

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
February 19, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday February 19, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor Dean Vonderheide called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies called the roll.

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Dean Vonderheide	X		
Council members:			
John Schroeder	X		
Chad Lueken	X		
Vince Helming	X		
Paul Lorey	X		
Kevin Manley	X		
Nancy Eckerle	X		
Philip Mundy	X		
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	X		
Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies	X		

Additionally, Jeff Roeder with EXOS IT and Clint Lamb and Matt Greller with AIM were also present.

Knies announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. All of the council members were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting, which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Moment of Personal Reflection. Mayor Vonderheide asked that all present take a moment for personal reflection.

Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Vonderheide invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held January 22, 2025, were distributed to, and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Vince Helming to approve the minutes from January 22, without corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

Presentations.

Kate Schwenk with the Heart of Jasper provided a brief update on what the Heart of Jasper accomplished in 2024.

Nancy Eckerle with the Jasper Chamber of Commerce presented the council with an overview of what the Jasper Chamber of Commerce did in 2024 as well as its plans for 2025.

Jenny Mathies with IN Region 15 presented the Council with an update on how the HELP Grant/Owner Occupied Rehab Program has impacted the community.

Resolution No. 2025-1

A Resolution Opposing Indiana Senate Bill 1 and Other Legislation Impacting Local Government Finances and Public Services.

Clint Lamb and Matt Greller with AIM presented a summary of the bills before the House and Senate addressing property tax reform and addressed the ways in which property tax reform could affect the city.

Council member Kevin Manley expressed concerns about the uncertainty of the bill and whether or not this is the correct time to pass the resolution. Council member Nancy Eckerle recommended that each member reach out to their state legislators independently and let them

know how devastating some of this reform could be to our community. Council member Chad Lueken proposed making two specific changes by replacing the word ‘only’ with less absolute language and changing the phrase ‘the city will be forced to make significant cuts’ to ‘may be forced to make significant cuts to.’

Thereafter a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Chad Lueken to table Resolution 2025-1 with the amended language on the first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

Regional Wellness Center Presentation

Mayor Dean Vonderheide gave an introduction to the Regional Wellness Center Project. Mike Steffe with the YMCA presented the YMCA’s partnership with the city and plans for programming and an update on the capital campaign. Jeff Justice with Hafer gave an overview of the project. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies discussed the financing plan that had been identified for the project. And City Attorney Renee Kabrick presented the project timeline. The presentation concluded by Mayor Vonderheide reminding the public of the opportunity to donate to the project.

Ordinance No. 2025-2

An Ordinance to Rezone Certain Property Within Jurisdictional Limits of the Jasper Advisory Plan.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to read Ordinance No. 2025-2 by title only on the first and only reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-2 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Chad Lueken to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-2 on the first reading and only reading. Council member Paul Lorey advised that this transfers the Regional Wellness Center property from a R2 Zone to a Conservation Park and received a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission last month. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2025-1

An Ordinance Establishing Rules and Regulation for the Adoption, Amendment or Repeal of Ordinances and Resolutions.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to read Ordinance No. 2025-1 by title only on the second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-1 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to approve Ordinance No. 2025-1 on the second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to read Ordinance No. 2025-1 by title only on the third and final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-1 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-1 on the third and final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2025-3

An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Its Taxable Economic Development Revenue Bonds and Approving Other Actions in Respect Thereto.

A motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Paul Lorey to read Ordinance No. 2025-3 by title only on the first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-3 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-3 on the first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

Gas Contractor’s License

Justin Clark and Matt Pry of Bayer’s Plumbing, Inc. submitted their Gas Contractor’s License application and test scores.

A motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Vince Helming to approve Justin Clark’s and Matt Pry’s Gas Contractor’s License application. Motion carried 7-0.


Donation Acceptance


Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested council acceptance of donations made in the month of January to the Art Department totaling \$155,180.00. There was a restricted use donation in the amount of \$150,000.00 for performances and other activities as determined by the director and three restricted use donations in the amount of \$1000.00 a price to be used towards the 50th Anniversary Dinner of the Art Department this year. The Arts Department Board did agree to the restrictions placed on those donations.

Thereafter a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Vince Helming to accept the donations to the Art Department in an amount totaling \$155,180.00. Council member Paul Lorey thanked the generous benefactors of the City of Jasper for their continued support of the Art Department’s spectacular programming. Mayor Vonderheide noted the amount of work that the City of Jasper is able to do by way of the generous donations received. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Council member Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Council member Paul Lorey to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ____ with x without corrections or clarification this 19th day of March 2025.


Attest: _____
Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer