

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the  
Jasper Economic Development Commission  
December 7, 2022**

The Jasper Economic Development Commission met on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Notice was in compliance with Indiana's Open Meeting Law.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Mark Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

President Andrew Seger	present via Zoom
Vice President Mark Schmidt	present
Secretary Mike Pfau	absent
Member Kurt Vonderheide	present
Member Julie Dutchess	present
Renee Kabrick - Commission's Attorney	present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kurt Vonderheide made a motion to approve the Commission's minutes as presented from its January 12, 2022, regular meeting. Julie Dutchess seconded it, and the motion carried 3-0.

**TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION FOR VERSTEEL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Garry Wells, Leader of the Finance Team, Ditto Sales dba Versteel was present. Mr. Wells shared company history by noting that Versteel has been part of the Jasper community for over 80 year and was founded in 1939 as a manufacturing sales representative for furniture hardware, woodworking machinery, metal stampings, sandpaper, casters, and adhesives. The business was incorporated in 1970 and by 1980 the company was deeply involved in manufacturing components for chairs and tables. The name Versteel was derived from "Versatility in Steel". In 1996 Versteel introduced its first seating product, Companion, which has become an icon of the industry.

Mr. Wells reported that Versteel employs nearly 150 people and sells products throughout North America. Mr. Wells reviewed various product offerings and stated their clients are primarily corporate, healthcare, and higher education. Mr. Wells shared a photo of the Mazak 3015NEO Sheet laser that will use a nitrogen generator that will allow production to cut steel components six times faster, allow them to produce products in house that are currently outsourced, and set-up time will be reduced by 95%. The assistance of gas will be reduced by 75% and an oxygen bulk tank will be eliminated.

Mr. Wells noted that all employees would be retained, and plans would include adding additional staff in the future. The board agreed to allot points based on the number of employees that work with the new equipment. The cost of the equipment is close to \$2.1 million dollars, and new equipment training would be provided by Mazak for all employees. President Andrew Seger asked for clarification on building modification or additions in order to

accommodate the new equipment. Mr. Wells confirmed that no new buildings are needed, and the current equipment that is being leased would be returned to accommodate the new machine.

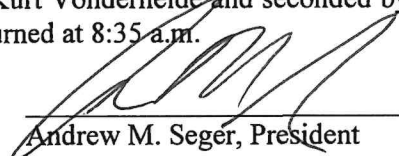
After further discussion, the Commission scored the following:

	<u>Points</u>
• New Investment in Personal Property:	40
• Retained employees: number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs	10
• Infrastructure requirements already in place:	
Road and/or stormwater system	2
Water Infrastructure	2
Wastewater	2
Electric Service	2
Gas	2
<b>Total base points (out of 100)</b>	<b>60</b>
• Bonus Points (maximum of 15)	
• Innovation and diversification	5
• Use of existing vacant structure	0
• Use of local suppliers/contractors in construction/operation of project	5
<b>Total point w/ bonus points</b>	<b>70</b>

Regarding the scoring for Personal Property, Kurt Vonderheide made a motion to recommend that the Common Council adopt the presented tax phase-in score sheet and local guidelines, resulting in a 5-year abatement with a 5-year time period and schedule as follows: Years 1-2 – 100%, Year 3 – 75%, Year 4 – 50%, Year 5 – 25%. Mark Schmidt seconded it. Motion carried 4-0.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Following a short discussion, a motion was made by Kurt Vonderheide and seconded by Julie Dutchess to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

  
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Andrew M. Seger, President

ATTEST:  
  
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Mark Schmidt, Vice President