

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
January 28, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Nancy Eckerle called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies then called the roll:

Mayor Dean Vonderheide	Present
Board member Timothy Bell	Present
Board member Nancy Eckerle	Present

Also, present were Assistant Police Chief Aaron Persohn, Street Commissioner Jeff Thiesing, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang, Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director Cale Knies, City Engineer Chad Hurm, Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman, City Attorney Renee Kabrick, Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman, and Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies. Also present was General Manager of Utilities Rob Young.

Kiersten Knies announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the board members must be present. All three board members were present, which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Mayor Dean Vonderheide invited all those present to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. The board members examined the minutes from the regular meeting held December 20, 2024. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve both minutes from December 20, 2024, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS. Claims were distributed for the period December 20, 2024, through January 9, 2025, in the amount of \$1,673,772.28. The only claim to note is that a payment was made from the GO Bond Project Fund on the Downtown Main Street Phase II Project in the sum of \$187,563.83. A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

QUOTE/BID OPENINGS

City Attorney Renee Kabrick opened the bids for ten sets of turnout gear for the Fire Department as follows:

McQueen Group Bid 1:	\$47,850.00	Del Date: 4/15/2025
McQueen Group Bid 2:	\$36,100.00	Del Date: 4/15/2025
Dinges Fire Company:	\$41,200.00	Del Date: 4/18/2025
MidAmerica Fire Co.:	\$39,499.40	Del Date: 90 days or later

Fire Chief Kenny Hochgesang recommended taking the bids under advisement for review. He further indicated that the Fire Department had budgeted \$35,000.00 for ten sets of turnout gear.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to take the bids under advisement. Motion carried 3-0.

TWINNERS 3RD ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CAR SHOW

Caroline Hartman requested permission to host a car show at Schroeder Complex on Saturday April 5, 2025, for her twins' birthday celebration. The event is free to the public. In the past it was held at Jasper High School, but they wanted to host it at a facility with a playground. The show is from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm but they are requesting permission to have a smoker set up at 7:00 am. They are requesting permission to have access to the bathroom, and they will use a small sound system to play music, sing happy birthday, and have a raffle.

Bursting with Love Coffee Truck will be there as well. There may be a sign in the grass. Last year over two hundred people attended. She has coordinated with the Park Department. It was recommended that she reach out to the Taco Truck and let them know about the event and coordinate parking spots with them.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the Twinners 3rd Annual Birthday Car Show on Saturday April 5, 2025, at Schroeder Complex with the smoker to set up at 7:00 am and the show to run from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

DUBOIS COUNTY PRIDE FESTIVAL

Mary Warner with Dubois County Pride requested permission to host the 6th Annual Dubois County Pride Festival on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Dave Buehler Plaza/Riverwalk Area from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, with set up starting around 7:00 am and teardown to be completed by 6:00 pm. There will be food, vendors, music, and performers. They have been meeting with the Mayor, Fire Chief and Police Chief regarding safety. They will be using the new water-filled barriers from the Street Department. Additionally, they are committed to clean up afterwards.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the use of the Dave Beuhler Plaza/Riverwalk for the 6th Annual Dubois County Pride Festival on Saturday June 21, 2025, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm with set up and tear down to occur between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

PAMPER MY PRINCESS

Lisa Bower with the Heart of Jasper requested permission to host a Pamper My Princess event on the Courthouse Square on Saturday, February 22, 2025, between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the Heart of Jasper's Pamper My Princess even on the Courthouse Square on Saturday, February 22, 2025, between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Police Chief Chad Dick presented the previously distributed monthly report. The Board acknowledged receipt of the report.

Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman presented the previously distributed monthly permitting report. The Board acknowledged receipt of the report.

NEW OFFICER START DATES

Police Chief Chad Dick requested approval of the following new officer start dates:

Joshua Priddy:	January 13, 2025
Alec Wallace:	January 21, 2025
Derrick Sutton:	February 4, 2025

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve new officer start dates as stated. Motion carried 3-0.

BID/QUOTE ACCEPTANCE

Police Chief Chad Dick recommended acceptance of the only quote for police vehicles from Washington Chrysler for three Durango's with a base quote of \$134,676.00 and a trade in allowance on two Chargers of \$16,000.00 so the net quote is \$118,676.00 plus \$1285.00 a piece for the remote start for a total of \$3855.00 bringing the total quote amount of \$122,531.00. The Police Department had budgeted \$160,000.00 towards those vehicles and the remaining money will go to build out those vehicles with police equipment and striping. This was sent to Sternberg's, Ruxer's, and Washington Chrysler.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the car bids from Washington Chrysler Center for three vehicles in the sum of \$122,531.00 including the remote start. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick recommended acceptance of the Motorola car radio quote in the sum of \$279,985.11. There is a pre-negotiated contract with the

State for the purchase of these radios. We do have a copy of that contract that will be attached to the claim. Car radios are estimated to last 10-12 years.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the purchase of the Motorola car radios from the pre-negotiated State contract in an amount of \$279,985.11. Motion carried 3-0.

TRAVEL EXPENSE REQUEST

Police Chief Aaron Schmitt requested approval of travel expenses for Detective Aaron Schmitt to travel to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield to assist the Southwest Law Enforcement Academy with their Emergency Vehicle Operations Training. Travel dates are March 10 to the 14, 2025 at a total cost of approximately \$865.00.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve Aaron Schmitt's travel expenses to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy to assist in their Emergency Vehicle Operations Training in the sum of approximately \$865.00. Motion carried 3-0.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested to allow Firefighter Nathan Durcholz to take a leave of absence effective December 20, 2025. His employer is requiring him to travel quite a bit overseas. He anticipates returning at the end of May.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the leave of absence from Firefighter Nathan Durcholz effective December 20, 2024. Motion carried 3-0.

SEEKING QUOTES

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested permission to start the process to seek bids for a new one-hundred-foot Tower Truck. The current truck is a 1994 model that does pass certification yet. At the testing visit there were a couple of items that need to be addressed but waiting on the weather to break to get the company here to make the repairs. After the repairs are made, it will be certified that it meets the requirements. The build process is three years. After approval to move forward it will take a couple of months to complete the specifications. The plan is to sell the old truck once the new one has been received.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Fire Department to start the bidding process on a new one-hundred-foot Tower Truck. Motion carried 3-0.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested permission to seek quotes for a one-ton salt spreader with plow for 2025. The chassis takes a long time to build and then has to be taken to the body builder and get the dumb bed put on and then the spreader and plow have to be ordered as well. This item was budgeted for in the 2025 budget.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Street Department to begin the process to purchase a one-ton salt spread with plow for 2025.

STREET DEPARTMENT REMINDER

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising reminded residents that during snow events and during cold weather, the Street Department will send two trucks out. The ordinance states that trash needs to be out by 7:00 am that day. When double collection is run, trash collection will occur early.

PROJECT UPDATE

City Engineer Chad Hurm gave a brief update on the Main Street Phase II project.

CONTRACT APPROVAL

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies advised that there had been some changes to the contract for MuniCast software that was previously accepted. The contract will now be paid for by the Clerk Treasurer's budget, BPWS will approve the claims, and then Utilities will be billed for their portion.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the changes to the MuniCast agreement. Motion carried 3-0.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Chief Dick also took the time to recognize the heroic acts of Officers Brent Burton, Elijah Mundy, and Joey Moorman to save the life of an unresponsive man on January 9, 2025. Chief Dick reported that Fire Chief Kenny Hochgesang arrived on the scene shortly after and was able to use his Lucas Device to get a pulse and get the man transported to the hospital.

Chief Dick also recognized that Sergeant Ben Knies was awarded a Life Saving Award from the Dubois Volunteer Fire Department for his role in saving a female from drowning at Patoka Lake a few months ago. He noted the quality of our police officers and first responders.

Fire Chief Kenny Hochgesang also noted that they were able to save Ollie, a border collie who had fallen through a frozen lake.

Mayor Vonderheide noted that the Street Department did an excellent job keeping the streets open during the two-snow event. Street Commissioner Jeff Theising indicated that they have a good crew, good equipment and good materials that help.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ___ with ___ without corrections or clarification this ___ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: _____
Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer