

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
September 20, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, August 23, 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 Lueken	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. 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.

Introduction of Boy Scout Troop 185. Mayor Vonderheide introduced Boy Scout Troup 185.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes from Regular Council Meeting August 23, 2023, were distributed to and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Council member Phil Mundy to approve the minutes from August 23, 2023, without corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

Engineering Department Presentation. City Engineer Chad Hurm gave an update on the City Engineering Department. The Engineering Department works with every department within the City of Jasper. They do projects for every one of them as well as many projects internal to their department. One project they have been working on was the transition from GIS via auto cad map to the EZRI Arch GIS map system. This transition is complete, and all departments are entering their own data. The Engineering Department has been working on several projects with the Street Department including the reconstruction of HRJ Lane and Power Drive. Additionally, they are in the process of reconstructing four streets in the Holy Family area: Eisenhower, Hausenour, Hochgesang and Terrace. This includes new storm sewer, new curb, and new gutter. Hochgesang was an old concrete street that was completely removed and replaced and then all four streets were resurfaced. They are currently working on Terrace, the fourth and final street in that project. Prior to beginning that project, the Wastewater Department contacted all the property owners in the neighborhood and verified that all the sewers were in good shape. They offered a program where they paid for a portion of any lateral repairs for any property owners that were interested. The Water Department replaced some water lines on Justin Avenue and confirmed that all those met the city standards as well. The Engineering Department is now beginning work on the Dewey Street Project. They are replacing and reinstalling storm sewers, curb, gutter, and sidewalks and redoing the street from 13th to 14th Streets and from 14th to 15th Streets. All three of those projects received Community Crossing Matching Grant funds. Based on what qualified, the city was able to get 50% matching funds to complete those projects. The Engineering Department is also

working with the Park Department on several projects, as well. They recently bid for the replacement of the Mill Deck. They did some drainage improvements at the Parklands. They are currently working on parking improvements at the Habig Center as well as bathroom and shelter house facilities at Buehler Park. The Engineering Department has worked with the Gas and Water Department to redo waterlines on 3rd Avenue from Meridian Road to Gun Club Road. They have done the Main Street Water Project that was an extension of the Downtown Revitalization that including redoing waterlines from 9th Street to the Courthouse Square and from 5th Street to 2nd Street and into South Newton Street. They are currently working on a waterline project with the Water Department on Mill Street from 9th to 15th Streets which will begin in the next several months. They are also working on a few projects that have received federal or state funding, including Phase II of the Multiuse Trail Path. This is an extension from the new Driving Range and Trail Head at Buffalo Trace Golf Course all the way to St Charles Street via 30th Street and Northwood Avenue. The city did receive a federal grant through INDOT for the Mill Street Improvement Projects. This will include drainage and road improvements from 30th Street to 36th Street. The intent for this project is to bring that section of roadway up to an industrial standard and improve the drainage as part of the first phase of connector on the North side of town for industrial traffic to connect to the potential Midstate's Corridor. Additionally, the Engineering Department has been doing a lot of work on Phase I of the Downtown Revitalization Project. They are expected to have a completion date of October 27, 2023. Phase II of that project is a continuation of the improvements from 7th Street to 9th Street and from 5th Street down to 3rd Street. The Engineering Department completed some Stormwater work on US 231 and HWY 164 through a grant from the Indiana Finance Authority for State Highway Utility Work. When submitting for grants often times there is a requirement for an Employee of Responsible Charge and up until recently Chad Hurm was the only one with that designation. This past November Scott Schnell with Engineering, Street Commissioner Jeff Theising, and Bob Sunderman of the Street Department all three acquired that designation as well. The Engineering Department has been systematically installing sidewalks along Newton Street. They have completed two phases up to this point and are considering a third phase from 36th Street North. And finally, they are in the early stages of replacing storm sewers through Jaycee Park and the Armory Property and Bartley, Rees, and Brescher Street areas as well.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-25

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (AMENDING CHAPTER 1.114 ARP CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND)

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

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies so read Ordinance No. 2023-25 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by John Schroder to approve Ordinance No. 2023-25 on the first reading. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies noted that the current Ordinance 2021-14 which established a single account for the purposes of receiving and distributing the ARPA funds originally indicated that the funds had to be spent by the end of 2024. In January of 2022 the US Department of Treasury issued its final rule which changed those terms. The funds need to be earmarked by the end of 2024, spent by the end of 2026. The city currently has a plan for those funds but the bulk of which will be applied to the Regional Wellness Center and the ordinance needed to be amended to reflect the updated terms. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-26

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DOWNTOWN JASPER SOCIAL DISTRICT)

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

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies so read Ordinance No. 2023-26 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Paul Lorey to approve Ordinance No. 2023-26 on the first reading. Council member Nancy Eckerle expressed concern about having the DORA in effect during the Strassenfest. Though there was no need for a public hearing the council did accept public input. Phyllis Mcaninch and Scott Meneilly of the Jasper Jaycees additionally expressed concerns about how the DORA would affect the Bier Garten at the Strassenfest. Jane Chappell of Dubois County CARES expressed concerns about the example we are setting for our youth and agreed that the Strassenfest is a family friendly event and at times youth need to see alcohol free events. Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman noted that the Bier Garten would remain fenced in and could operate as a separate entity which the DORA would have no effect on. Council member Dave Hurst suggested carving out the dates of the Strassenfest and suspending the DORA during that time. Council member

Chad Lueken noted that often times volunteers will have an alcoholic drink while setting up and taking down booths. Council member John Schroeder questioned how the DORA would affect parade watchers. Mayor Vonderheide suggested a revision to the proposed ordinance to include language that suspends the DORA during the Strassenfest. City Attorney Renee Kabrick appearing via Zoom noted that the ordinance could be approved on the first reading with an amendment to close the DORA during the Strassenfest

A motion was then made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Paul Lorey to approve Ordinance No 2023-26 with the amendment to suspend the DORA the Sunday to Sunday of the week of the Strassenfest. Council member Kevin Manley pointed out that getting a DORA drink and sitting at the firepit appears to be a more responsible option than taking a cooler with a case of beer to the firepit, with overindulgence in the latter scenario seeming more likely. Council member Paul Lorey did express concerns about the proposed hours of the DORA. Motion carried 6-1, with Council member Phil Mundy being opposed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-27

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A UNIFORM CODE FOR TRAFFIC UPON THE PUBLIC STREETS – TRUCK ROUTES AND LOAD LIMITS AND SETTING FORTH TRUCK LOAD LIMITS AND STREET RESTRICTIONS (AMENDING CHAPTER 9.33 TRUCK LOAD LIMITS AND STREET RESTRICTIONS)

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to consider Ordinance No. 2023-27 for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Dave Hurst and seconded by John Schroeder to read Ordinance No. 2023-27 by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies so read Ordinance No. 2023-27 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Kevin Manley to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-27. Council member Kevin Manley noted that this ordinance had gone before the safety committee and been approved. Council member Nancy Eckerle questioned whether this ordinance applies to Safety Vehicles such as the city's fire trucks. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies pointed out that these limits do not apply to fire trucks. Council member Nancy Eckerle questioned whether 1B applies to the downtown area and what the fine would be for violation of this offense. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies advised that this ordinance allows the city of Jasper to collect damages. City Attorney Renee Kabrick advised that any vehicle with a trailer was to be prohibited because historically trailers have been the part of the vehicles that have been the problem and that is the recommendation from the Engineering Department and the Street Department. While no public hearing was required, the council did accept input from the public. Daniel Kreilein questioned the 5-ton limit noting that would knock out all floats during the Strassenfest Parade, and any dump truck with rock on it and most pick up trucks hauling anything of substance. City Attorney Renee Kabrick pointed out that the 5-ton weight limit on 15th Street is not a change and has been in place for a very long time.

Council member Chad Lueken rescinded his original motion and Council member Kevin Manley rescinded his second of that motion.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Phil Mundy to table Ordinance No. 2023-27. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-28

AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING AND REGULATING MOBILE FOOD VENDORS.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to Ordinance No. 2023-28 by title only on the first reading.

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies so read Ordinance No. 2023-28 by title only.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve Ordinance No. 2023-28 on the first reading. Council member Nancy Eckerle noted that this is adding food truck allowance at the Ruxer Disc Golf Course parking lot. Council member Paul Lorey noted that there are no issues at the Schroeder Complex or at the Youth Sports Complex where food trucks are currently allowed. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-22

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023.

Mayor Vonderheide opened a public hearing on Ordinance No. 2023-22. Seeing no one from the public wanting to speak, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Phil Mundy to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to consider Ordinance No. 2023-22 for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies so read Ordinance No. 2023-22 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dave Hurst and seconded by Paul Lorey to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-22 on the first and only reading. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies pointed out that these are the additional appropriations for the remainder of the year and the net is moving from fund to fund. A public hearing was required and held and notice to the public was published in the Dubois County Herald. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-23 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Mayor Vonderheide opened a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2023-23. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies noted that the Form 3 was noticed to taxpayers and uploaded to Gateway on September 7, 2023. Seeing no public comment, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Chad Lueken to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies so read Ordinance No. 2023-32 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Chad Lueken to approve the ordinance on first reading. Council member Paul Lorey noted that the Clerk Treasurer and her staff, the Mayor and Department Heads all did a fantastic job getting this budget together and prepared. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies noted that total appropriations were \$26,962,505.00. Motion carried 7-0. This ordinance will be available for second and third readings at the October Council meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-24 AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES AND FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

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

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies so read Ordinance No. 2023-24 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve Ordinance No. 2023-24 on the first reading. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies provided the council members with the tax rate for 2023 and 2024. The tax rate for the general fund is 0.5879, for Park and Rec is 0.3322, for Cum Cap Development is 0.0454, for Cum Fire 0.0100, Fire Pension .0063 and Debt Service is 0.0754 for a total of 1.0568%. The total rate for 2023 was 1.1624% council member Paul Lorey pointed out with all these projects being completed and the budget being fully funded the tax rate is just shy of 11 cents less per hundred dollars of assessed value and again congratulated the Mayor, Department Heads and Clerk Treasurer and her staff on this year's budget process. Motion carried 7-0.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE. The proposed Holiday Scheduled for 2024 was previously provided. Council member Kevin Manley noted there were no changes to the holidays. A motion was made by John Schroder and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve the Holiday Schedule for 2024. Motion carried 7-0.

Gas Contractor License. Gas Contractor Licenses for Craig Kline and Jay Giesler were presented. Council member Kevin Manley noted both had excellent scores. A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve the Gas Contractor's License for Craig Kline and Jay Giesler. Motion carried 7-0. Mayor Vonderheide noted that the scores have definitely gone up over the years, which is a good thing.

Opioid Fund Discussion. Logan Jones of the Jasper Police Department and Dubois County Substance Abuse Council and Jenna Jones of the Substance Abuse Council advised the council on how the Substance Abuse Council is run and how their grant process works. Jones and Jones then discussed how having access to the City of Jasper's Opioid Settlement Funds could benefit the Substance Abuse Council as well as the community. The Substance Abuse Council has an average budget of \$40,000.00 per year. On average they grant funds to 10 to 15 organizations a year. The grant process is highly regulated. Some examples of grants funded are substance abuse education for the probation department, tactical gloves for the Jasper Police Department, Dove House media room for zoom training, materials for evidence-based programming. The funding is expected to dwindle over the course of the next few years and over the course of the last few years they have had more asking than they were able to give. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies noted that we have to work with the State Board of Accounts to determine a way that this could be accomplished. The

Substance Abuse Council's budget runs through the County and there are strict reporting requirements for the city for the use of these funds.

Reach Alert Presentation. Ken Weber, Chief Operating Officer for Reach Alert. Reach Alert is a communication platform that allows clients to quickly communicate with their constituents via text voice or email. Reach Alter is the only notification provider that is endorsed by the Kentucky League of Cities, a municipal league. Reach Alert provides the city with tiered pricing for the first 2000 households that sign up. For each household multiple numbers and emails can sign up. The city would only pay for services actually being used. It is cloud based and would require an administrator. All that is needed is a computer or a smart phone to send out messages. The city may have as many administrators as needed. Templates for messages can be developed. Pricing is locked in for three years, but the contract would be considered yearly. Mayor Vonderheide pointed out that the issue isn't technology, however it would be determining the administration of the program.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member Paul Lorey and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ____ with / without corrections or clarification this 18th day of October 2023.



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer


Attest: _____
Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer