

Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2025
6:06 PM – 7:30 PM

Present: Joshua Kuhl, Gayle Glumac, Mike Swick, Eric Blake, RJ Lindemann, Melissa Brooks, Maggie McDonald, Jason Kuhl, Ken Albrecht, Judy McClure, Jim Robbins, Luke Bloomberg, Brock Hemrich, Karla Koebele, Jared Wagner, Kevin Woods, Mindy Hartke, Doug Weddell, Sarah Diel Kinkade, Susan Iffert Lindley, Cole DuSablou and Penny DuSablou

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

- Jasper Jobs Incorporated (JJI) and the Newton City Council met to figure out ways they could work together and help bring businesses to our industrial park. There seems to have been very little movement for quite some time.
- JJI is a unique organization. They are a private entity, originally formed by local investors to ensure Newton was not losing employment. They do not operate on tax dollars. JJI board member, Jason Kuhl, stated JJI initially formed back in 1955 to keep Newton Box and Basket in the City of Newton after they endured a fire. JJI was then formed to help them rebuild and continue business here in Newton. From there many other projects followed.
- Kuhl described their process when an opportunity comes before their board. The industrial park lots are set at a base price. Price is then negotiated by each individual opportunity. Everything is evaluated case-by-case on a tier system basis. Today, industrial jobs are harder to acquire, making the group receptive to any incoming business that would be interested in building in the industrial park. There is currently 10 acres available for sale. Their main goal is to help the Jasper County community and bring economic opportunity.
- Being a government entity, the City of Newton has to take bids to sell any land, unless the land is subdivided. They have been looking at potential growth at the property they own Northwest of town.
- Both groups were in agreement differences needed set aside and changes need made. Both groups will work together forming a better understanding of JJI's tier system and criteria. Communication and expectations between the groups are necessary. Generating an easier and faster process with buyers is key. JJI has an application that gets filled out first. The JJI board would still like to invite the potential buyer to a meeting and evaluate the business plan on a case-by-case basis.

- If the city is approached by someone interested in purchasing land at the industrial park, they have them fill out JJI's application and promptly get them in contact with a JJI board member.
 - The city will be getting JJI's updated information and make sure it gets added to the new city/county website for easy access. This will include the application, and the availability for anyone to send it back directly to a JJI board member.
 - Once all the property at the Industrial Park is sold, JJI does intend to invest in new opportunities.
 - The city has been mowing ground at the Industrial Park since 2003. JJI was not aware and will be addressing this.
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- Public Comments were from Sarah Diel Kinkade, Doug Weddell, Jared Wagner and Susan Iffert Lindley. Their biggest concerns were the lengthy process to buy land in the industrial park and the perception of JJI within the community. Representation from different entities to sit on the JJI board was suggested. Mrs. Lindley expressed interest in buying all the lots and what would it cost.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by:
Maggie McDonald
Newton City Clerk