

**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 28, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dean Vonderheide 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. General Manager of Utilities Rob Young was also present.

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 on January 14, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from January 14, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMERS

Megan Irish with the Alzheimer's Association requested permission to host the 2025 Jasper Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 9:00 am with set up and teardown from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Jasper Riverwalk and Dave Buehler Plaza.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the 2025 Jasper Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 27, 2025, beginning at 9:00 am with set up and teardown from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Jasper Riverwalk and Dave Buehler Plaza. Motion carried 3-0.

WILDCAT RUNAWAY 5K RUN/WALK

Amy Kippenbrock with Jasper High School Cross County requested permission to host the 12th annual Wildcat Runaway 5k Run/Walk on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the JHS/St. Charles Walkway. She has already contacted the Street Department to put out the 5k signs.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow Jasper High School Cross County to host the 12th annual Wildcat Runaway 5k Run/Walk on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the JHS/St. Charles Walkway. Motion carried 3-0.

MINGLE ON MAIN

Kate Schwenk of Heart of Jasper requested permission to host the fifth annual Mingle on Main event on Friday, October 3, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on the Downtown Square. They are requesting the Downtown Square be closed from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Heart of Jasper to host the fifth annual Mingle on Main Event Friday, October

3, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and to close the Downtown Square from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

MUSIC ON MAIN

Kate Schwenk of Heart of Jasper requested permission to host Music on Main on Saturdays from April through June and October and November from 10:45 am to 1:00 pm to include setup and tear down in varying quadrants on the Downtown Square. The Downtown Square will remain open.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Heart of Jasper to host Music on Main on Saturdays from April through June and in October and November from 10:45 am to 1:00 pm on the Downtown Square. Motion carried 3-0.

SHOP AND SIP

Kate Schwenk of Heart of Jasper requested permission to host Shop and Sip on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the Downtown Square. Downtown Square will remain open.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Heart of Jasper to host Shop and Sip on one Wednesday of the month agreed upon by the Downtown Merchants from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the Downtown Square. Motion carried 3-0.

RIVERWALK ROCK SHOW

Zachary Reuber of the band Knights on Holiday requested permission to host the Riverwalk Rock Show free event on Saturday, May 25, 2025, June 28, 2025, and July 19, 2025, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm with set up to begin at noon and be done by midnight at the Dave Buehler Plaza.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to allow Knights on Holiday to host the Riverwalk Rock Show free event on Saturday, May 25, 2025, June 28, 2025, and July 19, 2025, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm with set up to begin at noon and to be complete by midnight at the Dave Buehler Plaza. Motion carried 3-0.

JASPER CARS AND COFFEE

Drew Hentrup of Jasper Cars and Coffee requested to host a Car Show on February 9th at Schroeder Sports Complex beginning at 9:00 am ending by noon with setup to begin at 8:30 am. Bursting with Love Food Truck will set up. Mr. Hentrup hopes to turn this into a monthly event. He was advised to coordinate dates with the Park Department. The Board was in agreement with this being a monthly event.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow Jasper Cars and Coffee to host a monthly Car Show at the Schroeder Sports Complex on the second Sunday of every month with the exception of Youth Soccer Season with setup beginning at 8:30 am and the event to begin at 9:00 am and be done by noon. Motion carried 3-0.

RELOCATION GRANT AGREEMENT

Assistant Police Chief Aaron Persohn requested permission to approve a Relocation Grant Agreement with Radius One in the amount of \$1,500.00 for a new officer who is moving to the area from out of state. The officer will receive a total of \$5,000.00 to be used towards living expenses. Payment of \$1,500.00 to Radius One will come from the Police Department's donation funds and the grantee will be required to comply with all requirements of the Radius One Relocation Grant.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the Relocation Grant Agreement with Radius One in the sum of \$1,500.00 for a new police officer who is moving to the area from out of state. Motion carried 3-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang presented the previously distributed Fuel Maintenance Report and Code Enforcement Report. The Board acknowledged receipt of both reports.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the 2024-year end report and 2025 projected activity report from the Street Department.

ACCEPT QUOTE FOR TURN-OUT GEAR

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested permission to accept the low quote for Turn-Out Gear from Mid America Fire Safety in the sum of \$39,499.40. This will be paid for out of the Fire Department's 2025 budget, however the department budgeted \$35,000.00 for this purchase. Chief Hochgesang has the funds in his equipment budget to cover the additional amount and will adjust his purchases for the remainder of the year to accommodate the amount.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Fire Department to purchase Turn-Out Gear from Mid America Fire Safety in the amount of \$39,499.40. Motion carried 3-0.

TRAINING APPROVAL

Director of Personnel/Safety/Loss Control requested approval to attend training to receive certification in Mental Health First Aid. The Wellness Council of Indiana conducts the training, and he will attend the first training on March 11, 2025, virtually. The total cost for certification is \$355.00.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow Director of Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Cale Knies to attend virtual training from the Wellness Council of Indiana to receive certification in Mental Health First Aid on March 11, 2025, in the sum of \$355.00. Motion carried 3-0.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested permission to schedule a Special Meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety on February 19, 2025, at 9:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to open bids for Community Crossing Grant 2024-2.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve a Special Meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety on February 19, 2025, at 9:30 am to open bids for Community Crossing Grant 2024-2. Motion carried 3-0.

PROJECT UPDATE

City Engineer Chad Hurm gave an update on the Downtown Revitalization Phase II Project.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested permission to begin the purchasing process of a Ship Tire Changer, a Three Ton Forklift, and a Truck Mounted Paint Striper. All three items are in the Street Department budget.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Street Department to begin the purchase process for a Ship Tire Changer, a Three Ton Forklift, and a Truck Mounted Paint Striper. Motion carried 3-0.

RECYCLING TRUCK UPDATE

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising advised the board that they are taking delivery this morning at 8:30 am on the Recycling Truck that was ordered in May of 2022. The old truck will be traded in, and the new truck will be put in operation immediately.

JASPER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONTRACT

City Attorney Renee Kabrick requested approval of the 2025 Jasper Chamber of Commerce Contract in the sum of \$4,500.00. This was a 2025 budgeted item.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the 2025 Jasper Chamber of Commerce Contract in the sum of \$4,500.00 to be paid for out of 2025 budget funds. Motion carried 2-0, with Board Member Nancy Eckerle abstaining.

CLOSURES

Mayor Vonderheide requested permission to close the parking spots in front of City Hall on January 29, 2025, from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm to allow Mehringer Heating and Plumbing to park a crane to complete the previously approved repairs to the City Hall heating and cooling units.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to close the parking spaces in front of City Hall on January 29, 2025, from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm to allow Mehringer Hearing and Plumbing to park a crane to complete the previously approved repairs to the City Hall heating and cooling units. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:51 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