

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
February 11, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 11, 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	Absent
Board member Nancy Eckerle	Present

Also, present were Police Chief Chad Dick, 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. Gas and Water Manager Tim Doersam, Engineering Technician Scott Schnell and Assistant Police Chief Aaron Pershon were also present.

Kiersten Knies announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the board members must be present. Two of the 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 28, 2025. Mayor Vonderheide advised that Ship Tire Changer should be changed to Shop Tire Changer. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve the minutes from January 28, 2025, with one correction. Motion carried 2-0.

CLAIMS. Claims were distributed for the period January 17, 2025, through February 11, 2025, in the amount of \$3,440,814.31. It was noted that the City of Jasper paid Hafer for the Regional Wellness Center Design contract in the sum of \$385,000. Payment in the sum of \$274,000.00 was made to Best Equipment for the Recycling Truck. A payment was made for the City of Jasper's Workers Comp Insurance Renewal in the sum of \$106,731.00. The city paid Ragel for the Main Street Phase II project from the GO Bond Fund in the sum of \$192,708.00. Payment was made to Washington Chrysler for three police department vehicles in the sum of \$122,602.00. Payment was made to the Heart of Jasper in the sum of \$60,000.00 and to Knies Construction for the Community Crossing Grant 2024-1 Street Rehab Project in the sum of \$61,919.00. A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried 2-0.

QUOTE/BID OPENINGS

City Attorney Renee Kabrick opened quotes for the Fire Department's Combinational Tool as follows:

Citizen's First Fire Training	\$15,023.40
McQueen	\$16,879.08
Impact Rescue	\$16,820.00
MidAmerican Fire & Safety	\$21,338.75

Fire Chief Kenny Hochgesang recommended taking the bids under advisement for review. He plans to use donation funds for the purchase of this tool.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to take the bids under advisement. Motion carried 2-0.

ISSMA SCHOLASTIC PRELIMINARY/OPEN INVITATIONAL

Josh Gunselman with Jasper Band Parents requested permission to use City facilities for the ISSMA Scholastic Preliminary/Open Invitational Saturday, October 11, 2025, starting at 8:00 am at Alumni Stadium. All conditions would be the same as years past. He has coordinated with the all-city departments.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Jasper Band Parents to use City facilities to stage for the ISSMA Scholastic Preliminary/Open Invitational, Saturday, October 11, 2025, with at 8:00 am start time at Alumni Stadium. Motion carried 2-0.

CLOSURES

Gas and Water Manager Tim Doersam requested permission to close a section of Dorbett Street from Hwy 56 to W 8th Street on February 18, 2025, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm to allow Knies Construction, Inc. to demolish the 603 Dorbett Street house for a parking lot. The gas needs to be shut off at the same time. Nancy Eckerle advised that all the neighbors and the hospital need notification. Mayor Vonderheide recommended using the Jasper Insight app to keep the public informed.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Gas and Water Department to close Dorbett Street from Hwy 56 to W 8th Street on February 18, 2025, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Motion carried 2-0.

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested permission to close the intersection of 15th and Mill Street for the watermain project for one day tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2025. They will notify all the businesses and property owners in the area. This is weather dependent.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow closure of the intersection at 15th and Mill Streets for the watermain project tentatively scheduled for Saturday March 1, 2025. Motion carried 2-0.

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested permission to close 6th Street between Mill Street and Jackson Street for a storm sewer replacement tentatively scheduled for mid-April for one week. This is part of the Community Crossings project. They will notify the Post Office and the surrounding businesses, and they will do what they can to allow traffic and deliveries in the area. The sidewalks will be open. Mayor Vonderheide asked that they come back to the Board closer to the project with a more definitive date.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the closure of 6th Street between Mill Street and Jackson Street for storm sewer replacement tentatively scheduled for mid-April for approximately one week. Motion carried 2-0.

Scott Schnell requested approval to close the east half of the city parking lot to the east of the post office for approximately three weeks followed by closing the west half of the city parking lot for another three weeks in approximately one week, as part of the current Community Crossings Grant work. Mayor Vonderheide recommended that they inform all City employees and anyone who has purchased a permit and use the Jasper Insight app to keep the public informed. The Jasper Police Department will make their west parking lot available during this time.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to close the east side of the city parking lot for three weeks beginning next week and additionally the west side of that parking lot be closed for three weeks after to replace the sidewalks and the entrances of that parking lot. Motion carried 2-0.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested approval to close 11th Street from Main Street west to the alley to repair a sink hole for one day beginning this week. They have reached out to Midwest Café and will be reaching out to the rest

of the business owners in the area. In the meantime, the sink hole has plates covering it. Mayor Vonderheide recommended using the Jasper Insight app to notify the public.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to allow the Street Department to close 11th Street west of Main Street for a sink hole repair and pipe replacement for at least one day. Motion carried 2-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman presented the previously distributed January building permit report. The Board acknowledged receipt of the report.

HIRING

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to begin the process of hiring a part-time dispatch officer.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Jasper Police Department to begin the hiring process for a part-time dispatch position. Motion carried 2-0.

BID/QUOTE ACCEPTANCE

Police Chief Chad Dick requested approval of the updated Bodyworn contract. As part of the renewal the city will receive twenty-three new cameras and new vehicle cameras as well. The total cost for the five-year contract is \$279,740.00 for five yearly installments of \$55,948.00 per year.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve a five-year contract for Bodyworn cameras in the sum of \$279,740.00 paid annually at \$55,948.00. Motion carried 2-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick advised the board that he received three quotes for rifle plates to replace the ones currently in use that were determined by the Department of Homeland Security to be defective. He advised the three quotes as follows were as follows:

EOD Gear	\$13,806.00
Combat Outfitters	\$7,956.34
Siegel's Uniform Supply	\$7,074.00

Chief Dick requested approval of the purchase of eighteen rifle plates from Siegel's Uniform Supply in the amount of \$7,074.00. This was not something that was budgeted for, but funds were identified in the Police Department's donation funds that could be used for this purpose.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve the purchase of eighteen rifle plates to replace the defective ones from Siegel's Uniform Supply in the amount of \$7,074.00. Motion carried 2-0.

TRAVEL EXPENSE REQUEST

Police Chief Chad Dick requested approval to send Elijah Mundy to Sniper School on March 11, 2025, through March 13, 2025, in Newburgh, IN. The cost of the training is \$975.00 plus the cost of meals, there will be no cost for lodging as he will be driving back and forth for a total of \$1,080.00. Snipers are highly trained marksmen who assist in establishing a perimeter in high-risk situations. This will be paid for from the Police Department's training budget.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve sending Elijah Mundy to Sniper School for a total cost of \$1,080.00. Motion carried 2-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick requested approval to send Logan Jones to the IDEA (Indiana Drug Enforcement Association) Conference from February 18, 2025, through February 20, 2025, for a total cost of \$879.00, \$375.00 for training \$105.00 for meals and \$399.00 for hotel. Patrolman Jones has shown great

interest in the drug enforcement side of law enforcement and is doing a great job in investigating and enforcing some of the drug crimes that do occur.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to send Patrolman Logan Jones to the IDEA Conference February 18, 2025, through February 20, 2025, for a total cost of \$879.00. Motion carried 2-0.

JUNK ASSET

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to remove asset number 100263, a broken credenza, from the Jasper Police Department's list of fixed assets.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve the removal from asset number 100263, a broken credenza, from the Jasper police Department's list of fixed assets. Motion carried 2-0.

SEEKING QUOTES

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested permission to seek quotes for roof replacement at Station # 2, the Holy Family Station. Chief Hochgesang had budgeted \$30,000.00 for this roof replacement in the 2025 budget.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to allow the Fire Department to seek quotes for roof replacement at Station #2, the Holy Family Station. Motion carried 2-0.

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested permission to seek quotes for trash stickers.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Clerk Treasurer to seek quotes for trash stickers. Motion carried 2-0.

CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested approval of a change order for the recycling truck in the sum of \$42,282.00. The original price was \$231,718.00. Due to the chassis being cancelled, locating one that would fit the needs of the body builder, the cab improvements, and upcharges due to inflation, the price of the truck was \$274,000.00. The IDEM Grant, in the sum of \$100,000.00, has been extended for this length of time.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the change order for the recycling truck in the sum of \$42,282.00. Motion carried 2-0.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested approval of a change to the Tree Grinding contract in the sum of \$2,662.40 for a new total of \$25,262.40. The original price was not to exceed \$22,500.00. However, the additional pile of tree limbs and yard waste was much larger than anticipated. The money for the contract was encumbered from last year and he has money in this year's budget for the coming contract.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve a change order in the amount of \$2,662.40 for the Tree Grinding contract with Brewer Farms. Motion carried 2-0.

PROJECT UPDATE

City Engineer Chad Hurm gave a brief update on the Main Street Phase II project. They are still working on concrete and sidewalks and curbs on the South end of Main Street. The demolition storm sewer crew is getting close to finishing down there and will move to the North side soon. They are trying to keep as close to schedule as possible and are still on the same path.

COLOR GLASS RECYCLING

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising announced that with the purchase and delivery of the new Recycling Truck, the Street Department will begin accepting colored glass the week of February 16, 2025. Please remember that the clear glass and the colored glass must be separated. Mayor Vonderheide advised that

the city's recycling program is quite successful. Street Commissioner Theising reminded the public to recycle as much as possible. Due to measures beyond the city's control, the waste management contract has continued to increase.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 2-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

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



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: 

Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer