

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting-March 10th

The City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026.**

Members present:

Mayor Kim Lape; Council members: Deb Plahn, Tim Houg, Stacie Smith, Zach Kounkel;

Employees present: City Clerk-Treas: Renae Jennings, Deputy Clerk/Treas.: Maggie Erickson; Public Works Superintendent: Brian Thode; Building and Grounds: Kevin Jennings

Pipestone Star: Kyle Kuphal;

Community members: Officer Sneller, Leann Bloomendal, Angelica Rieck, Tate Kavanaugh, Jay Eggerud, Chris Klein

Mayor Kim Lape called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance;

Agenda Approval: Motioned by: Smith 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed

Removed: None

Added:

- Blue Peak rate increase
- SOM water Testing Fee
- Minutes for Public Hearing at 6:30 on 03/10/2026
- Discussion on John Baustian

Community Input:

Tate Kavanaugh – Expressed speed issue in west Jasper. Said he made some phone calls to the state about signs and provided their information to Renae to follow up.

Jay Eggerud – Asked about dust control again in the spring. Suggested Rock County do something about it.

Review and approve minutes from:

- February 10th Regular Meeting - **Motioned by: Houg 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed**

Review/Approve receipts and claims to date. Plahn asked for only the prior month to be given instead of year to date. **Motioned by: Plahn 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed**

Delinquent Sewer/Water/Garbage: Maggie said the highlighted locations on the paper would be getting shut off by the next day if no payment is made.

Wellness Center/QCC: Leg machine had been removed due to non-repairable issue. Council will wait for any requests from those who use the gym before replacing the machine.

New Business:

- **Jordan Odegard – Bollig – Preliminary Engineering Report** – Jordan went over the report, which he had presented before and had a few updated numbers. He spoke on both water and sewer lines and the materials they are made of and the different options that the city has regarding them. The water tower was recently inspected last year and the inspector had recommended that it be repaired or replaced. Bollig recommends it be replaced due to the cost of repairing being similar or more than the cost of replacing. He then spoke of lining and replacing some water and sewer lines. He emphasized that they would do new televising to determine which lines would need replaced and which would be lined and that his current report may change

based on what it showed. He spoke about the ponds being ok at the moment. He spoke about the streets in town being in fair condition with a few spots being worse than the majority. He then went into cost and said a new water tower is proposed at about 2.1 million. Drinking water distribution about 6.8 million. Wastewater collection 10.3 million. Ineligible expenses bring the cost higher. The total project cost is roughly 23.7 million. He said it would be paid by a combination of grants and loans, usually the paid back is over 40 years, but the ineligible loan is a 20-year term. Said replacement is curb line to curb line and then curb to gutter. Said if they can cut back on curb and sidewalk the number would go down significantly. However, they won't know how much curb needs to be taken out until they get into design. The current cost includes the worst-case scenario.

At 7:30PM Mayor Kim Lape then requested the meeting be adjourned to open the Public Hearing for Proposed Ordinance Authorizing the Replacement of Lead, Galvanized or other Hazardous Water Service Lines on Private Property. Motioned by: Plahn 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.

One community member asked how much digging would be under the homes and driveways. Jordan Odegard answered that there would be a hole at the curb stop and then they would bore a hole to the home and then a plumber would connect it inside the home. Said it is pretty minimal, but if there is a need to dig in a driveway or yard, it is in the contract to repair them areas back to its original state. Lape asked when they would start and Jordan said it was currently in the design phase. Jay Eggerud and Tate Kavanaugh asked about the report Jordan was presenting on before the Public Hearing and were told they could ask those questions once the regular meeting opens again. Jordan said he wasn't 100% sure, but thought the project would begin this summer. Maggie asked if there was any reason why some may not want their lines replaced. Jordan said it may be that they don't want someone in their house. Plahn asked how many people we should expect in the town and how much city workers will have to contribute. Jordan said maybe 3-4 of contracted people. Thode said the biggest thing will be the locates and Jordan agreed. Jordan said the project would go out for bids on the project and suggested having local plumber submit a bid for it.

Motion to approve Ordinance Authorizing the Replacement of Lead, Galvanized or other Hazardous Water Service Lines on Private Property. Motioned by: Houg 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.

Lape then asked for a motion to bring the regular council meeting back to order. **Motioned by: Plahn 1st/Smith 2nd.**

Public hearing was adjourned at 7:40PM and the regular meeting was continued.

Jordan addressed questions from Jay and Tate. Jay asked how much of the project would be covered by grants. Jordan said he did not know what that split would be. Tate has asked about sanitary service laterals and Jordan said they would come in and grind out all of the roots and calcium deposits before lining them. Tate expressed that he believes the lines should just be replaced instead of lined. Compared lining to putting a band-aid on the problem. Jordan re-emphasized getting updated televising to determine what can and can't be lined. Jordan said lining can last 20-40 years and that it would be up to the city if they want to do the lining or replacement. Jordan said they have Jasper on the list for the Public facility Authority grant program. It requires a facilities plan. Jordan asked if there were any scope changes council would want to see as far as the layouts. Tate reiterated not using lining and to do full

replacement. Jordan finished by saying he needed council to make a motion that would allow them to submit for the PER for funding. **Motioned by: Kounkel 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Bollig – Minnesota Public Facilities Authority Application, Resolution NO. 26-69-B, Certifications.

Renaë said it was just a resolution to be able to apply for it. **Motion to approve Minnesota Public Facilities Authority Application: Motioned by Plahn 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed.** Renaë said there is also the authorized signer documents and that the city needed to designate 2 official signers. Lape asked if it could be her and Renaë, to which she was told yes.

Leanne Bloomendall – Said she wanted to put a new concession stand at the softball fields in Jasper. Said she would love to have running water because the current one does not have it and that the foundation is failing. Said she had someone that could fund some of it. Proposed a 24/40 which included a roll up door in the back to hold equipment. Lape asked about the funding again and Leanne said she does have someone to fund it. She said she doesn't know what was possible up there because of the rocks in the ground. Thode said there is a holding tank up there for water that the bathrooms run on, which may be able to be used for the concessions. Lape asked what the current building size is, Thode said 18/18 maybe. Leanne said she would move forward with the size she suggested and see what she can get for sponsors and donations towards it and then meet back with council.

Schedule Spring Clean-up day – Thode spoke to Brad VanDyke and said they were available May 2nd.

Renaë said there was a question about people filling a city truck, not having them drive it, and then we pick it up and dispose of what they load. Kounkel said everyone in town would want to do it. Renaë said it didn't have to be advertised for. Lape said to leave it as is. Renaë then asked if council wanted to do a drive around before clean-up days so letters can go out before that day. It was suggested to schedule it at the April meeting. Clean-up day will be from 8am-1pm. Renaë said the April meeting may be too late to do the drive around because that meeting is on the 14th, which doesn't leave time for letters to go out. Lape suggested April 1st and council agreed.

City Park bench update – Renaë showed the models that Nichole Cross brought in and let them know that Nichole would like some feedback. Renaë did provide her thoughts on the open J benches and that her concern was with a child getting their head or foot stuck in it, which would require the bench to be broken. Renaë also showed council the time capsule Nichole brought that she wanted to include in the benches. Renaë said she asked if there would be a spot to open the time capsule, but Nichole said it would be permanently sealed in it. Plahn said she liked the solid one and agreed with the kid getting stuck. Renaë said Nichole planned on having it completed in May. Thode asked what it was made of, but Renaë could not remember the name of the material, but that it looked like plastic/rhino linings. Also said there would be a glowing element that is not run off of electricity. Renaë also said she needed to know the placement for it in the park, and said it would be 12x12 and 4ft high. Lape suggested where the volleyball court is.

Lucas Williamson did not speak during the meeting.

Volleyball Court at Park – Lape asked for thoughts on moving the volleyball court to the east side of the park. Smith and Kounkel said they supported the idea to keep sand out of the splash pad. Thode provided numbers from Double D to move the sand and dig out the new court. Said about \$750-\$1k. Houg asked if there were problems with the springs down there. Thode said no because he had drained the springs down so it wasn't a problem anymore. **Motion to move the court to the east side of the court. Motioned by Kounkel 1st/Smith 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Quartziter Club request to use old boy scout room: Kevin, President of the QC, asked if they could use the space since the boy scouts no longer use it and are actively clearing out the space. Kevin was granted permission.

Summer Help – Lape asked council what they thought about hiring one person. Kounkel said he was approached by a resident who wanted a part time job. Smith said she liked the idea of hiring younger.

Motion to put an add in for 1 summer part-time employee. Motioned by Smith 1st/Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed.

Angelica Rieck – Requested to be able to close off half of the block in front of her restaurant on April 17th for her 1-year anniversary. **Motion to approve her request. Motioned by Smith 1st/Plahn 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Trainings – Renae presented 3 trainings. Council approved the free training and the Minnesota Clerks Academy. Renae let council know they are able to attend as well, Maggie also said the fire department is also able to go.

Blue Peak Rate increase – Renae provided the rate increase that was sent in the mail.

State water testing fee – Was sent out at the end of last summer. Explained the current fee is \$0.81 and will increase to \$1.26, but for 2 months, that cost would be \$1.27 because the annual fee does not divide by 12 equally. Renae asked if council if they wanted to add a one-time fee for the months that were missed (\$2.52) or divide it out equally throughout the remaining months. Council said to do a one-time charge.

Review and approve minutes from public hearing held on March 10th at 6:30PM. Motioned by: Kounkel 1st/Houg. 2nd. All ayes followed.

Discussion about John – It was questioned if he would be interested in taking on more responsibility by essentially taking on Spirits responsibilities. Thode said he was a total separate deal and he is not an employee. Kounkel said we should invite him to the next meeting, all agreed.

Old Business:

Fire Department wages – Lape said Renae, Kip and her attended the Rural Fire meeting and that it was presented that pension get moved to \$850, hourly remains the same and fire calls increase to \$600 and an additional \$200 after 2 hours. Rural was in acceptance of this, but this would be looked at annually.

Motioned to approve pension and rate charged. Motioned by: Plahn 1st/Houg 2nd. All ayes followed

- **EMS building statue**
- **EMS building statue** – Hold off for now.
- **Open Book Meetings – Scheduled for April 6th 7:00pm.** Lape asked if they all had to be in attendance. Renae said yes.
- **City Code update** – No Update, Still pending. Renae said they did meet with the guy updating the zoning codes and he should be coming in May.
- **Pay Equity Act** – Keep on agenda
- **Keith Eitrim Parking Lot** – Start getting bids.
- **Emergency Plan – Safety Data sheets** – Wrapped up
- **Property/Casualty Insurance Renewal** – Also completed
- **Geronimo Power – Expand Our Community Solar Subscription** – No updates.
- Kounkel asked to discuss something about a property near the day care at the QCC, to the south. Said trash keeps blowing over there from the property. He said they called the police about it but were told it was a city deal. Renae said a complaint form needs to be completed. Renae suggested inviting the person causing the problems, but nobody knew exactly who it was. Also said an official complaint needs to be filled out first.

Public Works & Building/Grounds Report:

- Kevin had quotes for table replacement. Council said to go with Sam's club. He then requested a floor cleaning machine for the hall. His request was denied. **Motion to go with Sam's Club for tables. Motioned by: Smith 1st/Kounkel 2nd. All ayes followed.**

Upcoming Meetings:

Drive around – April 1st at 5:30PM 0- Tim said other council members have to do the tax training because he and Deb may not be on council next year.

Open Book Meeting with County Assessors – April 6th at 7:00PM

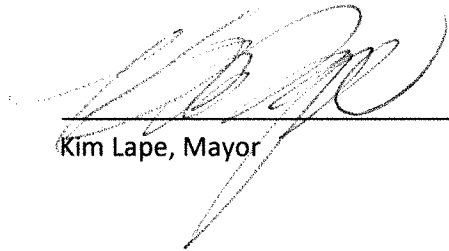
Regular Meeting – April 14th at 7:00PM

Kounkel motioned to adjourn, Smith seconded all ayes, carried; regular meeting adjourned at 8:46PM

 4/14/26

Renae Jennings Clerk/Treas.

Date

 4-14-26

Kim Lape, Mayor

Date