item 7(E) Jackson Cycle Claim Determination.

Unscheduled Guests:

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

Mitch Jasper said he was an unscheduled guest. Jasper said he's being stonewalled by the City Utilities Commission. He explained he submitted a permit for water and sewer hook-ups and he was turned down three times by the Utilities Commission.

Jasper pointed out the City Council gave him permission to move a house onto a lot at 805 Bailey Street. He said now he asks for water and sewer and three times the Utilities Commission has turned him down. Jasper said the last time the Utilities Commission turned him down they asked him where he was going to bring electricity onto that lot. He said he spoke with the City's Electricity Manager on September 20th and was told electricity could be brought onto the lot wherever he wanted it.

Jasper said three times he's gone before the Utilities Commission and three times he's been turned down. He said he needs a permit for water and sewer hook-ups. Jasper noted it's October in two weeks and he needs a permit. He said he's looking for a motion to grant him a permit. Jasper said he'll work with the Street Department, the Water Department, Electric Department, every Department Manager. He said he'll work with them and do whatever they say. Jasper said in the beginning he planned to tap onto an existing sewer line that was connected to an existing house on his lot. Jasper said he was told he couldn't do that so he said he'd just hook his water and sewer lines onto the main in the street.

Jasper said the last question the Utilities Commission asked was where he was going to bring in the electricity. Jasper said he talked with the Electric Department and they said wherever he wanted the electricity to be brought into his lot. Jasper said he was caught in a catch 22. He noted the City Council gave him a permit to move in a house and the Utilities Commission is stonewalling him on his permits. He said he's looking for a motion to grant him a permit for electricity. Jasper said he will follow every one of the City's rules and whatever he's told to do, he will do.

Skaret noted the Utilities Commission had not denied Jasper's permit. He said the Utilities Commission had some questions and wanted Jasper to attend a Utilities Commission meeting. He said Jasper was on the Utilities Commission agenda twice and he never attended.

Jasper said it was a denial by the Utilities Commission. He said he had submitted the paperwork he needed to answer the Commission's questions to City Clerk Maschoff and City Administrator Skaret. Jasper said he's in the construction business and in the summertime, he doesn't have the time to attend a meeting. He said he gave the Utilities Commission everything they needed and they still didn't approve his permit. Jasper asked the City Council to approve his permits and he will follow every rule. He said it's going to be October in two weeks and he needs to dig the water and sewer lines in. Jasper said he's looking for a motion to approve his permits.

Jasper said every one of the City Managers have been very reasonable. He said this Utilities Commission has been nothing but resistance. Jasper said whatever City Managers want he will do. He said he needs a permit.

Finck asked if the houses at 805 Bailey will have separate sewer, separate water and separate electric installed where the City managers want it.

Jasper said absolutely, 100 percent. He said he will follow every rule including the natural gas company because he needs to bring in natural gas too. Jasper said whatever they want, he'll do, but he needs a permit to get his project going.

Peterson said it sounds pretty cut and dried if the utilities to both houses are separate.

PETERSON/POLZ moved and it was unanimously carried to grant Mitch Jasper a permit to install electric, water and sewer utilities to a house at 805 Bailey Street according to City Department Head Managers.

Jasper thanked Mayor Walter and Councilmembers.

Mayor Walter commented he didn't appreciate the City Council having to make a decision over the Utilities Commission. He said Jasper wanted to circumvent the Utilities Commission. Mayor Walter said all Jasper had to do was show up for a Utilities Commission meeting.

Skaret noted the Utilities Commission will meet next Monday, September 26th.

Mayor Walter said all Jasper would have had to do was show up for a Utilities Commission meeting.

NICOLE MCNEA – STREET CLOSURE REQUEST TO CLOSE SECOND STREET (MAIN STREET) FROM ASHLEY STREET TO SHERIDAN STREET AND FROM ASHLEY TO WHITE STREET BEGINNING AT 4 P.M. ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH FOR THE JACKSON WOMEN OF TODAY’S TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT TO BE HELD FROM 5 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

Nicole McNea of the Jackson Women of Today said they’re planning to host their Trunk or Treat Event on Thursday, October 27th. She said in the past the event has been held downtown with Second Street (Main Street) closed from Ashley Street to Sheridan Street and from Ashley Street to White Street leaving Ashley Street open to cross Second Street.

McNea said the Women of Today is requesting approval to close those streets again for this year’s event on October 27th from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Cushman asked if the Women of Today needed traffic cones or if they have contacted the Sheriff’s Department to make it safe for everyone.

McNea said they haven’t contacted the Sheriff’s Department yet and would like to have street cones.

Skaret said he would coordinate with the Street Department in getting traffic cones for the October 27th event.

POLZ/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to close Second Street (Main Street) from Ashley Street to Sheridan Street and from Ashley to White Street beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 27th for the Jackson Women of Today’s Truck or Treat Event to be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

McNea thanked Mayor Walter and Councilmembers.

ADDIE KING – AUTHORIZATION TO PUT PURPLE RIBBONS ON DOWNTOWN STREET LIGHT POLES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Addie King introduced herself and said she was from the Southwest Crisis Center. She said their office is located at Minnesota West in Jackson.

King said October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She said the Southwest Crisis Center was requesting to place about a dozen purple ribbons on the street light poles as part of the awareness efforts. King said the ribbons would be placed on the street light poles at the end of September or beginning of October and would be removed by October 31st. She noted ribbons were tied to the light poles in Lakefield last year to bring awareness to domestic abuse.

Cushman said he believes tying ribbons to the downtown light poles for Domestic Violence Awareness Month has been done in the past in Jackson as well.

CUSHMAN/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to authorize allowing the Southwest Crisis Center to put purple ribbons on the downtown street light poles for Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

King thanked Mayor Walter and Councilmembers.

TIFFANY LAMB – JCC POSITIVE ACTIONS TOWARDS HEALTH GRANT

Tiffany Lamb introduced herself and said she wanted to share information with the City Council about the Jackson County Central Positive Actions Towards Health grant and the new PATH group.

Lamb said two years ago, Jackson County Central applied for a grant called the Positive Community Norms Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health's Behavioral Health Division.

Lamb explained the grant is intended to reduce youth substance use and it's meant to do it through three main categories of activities that are really non-traditional to what we see with substance use. She said the first is community involvement which is the PATH group. Lamb said the PATH group is bringing in different sectors of the community so that they can make sure that they have a wide variety of perspectives in the work that they are doing and they can really make sure that their work is going to be as effective as possible to as much of the population and as many of the youth here as possible.

Lamb said the second category is youth leadership and engagement in building youth groups in the middle school and the high school so that students can also share what their perspectives are and really what they want to be seeing happen both in the school environment and the community. Lamb said in the future she'll have a lot of feedback from them available both informally and qualitative data from conversations and one on ones with students on things that they'd like to see and initiatives that they're really interested in. She noted the grant is intended to impact the 6th through 12th grade population the most.

Lamb said the third part of this grant is Positive Community Norms Based Messaging. She said some may have already seen some of this messaging out in the community. Lamb said some of the messages from PATH include "Most Huskies Don't Vape in a Typical Month" or "Most Huskies Don't Drink Alcohol in a Typical Month". She explained the point of the messages is to draw attention to the statistical truth that most of JCC's students are not drinking, they are not vaping and they're making really good choices. Lamb said by really emphasizing the positive behavior that is actually being seen in the school, the peer pressure can be decreased for students to engage in future behavior that involves substance use. She said there will be a lot of messages coming out in the Jackson and Lakefield communities over the next four years of the grant.

Lamb said PATH has been working directly on the student environment at Jackson County Central. She explained at the High School, PATH has been funding enrichment activities so that when students are done with their homework in study halls, they can really be doing something fun and connecting with teachers. Lamb said research has shown that having one or two teachers or staff members in school that a student feels cares about them quite a bit actually significantly decreases the risk of substance use by a student. She said PATH has been really working on impacting the student environment and the way students perceive about how much their teachers and school staff care about them.

Lamb said PATH has also really, really been promoting community events because that's another factor that they've seen to reduce substance abuse. She said, for example during the summer, PATH hosted free pool parties at the Jackson Pool and the Lakefield Aquatics Center. Lamb said there was free admission to those events so all students were able to swim for free. She said the events were inclusive to all also giving students a free beach towel that had one of those Positive Community Norms messages on them that said "Most Huskies Don't Drink Alcohol in a Typical Month". Lamb said the community events give students something to do and get them away from idle hands. She said it provides them strong community traditions and works hard to grow the traditions that are already in place such as homecoming. She said alongside the homecoming dance, PATH will also be offering laser tag in the gym for those students who typically wouldn't go to the dance. Lamb said by offering events for students, it mitigates the risk of students going out and drinking by giving them something else to do. She said PATH is strengthening a traditional event that's already there and already strong for students in the high school.

Skaret, who is also a member of the PATH committee, said another thing PATH did was pay the \$30 admission fee for all students to attend Post Prom.

Lamb said PATH covered the full \$30 admission for students to attend Post Prom. She said the time directly after Prom was identified as the most likely risk factor for students drinking. Lamb said if efforts were made to get students to attend the Post Prom event, even if they weren't going to the regular Prom, they could mitigate some of the risk of students drinking that night. She said PATH covered the full \$30 Post Prom admission fee for all JCC Juniors and Seniors that were interested in attending. Lamb said 92 percent of Juniors and Seniors attended Post Prom which was significantly greater than the number of students that actually attended Prom. She said PATH also provided the pizzas at Post Prom. Lamb said they first thought they would order 20 to 25 pizzas but ended up ordering 55 pizzas for the number of students that attended.

Lamb said with the Positive Community Norms Grant, they have the type of funding where they're really able to target events like Post Prom that students are already interested in, are great and positive and are going to mitigate risks. She said PATH is just trying to grow and strengthen those events.

Lamb thanked Skaret for all of his involvement in PATH. She told Mayor Walter and Councilmembers that Skaret has been phenomenal in being involved with the PATH program. Lamb said she doesn't think Skaret has missed a PATH meeting. She said there are 9 communities across Minnesota that have the Positive Community Norms Grant. Lamb said she doesn't think any of the other communities have their City Administrator involved. She said she wanted to say on record thank-you to Skaret for his involvement.

Lamb thanked Mayor Walter and City Councilmembers for their time. She said the PATH Committee meets on the third Tuesdays in Room 34 of the JCC High School. Lamb said PATH is open to anyone who would like to get involved. She said anyone is invited to attend a meeting and talk to her more about the program. Lamb said they would love to have anyone interested attend their meetings.

Mayor Walter thanked Lamb for her presentation and thanked Skaret for volunteering to serve on the PATH Committee.

AIRPORT RUNWAY RECONSTRUCTION TREE REPLANTING PAY APPLICATION NO.

1

Skaret said the Airport Project continues to move along with multiple facets. He said one of the facets was the tree replanting on the property to the north of the airport. Skaret noted the City Council had approved a bid earlier from V.I.P. Landscaping from Slayton, Minnesota and the trees have been replanted. He said the replanted trees meet the specifications that were set. Skaret said Engineer Eric Hanson of HDR is recommending the City Council approve the Pay Application for \$33,060.

Polz asked if the cost for the tree planting is also paid for with 90 percent FFA funding, 5 percent MnDOT and 5 percent local funding.

Skaret said that's how the tree planting will be paid for.

Polz said he just wanted to highlight that the airport project is being paid for with 90 percent FFA funding, 5 percent State and 5 percent local so when people hear about a pay application for the airport project through the media, it's clarified that 95 percent of that cost is actually not coming out the pockets of the City of Jackson, it's actually 5 percent of local funding.

PETERSON/POLZ moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Airport Runway Reconstruction Tree Replanting Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$33,060 to V.I.P. Landscaping of Slayton, Minnesota.

RESOLUTION NO. 49-0922 SETTING PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY FOR PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTIBLE IN 2023 AND SETTING TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

Skaret said it's that time of the year for the City Council to set the City's preliminary tax levy for taxes collectible in 2023. He said the preliminary levy has to be set by September 30th.

Skaret said typically the City Council sets a preliminary levy that is a little bit higher than what the final tax levy will actually be. He said efforts are always made to bring the preliminary tax levy down as much as possible before setting the final tax levy in December. Skaret said the preliminary tax levy can always be set lower but cannot be set higher. He said at the September 20th meeting, the City Council was setting the preliminary levy.

Skaret said the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, September 14th and had a pretty extensive and exhaustive discussion about the budget. He said the Finance Committee covered a lot of ground.

In taking an overall view, Skaret explained Jackson's total Taxable Market Value grew from \$206,070,000 last year to \$237,777,700, a 15.38 percent increase. He said that's in part due to increased property assessed valuations, additional building that occurred and a Tax Increment Financing District that expired this year and went back on the tax rolls. Skaret said the "pie", which the tax burden gets spread around, got much larger over the past year. He said with that increase to keep the tax rate the same, Jackson's tax rate is currently at 67.403 percent. Skaret noted that's lower than a lot of communities.

Skaret said with the pie getting bigger, the levy could be increased by \$271,118 and the City's tax rate would remain unchanged. He said that means a property owner's property taxes would be the same unless their valuation went up. Skaret noted that most property owner's valuations went up.

Skaret said there's a lot of uncertainties going into next year. He said there's uncertainty going on with the future of the swimming pool and there's also been some discussions about what to do with Albertus Fields. Skaret there's uncertainty about the traffic on Industrial Parkway and Highway 71 with the new development that's taken place in that area and the need of whether or not to have another traffic study. He said right now, the Finance Committee has recommended holding off on having a traffic study done. Skaret said the City has been in touch with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and MnDOT has estimated a traffic study would cost \$65,000 which the City would have to pay for.

Skaret said the City also has the runway reconstruction underway at the airport. He noted 90 percent of the project is paid for by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and five percent by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, but the City still has their share of five percent. Skaret said five percent of a \$5 million project is still a lot of money. He said the City's of Jackson share amounts to about \$250,000. Skaret noted that's just Phase One and the City will have Phase Two coming. He said once the new runway is completed, then the old runway will be reconstructed into a taxiway. Skaret said that will probably more than likely be bituminous, but that remains to be seen depending on how the bids come in. He said reconstruction of the old runway will be Phase Two of the Airport Project. Skaret said between now and 2025, there will be a lot of airport work going on and the City has to pay for their five percent.

Skaret said there is also an Aerial Truck that will be arriving in 2023 for the Fire Department. He said the price for the new truck is around \$1.349 million. Skaret said the Fire Department has been doing some fundraising, but the City will have to pay some of that \$1.349 million cost. He said the new truck and chassis is probably going to be delivered sometime in 2023.

Jackson Fire Chief Dave Bond said the construction of the chassis did get pushed back a little bit, but construction of it is suppose to start in November. He said the completion date of the chassis is supposed to be first of the year and then the chassis goes to Fremont, Nebraska.

Bond said the new Aerial Truck will be in Jackson by this time next year. He noted when the contract was signed in January, the guarantee was that the aerial truck would be delivered in 18 months. Bond said to get the five percent discount on the chassis, once the chassis is completed, the City will get a bill for that. He said if the bill for the chassis is paid up front, then the City will get a five percent discount on the price of the chassis.

Skaret said he thinks the cost of the chassis for the aerial truck is about \$400,000, give or take.

Skaret outlined other things that are included in the City's budget for 2023. He said the City is in the second year of the Union contract. Skaret said there's a 2.5 percent Cost of Living/General Wage increase that's built into the budget plus the step increases for those that haven't reached the end of the step schedule yet.

Regarding health insurance, Skaret said the City doesn't know what the cost will be for health insurance for City employees in 2023. He said the City should find out by the end of September. Skaret pointed out the preliminary budget incorporates a 12.5 percent increase in health insurance premiums. He said hopefully it will be less, but he's heard of a lot more going up.

Skaret said starting out before doing anything to the budget, \$53,170 in additional levy was added to the street portion of the 2022-2023 Street and Utilities Improvements Project with the work scheduled on North Ridge Drive, West Ridge, Emily Street and Riverside Drive. He said that project adds an additional \$53,000 to the City's tax levy without the City doing anything else.

Skaret said there is a Street Reconstruction Levy that the City has been doing for several years maintaining that at \$100,000 so the City has some cash to put into street projects.

Skaret noted the Law Enforcement Contract is increasing from \$835,096 to \$904,163.

Skaret said the City continues to save up for future fire equipment, street equipment and building maintenance on the fire and ambulance hall.

Skaret said the big piece of equipment that's due to be replaced in 2023 is a 1988 CAT loader. He said it's estimated that cost will be around \$80,000.

Regarding streets, Skaret said the City's streets are continuing to degrade. He said the Street Department is spending more and more time patching. Skaret said it's basically become an "all hands-on deck" effort Monday through Wednesday.

Skaret explained Monday through Wednesday are the days the Street Department can get asphalt from Worthington. Skaret said it's become an "all hands-on deck" to do the patching. He said that's taking employees away from the Parks Department and as a result, the City's parks are suffering somewhat. Skaret said the proposed City's 2023 budget calls for two additional temporary seasonal employees to be dedicated to the Street Department which would free up the Parks staff to focus more on parks.

Skaret said the City has a pretty good handle on what the operating costs are for the Splashpad. He said it's roughly \$18,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Skaret said the Parks budget has been increased a little bit. He said there's more maintenance with the Splashpad and the new Disc Golf Course. Skaret said the City is also continuing with their Safety First Playground Maintenance Program. He said the playground equipment budget was increased a little bit to try and increase the speed that the City is replacing playground equipment.

Skaret pointed out the proposed City budget does not include anything with the "Enterprise Funds". He explained the "Enterprise Funds" is the City's Water, Sewer, Electric and Liquor which are the funds that are paid for by user fees and not by the tax levy. Skaret said the Electric Fund is doing well. He said it's proposed to increase the annual general contribution from the Electric Fund to the General Fund by \$50,000 from \$350,000 to \$400,000. Skaret said that helps keep a lid on property taxes.

Skaret said one thing to keep in mind regarding the Electric Fund, the City's cost of power is going up, especially from WAPA. He said the City of Jackson gets about 50 percent of its electricity from WAPA. Skaret said WAPA is the hydroelectric power from the Missouri River Dam System. He said those costs are projected to increase about 16 percent due to the ongoing drought in the Dakotas. Skaret explained while the City will experience increased costs from WAPA, the City is not passing those costs onto the electric customers at this point anyway.

Skaret said there's a lot of modernization that needs to be done within the City. He said work has been done on the City's AMI Meter Reading System Project. Skaret said the AMI metering for the Electric has been done for quite some time. He said the Water Department is currently waiting for antennas for the AMI water meters.

Skaret said the lack of antennas arriving has been the hold-up in completing the installation of the AMI water meters. He said another element of modernization is getting the City's infrastructure into a GIS program where instead of relying on paper maps that may or may not be accurate or that may or may not be able to be found in some cases, all that information could be right on the computer. Skaret said that would help staff and help the City serve their customers better and is more efficient. He said most cities do have some sort of a GIS Program, but the City of Jackson does not have one yet.

Skaret said that's kind of the nuts and bolts of the City's proposed General Fund Budget that is funded with the tax levy. He said the Finance Committee had some pretty good discussion about the budget.

Cushman said on the "wish list", the first preliminary tax levy percentage was at 15.3 percent which would have been one of the highest tax levy percentages the City would have had in close to 12 or 10 years for sure. He said in the course of about an hour-and-a-half, the Finance Committee had whittled the tax levy down to 7.5 percent. Cushman said he doesn't think the Finance Committee is done in bringing that percentage down further. He said this is going to be a tough year. Cushman said this "wish list" that the City always has is going to have to be really looked at hard for the future Council coming forward next year because the City is not going to be able to do everything they want without raising the taxes beyond where they are at right now. He said if we continue, we're going to have to hear the word "no" quite often.

Cushman said we're not going to be able to do some of this stuff, that's just how it is. He said there's no other way around it. Cushman said people are struggling out there. He pointed out the County is looking at a record high levy coming this year. Cushman said the City Council has to be diligent and he doesn't think the Finance Committee is done yet, at least he hopes they're not. Cushman asked fellow Finance Committee members if he missed anything.

Finck said he thinks Cushman said it well. He noted the Finance Committee tabled the traffic study for now for the corner of Highway 71 and Industrial Parkway looking for State guidance. Finck said it's not that the City is opposed to doing a traffic study. He said the City needs some guidance of what the State will allow before the money is spent to do the study.

Finck said the concern is the State will not allow the City to do anything other than a roundabout. He said he would like to know if the study comes back and says stoplights or stop signs, will they be allowed. Finck said Skaret, and he's assuming Street Superintendent Markman, will be reaching out to the State to get some guidance on that before the City moves forward.

Skaret said the State says the traffic study will determine whether it's going to be a roundabout, stop light or something else at the intersection of Highway 71 and Industrial Parkway.

Finck said that was correct, but the Finance Committee didn't want to move the traffic study forward without the State saying hey, if the study shows a stoplight, the State would be willing to move forward with a stoplight. He said in the past, the State has told the City "no", so the City wants an answer from the State before the City spends money and knows the State is willing to listen.

Cushman pointed out a year from now the traffic count could be a whole lot different than what's going on right now with some tenants moving in and some things that will happen. He said this first year just seemed a little premature. Cushman said the second year might make more sense to do that study to see where it puts us. He said we're anticipating traffic, let's wait until we have the traffic to see what we have.

Alderman Polz noted there are still three spaces to fill in the new strip mall along with the opening of the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree store to determine what traffic that generates. He also mentioned the new funeral home that has opened along Industrial Parkway.

Cushman said the Finance Committee got to the 7.5 percent preliminary levy, but he thinks the Committee still has some wiggle room with some due diligence.

Mayor Walter said he needed a motion regarding Resolution No. 49-0922 and after that, the Council needed to set a date for the Truth in Taxation hearing.

POLZ/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 49-0922 setting the Preliminary Tax Levy for Property Taxes Collectible in 2023.

Alderman Peterson said he wanted to thank everybody for their hard work on the proposed budget.

Cushman asked when the date would be for the final tax levy approval.

Skaret said the final tax levy approval would be held on December 20th. He said that's when the Truth in Taxation hearing would also be held. Skaret said the City Council would approve the final levy and City budget at that meeting.

Mayor Walter said he would entertain a motion to approve December 20th at 6:30 p.m. as the date and time for the Truth in Taxation hearing.

CUSHMAN/FINCK moved and it was unanimously carried to hold the City of Jackson's Truth in Taxation hearing on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Jackson City Hall.

Other:

Alderman Jerome Palmer

Alderman Palmer commented on the article in the local newspaper regarding the archery deer hunt. He noted the article said the City nixed the archery deer hunt for this year in the City of Jackson. Palmer said the newspaper didn't really print the article regarding deer hunting correctly. He said the archery deer hunt is still on, it's just that hunters can't hunt on City property.

City Administrator Matt Skaret

Skaret said he spoke with Engineer Greg Mitchell of Bolton and Menk prior to the City Council meeting regarding this year's street projects.

Skaret said the latest information is that the contractor is planning on starting work on North Ridge Drive, West Ridge Drive and Riverside Drive the first week of October. He said all the work on Emily Street will be done in 2023.

Alderman Peterson asked if there was any update on when work would begin on the downtown alleys.

Skaret said more than likely the cementing of the downtown alleys will be done in 2023. He said it's possible the concrete pad will be installed in the skating rink area yet this fall, but that's certainly not final.

City Attorney Brad Anderson

City Attorney Anderson said he just wanted to follow up on Mr. Jasper's request. He said City staff needs to make sure Jasper completes all of the necessary paperwork for hooking up to sewer and water service.

Attorney Anderson said he doesn't want Jasper to think just because the City Council approved his request, he can just hook up to water and sewer.

Finck noted Jasper still has to follow all the rules.

Attorney Anderson said Jasper has to obtain the water and sewer hook-up permit.

Cushman said there's still a process that Jasper needs to follow absolutely.

Attorney Anderson suggested that being the Utilities Commission meets on Monday (September 26th), have the Utilities Commission approve the water and sewer hook-up permit and set the conditions and just complete that normal process.

Mayor Wayne Walter

Mayor Walter said he would like to have the Street Department crew commended for cleaning up the rocks from the seal coating downtown. He also commended the Street Department personnel for the striping of the streets during the early morning hours in downtown Jackson.

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

Mayor Walter entertained a motion for the City Council to go into Closed Session regarding the purchase or sale of property and pending litigation.

PETERSON/CUSHMAN moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to go into Closed Session at 7:18 p.m. for Attorney/Client Privilege regarding the purchase or sale of property and pending litigation pursuant to Minnesota 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.

FINCK/MORE moved and it was unanimously carried for the City Council to go out of Closed Session at 7:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MORE/PETERSON moved and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the Jackson City Council meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Walter thanked everyone for attending.

David A. Maschoff, Council Secretary

Wayne Walter, Mayor

