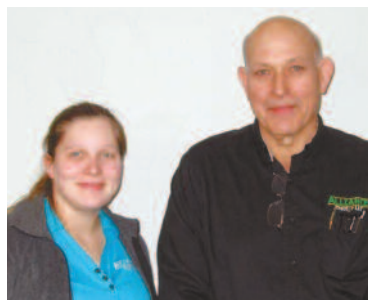




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MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016

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VOLUME 23 • NO 6

Serving Jasper County

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Beckman Addresses Council on Eagle Trails

By Vanette King
Editor

Lee Beckman of Milano and Grunloh Engineers, addressed the council concerning the Eagle Trails Project-Phase III. Phase III is to construct a streetscape project from the Old Mill Bridge south around the square, which consists of upgrading all sidewalks to ADA standards and decorative lighting. Additional items such as benches, trash containers, etc. might be added to the project, but are not grant eligible.

The bid opening was January 15 with AJ Walker Construction having low bid at \$1,042,300 (the estimate was \$1,228,384). The project will not be awarded until after March 4th by IDOT. Construction should begin in early to mid-April and take three to four months.

The Council approved the regular minutes of January 5, 2016 with a motion by Alderman David Brown and a second from Alderman Larry Brooks. Alderman Brooks stated that he had reviewed the pre-pays in the amount of \$244,211.11 and the bills and accounts in the amount of \$105,265.04 and made a motion to pay them.

There was no Old Business. In New Business, Alderman Scott Bloomberg made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eric Blake, to authorize three Police Department employees to attend SICJS-Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit training in Effingham on February 24-25 at \$75.00 per person plus expenses.

A motion was made by Alderman Bob Reisner, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to authorize three Waste Water Department employees to attend IRWA (Illinois Rural Water Association) 34th Annual Technical Conference in Effingham February 16-18 at \$175 per person.



Lee Beckman of Milano and Grunloh Engineers addressed the council concerning the Eagle Trails Project. He is seen standing in front of a map of the different phases of the project. (Photo by Vanette King, Editor)

A motion was made by Alderman Brown with a second by Alderman Reisner, to authorize two Electric Department employees to attend Commercial Pesticide Safety Education Program Training Clinics in Collinsville on February 24-25 at \$50 per person plus food expenses.

Alderman Bloomberg made a motion, seconded by Alderman Reisner, to accept the resignation of Jarad Schackmann as a part-time officer of Newton Police Department effective January 19, 2016.

The JEDI meeting of January 12 was reported on by Alderman Larry Brooks. He stated that the annual election of JEDI officers and board members was held. The 2016 budget was presented by Ken Larimore.

Updates were given by Jasper County CEO students regarding their upcoming Small Town Spotlight being held January 30; Mayor Mark Bolander reported on streetscape, business incubator, and two new boutiques in Newton; Joe Bierman, Jasper County Board, announced that the new EMA Director is Ed Francis and the new Jasper County Ambulance Manager is Daniel Alzate; Alan Bogardus, Dynege Plant Manager; Mark Hartrich will meet the Director for the Department of Agriculture; Tom Brown gave a Newton Biodiesel report; Anthony Pritchard, 4-H Extension Program Leader; Travis Wyatt, Jasper Unit 1 reported that the superintendent search deadline is January 20 and on the

state budget impact and Ken Larimore reported on TIF. Annual JEDI Celebration will be in the Sunrise Community Center Feb. 3, 2016.

In Statements, Alderman Bloomberg reported that the annual banquet for the Jasper County CEO Class is January 30 with local talent providing entertainment. Alderman Blake scheduled a Dues and Donations Committee meeting for January 26, 6:30, to be followed by a Negotiations Committee meeting. Alderman Reisner scheduled a Street Committee meeting also for January 26, at 6 p.m. He also informed the Council that two Waste Water employees will be attending a meeting in Champaign at a cost of \$30.

City Clerk Rosetta York

presented a purchase order for the Water Department in the amount of \$13,842.00 for meter bases, Itron connectors, Encoders, meter box lids and brackets. Alderman Brooks made a motion, seconded by Alderman Blake, to authorize payment.

York complimented the council on the purchase of a computer server in the Clerk/Billing office last summer as the old server crashed recently; so the new server is vital to the office.

Mayor Bolander received a letter from Peter Mills of the Indiana Railroad thanking the city for the support of the Santa Train. Mills stated that at 12 stops the Santa Train had 9,370 guests; distributed 450 coats and traveled 215

miles. Mayor Bolander commented that the city helped with a donation to the Santa Train.

Mayor Bolander also received a letter informing the city that Olney Central College was requesting internship opportunities for some of their students.

Mayor Bolander announced that during closed session the council discussed litigation, potential litigation and sale of real estate.

Upcoming Meetings: Street Committee, January 26, 6 p.m.; Dues and Donations Committee, same evening, 6:30; Negotiations Committee following the previous meetings.

The next regular meeting of the Newton City Council will be Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

Another Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign has come to an end. Volunteers enjoyed some great pizza at Joe's Italian Foods & Pizza Tuesday night. Present were Mike Andrews, Shelly Andrews-Assistant Welfare Secretary, Marilyn Stuckey-Welfare Secretary, Greg Powell, Cory Powell, Juanita Jayne and Robert Jayne. Not present were: Bev Boldrey, Lisa Schafer, Colby Schafer, Shelly Musgrave, Linda Veal, Margaret Pritchard and Bobbie Ashley. (Photo by Vanette King, Editor)



TUESDAY
Cloudy



WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny



THURSDAY
Mostly sunny