

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
July 19, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 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 Lucken	X		
David Hurst	X		
Paul Lorey	X		
Kevin Manley	X		
Nancy Eckerle	X		
Philip Mundy	X		
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	X		
Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies	X		

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. Council member Kevin Manley asked that all present take a moment for personal reflection.

Pledge of Allegiance. Council member Kevin Manley invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes from Regular Council Meeting June 21, 2023, were distributed to and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Paul Lorey and seconded by Council member Nancy Eckerle to approve the minutes from June 21, 2023, without corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

Electric Department Presentation. Stan Seifert gave an update on the Electric Department. The department overall has been remarkably busy. They will be putting in thirty more decorative poles throughout the city after Strassenfest. They will be boring under sidewalks, hopefully not having to cut too much. They have two crews working on the Downtown Revitalization Project, a crew working at the Buffalo Trace driving range, and a crew at County Club Estates. Once the pole yard property is sold, they will be moving to the Street Department. They continue to install the new AMI meters. One thousand came in today, so a crew will be pulled to begin installing those which will take two to three weeks. Since March they have hooked up thirty-five permanent services. They are working towards a new substation on the northeast side of 36th and St. Charles. The city currently owns the property, and the fear is that without an additional substation if it gets particularly hot or cold the city could experience brown outs. Additionally, they are working on a loop feed on St Rd164 by the bowling alley and by Legacy Living. They continue to work on the purple light issue. There are eighteen employees in the electrical department. Everybody is certified, two in the meter department, three in the substation, one in the office and the rest are linemen. All the linemen are certified as journeymen. They are working on a succession plan as employees are looking toward retirement.

Wastewater Department Update. Ed Hollinden gave an update on the Wastewater Department. Kellerville lift station is complete. They are under contract now to replace the center piers on the secondary clarifiers, and they are going to get a new carriage assembly which will cost around \$1,000,000.00. It will be the beginning of next year before that is complete. The bar screen will be submersible. Right now, when there is high flow, it has to be shut off while the debris bypasses

everything and gets to the plant. Capital expenditures are done five to ten years out. They plan to replace a sludge heater for \$500,000.00. They continue with the SCADA upgrades. There are twenty-five lift stations that they monitor. The department continues to line. The department recently completed the cleaning of their big lines. There was 70 years' worth of buildup. The plan is to do it every ten years. This will add a large amount of capacity to the lines. And again, while they do this, they camera the lines in an effort to avert disaster by identifying problems now and being able to line them now. The northside project was not funded by SRF. They are only funding the top six projects and the city's project ranked 11th. They will be put in for funding again at the end of March 2024. This past year, Wayne Murray was promoted to plant maintenance chief, and they hired Craig Jellison. Both are doing a fabulous job. One of the challenges moving forward is that operations are all getting older and ready to retire, the whole operating crew. Finding people for them is a huge concern. They have been contacting other plants to see what they do and are looking at changing hours or doing more automation. Operations are tough hours. Year-end totals are as follows: lateral inspections, seventy-five failed, forty-two new connections, all sludge was applied to farm field which is a huge savings. They treated 950 million gallons in 2022 and had forty-three inches of rain.

DORA Presentation. Community Development and Planning Intern Cameron Weisheit and Law Intern Drew O'Neil gave a presentation on the City of Jasper's proposed Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) district. A new law went into effect July 1, 2023, to allow for DORA districts to be established. A DORA provides benefits to the City of Jasper. Heart of Jasper has the most motive for this area and their goal is to create an environment in the downtown area where people would like to spend time, shop, and enjoy life. Heart of Jasper supports local businesses. The interns met with local businesses, and they believe that this will increase foot traffic in the downtown area and will benefit local retailers and all liquor distributors in the downtown area and the general public. The interns provided the council with a proposed map and proposed rules for the DORA as well as the City's application process. It is proposed that a specific cup would need to be used and, in the area, there would be a once-time use disposal cup, the hours would be active from 10:00 am to 12:00 am. Outside of those hours the DORA would not be active. Additionally, signage would be needed for the area. If one of the rules is broken it could result in a Class C misdemeanor infraction. An ordinance would need to be approved by the council and submitted to the ATC. Additional discussion was held regarding the parameters of the DORA.

Notice of Intent to Apply. Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang advised the Council that he would like to apply for a low interest USDA loan for a new Tower Truck for the Fire Department. The current truck is 29 years old. The cost of a new truck is \$1,8000,000.00. The estimated delivery date is 2 years. A low interest USDA loan is a mechanism the city could use to get the purchase of a new truck in the work. Public comment on the intention to apply for this loan. Opportunity to hear information from Kenny, then open a public hearing for anyone from the public to comment on the intent to apply for the loan. Notice was published in the Herald. Council member Kevin Manley opened a public hearing on the intent to apply for a low interest USDA loan. Seeing no comment from the public, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroder to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0. Craig McGowen from USDA elaborated on the loan and the process to apply. He explained that the interest rate would be locked in at 3.65% and the amount borrowed could be decreased if not as much is needed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-15

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A 1% MUNICIPAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to read the ordinance by title only on second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-15 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve the ordinance on second reading. Further discussion was held. Council member Lueken was really hopeful that the funding model for this project would be available prior to this meeting. Council member Manley pointed out that there will be a separate public hearing and a third reading and was advised that the funding needed to be available before the vote on the third reading. City Attorney Kabrick advised that an analysis of what the tax impact would be using the Food and Beverage tax and EDIT dollars and based on the different levels of potential donor funds raised. The plan is to share that information with the Council before the public hearing and before the third reading. Attorney Kabrick pointed out that the plan was for this tax to become effective January 1, 2024, and that the public hearing had to be held at a meeting where it was the only item on the agenda. Council member Manley called for a vote. Council member Mundy noted that he is only okay with it on the notion that the requested information would be made available prior to the third and final reading. Council member Eckerle and Lorey noted they would like to see the

numbers prior to the public hearing. Attorney Kabrick indicated she would provide council with that information prior to the public hearing. Motion carried 5-2, with Council member Lueken and Eckerle voting nay.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-16

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX RECEIPT FUND

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to read the ordinance by title only on second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-16 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve the ordinance on second reading. Further discussion was held. Council member Lorey pointed out that he was making the motion to follow along with the previous motion as we have to have a place to put the money if we adopt the food and beverage tax. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-17

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR

A motion was made by John Schroder and seconded by Phil Mundy to make Ordinance No. 2023-17 available for one reading only and available to read by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-17 by title only.

Council member Kevin Manley opened a public hearing on Ordinance No. 2023-17. Seeing no comment from the public, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

Thereafter a motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Phil Mundy to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-17. Council member Schroeder noted that all was well with the outdoor pool, but an invoice had been submitted to the RDC regarding the Regional Wellness Center, however that was not part of this appropriation. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-18

AN ORDINANCE RECOMMENDING A CHANGE IN FEES FOR THE USE OF A CITY OWNED CEMETERY

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to read the ordinance by title only on first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-18 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Further discussion was held. Attorney Kabrick noted the city has adopted new cemetery mapping software and the cost to maintain the cemetery has gone up over time and the requested increase is similar to fees observed at similar cemetery locations. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-19

AN ORDINANCE RECOMMENDING TWO HOUR PARKING ALONG A CITY OWNED STREET

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to read the ordinance by title only on first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-19 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve the ordinance on first reading. Further discussion was held. Council member Manley indicated that it is easier to make the turn. Council member Eckerle noted that it provides an additional handicap parking spot for the Veteran's Office right there. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20

AN ORDINANCE FIXING A SCHEDULE OF REVISED RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE SALE OF WATER BY THE JASPER MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY (Repealing Ordinance No. 2019-6)

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Phil Mundy to read the ordinance by title only on first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-20 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Paul Lorey to approve the ordinance on first reading. Utility Manager Bud Hauersperger advised that the last rate study was in 2018 therefore the utility department requested another study. They looked at revue versus expenditures to determine how to adjust the rates to cover current expenses. A 3% inflation rate was factored in, which came in at a 7% increase. Over the years the two years the depreciating fund and the operating and maintenance funds have been dwindling. Some of that is due to some

of the large water projects that have been done over the years and the water department is aggressively trying to stay ahead of the street department to upgrade lines before they pave. Additionally the cost of materials has risen quite a bit. The committee members met and agreed that an additional \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 revenue would be needed to replenish those funds as well as a 4% growth factor. This accounted for less than a \$4.00 per month increase to the average user. Area utilities were reviewed, and it had little to no affect where the City of Jasper stood in the area. Council member Lueken pointed out that it does not look like we moved at all with that increase. Council member Manley noted that we have to stay up to date with our costs and that we have to continue to look at utilities in the surrounding areas. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-21
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADVANCE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN
EXPENSES

A motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Dave Hurst to read the ordinance by title only on first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-21 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the ordinance as amended on the first reading. The amendment removed the ability to advance pay meal expenses for employees and requires approval from the board the department head reports to for advanced payment. Motion carried 7-0.

Correction. Council member Manley pointed out that a Special Council Meeting to hold a public hearing is set for August 7, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

Information. Council member Eckerle provided pricing for Reach Alert and would like to invite Ken from Reach Alert to give a presentation on the system at either the August or September council meeting. Additionally, Council member Eckerle provided the council with a new Welcome to Jasper book.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member Dave Hurst and seconded by Council member Chad Lueken to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ____ with t without corrections or clarification this 22nd day of August 2023.



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: 

Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer