

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
October 18, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, October 18, 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.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes from Regular Council Meeting September 20, 2023, were distributed to and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Paul Lorey to approve the minutes from September 20, 2023, without corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

Park and Recreation Department Presentation. Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman gave an update on the Park and Recreation Department. The Park and Recreation Department had one of the best years of participation in a long time. Highlights to note are the Police Department playing kickball, Fire Department with trucks at Grill and Chill along with Jasper Police Department, shaving cream whiffle ball, and also the various camps. Each activity has a different number of participants. Activities are available all summer long at no charge. Janessa Wagner does an excellent job putting those together. Also worth noting are the themed events at the pool this year, Halloween, Christmas, etc. Moorman provided the Council with a list of potential ideas for the next five-to-ten years such as turfing the fields at the Youth Sports Complex. Not all of these ideas will be implemented but have been suggested and are being considered. He further presented the train schedule. There were more trips this year than before. An interesting point is that in the past 87% of riders have been from outside of Dubois County, this year that number increased to 97% which is a significant increase in tourism that the train is bringing to the area. All the trains for October are sold out. Moorman pointed out that the pool numbers were down a bit this year, but that the pool itself was also down a bit this year due to mechanical issues. The season was shortened by two weeks. He reported record numbers for golf this year. There were 292 memberships this year. By mid-September, last year’s total numbers had already been beat. The driving range will only add to that. There are twenty-four slots on the driving range available. Small buckets of balls will sell for \$6.00 and large buckets for \$10.00. Additionally at the last Park Board meeting, they passed an increase to the percentage of beer sales going towards a new golf pro shop. It was 20% and will increase to 50%. The Park Department also hosted their annual tree

giveaway and gave away around 1,000 trees. The mill wheel repair was completed, and they are getting the deck redone. Ruxer Disc Golf has been extremely popular this year as well. JMYLC replaced the bridges, the big one and the small one. The improved bridges look great, work well and have been a huge part of getting disc golf up and running. The first month it was open over five hundred rounds were played. Beuhler pickle ball courts are underway. The fence is up, and the asphalt is down, they are waiting for surface. The Habig center catered meals continue to average around one hundred people per meal. The ice machine could not keep up, so they replaced the ice machine and the old one went to the Ruxer Clubhouse. The Habig Center also replaced a treadmill which was original to when the facility was opened. Concrete ping pong table and cornhole boards at the Dave Beuhler Plaza on the Riverwalk continue to get a lot of use. The concrete floor at the Bohnert park shelter house has been replaced. Bottle fillers and bubblers throughout parks have been replaced. The Universal carousel at Jaycee Park was installed thanks to a combination of donations and park funds. The Whitey Schroeder practice facility is almost complete, waiting on trees. The electrical department was a huge help on this project. The facility means a lot to a lot of people. The Ruxer Clubhouse will become a rentable facility. The floors have been replaced, volunteers from Old National Bank painted the walls, ceilings, and restrooms. A door was added so the restroom could be accessed from the outside. Volunteers from German American Bank will assist in removing annuals from Downtown as the park is helping to maintain those plants as well.

Dubois Strong Update. Ed Cole of Dubois Strong presented a yearly Dubois Strong update. He reviewed the new housing study that was recently completed and pointed out that an executive summary of the study will follow. Housing is huge for the entire county and is also huge in Jasper. New housing and the ability for people to move into or have adequate housing is a massive driver for economic development. People are going to need a place to live if they are going to come to Jasper. Dubois Strong wants to be seen as an information source and a facilitator in getting people accurate information regarding housing. This study put numbers behind a lot of anecdotal information. Jasper is an employment hub; Jasper is a retail hub for surrounding counties. Jasper is a huge economic driver for Southern Indiana. Another key factor is that people are employed in Dubois County but live elsewhere. Convincing those folks to move where they work is difficult, but housing is a key factor. Is there enough housing in enough different price points for people to say it makes more sense to live in Jasper than it does to drive. The study pointed out however that there are 30,357 people who live in Dubois County and work in Dubois County. There are only about 1,955 folks who live here but drive out to work. Jasper has an extremely high owner occupancy rate and an incredibly low occupancy rate on the rental side. More people are wanting to rent than can. Cole also pointed out the importance of the construction activity because more houses and apartments are being built in Dubois County than in practically all the circle counties combined. Jasper has good builders and good developers. In 2020 things slowed down, however Jasper continued to build. Jasper has about 1% growth and an ongoing annual need of 97-100 new housing units each year. Dubois Strong is looking at various ways to move this information forward and how to best utilize this information. There will be a press release. But the go forward has to be collaborative with other entities like the county and the schools. The big driver will be infrastructure. Infrastructure can be costly to build and maintain and can be easily outgrown. Additionally, Dubois Strong hosted the Tour of Opportunity in which they had six hundred ninth graders that went out October 11, 2023, to fourteen different career paths. There were thirty different businesses involved, automotive, agriculture, building trades, etc. The kids love it. Cole reviewed the Relocation grants available with Radius Indiana and how they differ from last year. Sixty-five households were affected by these grants and Jasper got 65% of the people. Next year's Relocation grant is a little different in that it targets remote workers, CDL drivers, defense workers and eventually a program that targets veterans. Half the money will be received up front and the other half after a year of residency. There is a \$50,000.00 salary requirement and a 2-year residency requirement. The employer will put \$1,500.00 toward the grant with Radius Indiana supplying the rest. Cole reported on childcare. He noted that a tremendous number of childcare seats are needed in Dubois County, but it is possible. They are working with state representatives and childcare providers to eliminate some of the unnecessary regulations to help ease the burden on the childcare providers. And last regarding the Midstate's Corridor, Cole noted that the Tier 1 study is complete and INDOT is going out to bid for the Tier 2 study in the spring, so that continues to move forward.

GEO Call Routing. Police Chief Nathan Schmitt and Chief of Communication Brittany Schreiner updated the Council on a GEO Call Routing initiative. Chief Schmitt advised that the department would like to take 911 calls back to the way they were originally established when landlines were the only phone lines. Schreiner advised that it was initially set up so that Jasper calls would come to the Jasper Dispatch Center and all calls outside of Jasper would go to the Dubois County Dispatch Center. However, with the growth of technology, the majority of 911 calls now come

from cell phones. Cell phone 911 calls are automatically going to be routed to the primary PSAP which is Dubois County. Dubois County then goes through their list of questioning before the call gets route to Jasper. This extends the process it takes to respond to the situation. GEO Call Routing, using GIS coordinates and specific date allows the location of the call to be routed to the proper corresponding agency. The state 911 board allows the decision on GEO Call Routing to be made locally and is still in the process of creating the guidelines and the verbiage for an MOU because it is bound and governed by Indiana Administrative Code. This is a multistep process that begins with information. Chief Schmitt and Schreiner met with the local 911 board last month and they agreed on a verbal go ahead to have conversations with the city council and county council and once the State 911 board is ready the MOU can be drafted and brought forward for approval. They are still in the process of creating the guidelines and the verbiage for an MOU because it is bound and governed by the Indiana administrative code. The MOU would be between city and county, but the city council and the county council would be listed as well. There is no cost for GEO Call Routing, it is a flip of a switch. They are hopeful to have this in effect by 2024.

Council Meeting Date Change.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Kevin Manley to move the June 2024 Council meeting date to June 18, 2024, due to June 19, 2024, being a federal holiday, Juneteenth. Motion carried 7-0.

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

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-24 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dave Hurst and seconded by John Schroder to approve Ordinance No. 2023-24 on the second reading. Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies noted the rate of tax for each fund with the total for the year being 1.0568% as compared to 1.1624% last year. Motion carried 7-0.

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-24 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Kevin Manley to pass and adopt Ordinance No 2023-24 on the third and final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-23
AN ORDINACNE APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE YEAR 2024

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-23 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave to approve Ordinance No. 2023-23 on the second reading. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies pointed out that the total appropriations for the year 2024 are \$26,962,505.00. Motion carried 7-0.

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-23 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Kevin Manely and seconded by John Schroeder to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-23 on the third and final reading. There being no further discussion, the motion carried 7-0.

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 RECOVER FUND)

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-25 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve Ordinance No. 2023-25 on the second reading. Council member Nancy Eckerle questioned where all the ARPA funds were being spent. Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies pointed out that there were funds used for the Holy Family Project, money that went to the Downtown Project, and the HELP

Grant. The majority of the funds have been spent, however the funds for the HELP Grant may extend out further as those funds have been designated to the Regional Wellness Center. Motion carried 7-0.

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-25 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Chad Lueken to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-25 on the third and final reading. There being no further discussion, the 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 Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to read the ordinance by title only on the second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick 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 second reading. Council member Chad Lueken pointed out that the earliest possible date and latest possible date for Strassenfest set up and tear down had been carved out. Council member Paul Lorey would like to see the hours extending later than 9:00 pm due to the Astra hosting later events but is open to observing how it goes and coming back and adjusting the guidelines as needed. Council member Nancy Eckerle agrees that it is best to implement the DORA and coming back after about a year and make any necessary changes. Council member Chad Lueken asked how the DORA might affect the Spirit of Jasper. City Attorney Renee Kabrick and Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman advised that having a liquor license on the railway is a unique situation and they would look into this matter. Motion carried 6-1, with Phil Mundy opposed.

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-26 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-26 on the third and final reading. Council member Nancy Eckerle pointed out that Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman had posted the map which was extremely helpful to see the actual boundaries. Motion carried 6-1, with Phil Mundy opposed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-27

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR 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 Kevin Manley and seconded by Paul Lorey to read the ordinance by title only on the first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-27 by title only.

Council member Kevin Manley questioned what size vehicle a 5-ton truck was referring to. City Attorney Renee Kabrick pointed out that the safety committee was present to assist with the questions. Street commissioner Jeff Theising advised that a 5-ton truck would be anything bigger than a pickup. Those streets that are designated are 15th Street, from Newton to Kundek and Green Street from 13th to 14th are not made for larger trucks. While they are capable of driving on them it is not a good idea, and they could cause damage. Council member Nancy Eckerle pointed out that it is already approved for those streets but that we are now just asking for it to be approved around the square. Council member Paul Lorey pointed out that we are trying to keep semi-trucks off the square. Commissioner Theising advised that those who are monitoring this are not going to be able to determine how much a truck weighs. Police Chief Nathan Schmitt advised that it is going to be difficult to monitor. City Attorney Renee Kabrick advised that the exemptions are “B. Emergency Vehicles; C. Trucks owned or operated by the City, public utilities, or any contractor or materialman when engaged in repair, maintenance or constructions of street, street improvement or street utilities within the city; and D. Trucks on any officially established detour where such trucks could lawfully be operated on street for which the detour is established”. In the previous ordinance option A. read “trucks upon any street when necessary to conduct business at a destination point provided streets upon which such traffic is permitted are used until reaching the intersection nearest the destination.” Council member John Schroeder noted that he would like to

see option A. remain in the ordinance. Council member Paul Lorey recommended moving forward with the ordinance as long as it can be revisited or revised as needed. Mayor Vonderheide recommended eliminating ‘and pulling a trailer.’ Council member Paul Lorey recommended no tandem axel trailers. Council member Phil Mundy recommended the ordinance read “and no vehicle pulling a trailer with two or more axels.” Renne Kabrick advised that the ordinance should be changed to read ‘no truck operating with three or more axels and no vehicle pulling a trailer with two or more axels.” A motion was made by John Schroder and seconded by Paul Lorey to approve Ordinance No. 2023-27 on the first reading with the proposed changes. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-28
AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING AND REGULATING MOBILE FOOD VENDORS
(AMENDING SEC 3.26)

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-28 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve Ordinance No. 2023-28 on the second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Chad Lueken to read the ordinance by title only the third and final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-28 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-28 on the third and final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-29
AN ORDINANCE AFFIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE ELECTED
OFFICIALS AND THE CIVIL CITY EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2024.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Phil Mundy to consider Ordinance No. 2023-29 for one reading only procedure. Motion carried 7-0.

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-29 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-29 on the first and only reading. There being no further discussion, the motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-30
AN ORDINANCE AFFIXING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE UTILITY
EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2024.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to consider Ordinance No. 2023-30 for one reading only procedure. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Chad Lueken to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-30 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Kevin Manley to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-30 on the first and only reading. There being no further discussion, the motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-31
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE JASPER
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Phil Mundy to consider Ordinance No. 2023-31 for one reading only procedure. Motion carried 7-0.

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

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-31 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-31 on the first and only reading. Council member Kevin Manley questioned the charges at Schroeder Complex. Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman advised that travel league soccer was paying rec league soccer a fee to use city facilities. The change now requires them to in turn pay the city to use the facility. Moorman advised that they pay for tournaments, but they will not be charged to play their friendly pick-up soccer games. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-32
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE JASPER
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION.

A motion was made by Dave Hurst and seconded by Kevin Manley to consider Ordinance No. 2023-32 for one reading only procedure. Motion carried 7-0.

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

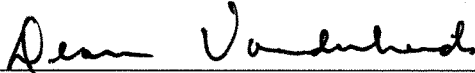
City Attorney Renne Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-32 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Paul Lorey to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-32 on the first and only reading. Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman advised that they analyzed driving ranges across the state and came up with these fees. Eventually they would like to use a portion of the proceeds to go towards a new club house, however they need to ensure they are covering their costs before they determine where to go from here. Moorman points out that no cash will be accepted at the machine dispensing the balls to cut down on vandalization. Motion carried 7-0.

REACH ALERT FOLLOW- UP. Council member Nancy Eckerle advised that Reach Alert is now set up for a free trial and requested board members sign up to see how the process works. Mayor Vonderheide advised that they did discuss this program and similar programs with various mayors at the recent conference and one of the issues that keeps arising is the administration of the program.

Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Council member Chad Lueken and seconded by Dave Hurst to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ____ with ✓ without corrections or clarification this 21st day of November 2023.



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: 

Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer