**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE**

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER**

**December 20, 2024**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Friday, December 20, 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 via Zoom

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.

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 10, 2024. Thereafter, a motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve both minutes from December 10, 2024, with two corrections. Motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS.** Claims were distributed for the period of December 19, 2024, through December 20, 2024, for a total of $1,150,288.91. Knies noted that this round of claims includes payment to German American and Kunkel Insurance Companies for the city’s insurance premiums and three TIF semi-annual payments on the outdoor pool, on the River Centre, and on the University Heights conditional expenditure agreement. A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

**QUOTE/BID OPENING**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick opened the towing bids for Sternberg Automotive, Uebelhor Towing, Bob Lueger’s Buick-GMC, and Ruxer Ford for the 2025-2026 City of Jasper Police Action Tow Contract. All four bidders agree to the $10.00 franchise fee to be paid to the City of Jasper.

Assistant Police Chief Aaron Persohn recommended acceptance of all four bids for the 2025-2026 City of Jasper Police Action Tow Contract.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve all four bids for the 2025-2026 City of Jasper Police Action Tow Contract. Motion carried 3-0.

**JUNK ASSETS**

Assistant Police Chief Aaron Persohn requested approval to junk asset number 102049, a desk from the police department’s list of fixed assets.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve the removal of asset number 102049 from the police department’s list of fixed assets. Motion carried 3-0.

**TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Assistant Police Chief Aaron Persohn requested approval for the Chief, the Assistant Chief, and one other Police Officer to attend the Indiana Chief’s Conference in Indianapolis IN from January 28, 2025, to January 30, 2025. The cost to attend the conference is $1,150.00, plus three hotel rooms for three nights in the sum of $1,265.00 and approximately $350.00 in meals for a total of approximately $2,735.00. This was included in the Police Department’s 2025 budget.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the travel request for three members of the Jasper Police Department to attend the Chief’s Midwinter Conference in Indianapolis from January 28, 2025, to January 30, 2025, for an estimated total cost of $2,750.00 Motion carried 3-0.

**ACTIVE SHOOTER REPORT**

Lieutenant Dave Burger reviewed the events of the active shooter event that occurred in the City of Jasper yesterday. He recognized the tremendous response by the department. SROs had the foresight to lock down the school, the hospital was locked down, and the efforts from the detectives to conduct a thorough investigation and make an arrest that night. Unfortunately, the victim passed away. Burger expressed condolences to the victim’s family.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang presented the previously distributed Fuel Maintenance Report and the previously distributed Code Enforcement Report. Additionally, Chief Hochgesang gave an update from the American Text Center visit. The Board acknowledged receipt of these reports.

**CONTRACT APPROVALS**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick requested approval of a contract with Hafer for Engineering Services related to the Regional Wellness Center for Phase I in the amount of $820,000.00. This will be paid for with the remaining HELP Grant Funds. There will be Phase II for Design and Engineering of the remainder of the project down the road.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to engage with Hafer for Phase I of the Design and Engineering Contract for the Regional Wellness Center in the sum of $820,000.00. Motion carried 3-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick requested approval of the annual Dubois Strong Agreement for 2025 in the amount of $49,419.65.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the 2025 Dubois Strong Agreement in the sum of $49,419.65. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested approval of a contract with Government Finance Research Group, LLC for MuniCast software for one year beginning in 2025. The amount of the contract is $7,990.00 and will be divided equally between Civil City and Utilities. Civil City’s portion of $3,995.00 will be paid for out of Clerk Treasurer’s budget for 2025. The Utility Service Board has approved their portion.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve Civil City’s portion of a one-year contract for MuniCast beginning in 2025 in the sum of $3,995.00. Motion carried 3-0.

**EMERGENCY PURCHASE**

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested permission to allow Mehringer Heating and Plumbing to perform an emergency repair on the City Hall’s second heating and cooling unit in the sum of $12,750.00. This will be paid for with 2024 City Hall repair funds and Mehringer’s will perform the work at the same time as previously approved work on the first unit to provide cost savings to the city.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve an emergency repair by Mehringer Heating and Plumbing in the sum of $12,750.00 on the City Hall heating and cooling unit. Motion carried 3-0.

**ADJOURNMENT.** A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned   
at 8:35 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**