

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
October 8, 2024**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

CALL TO ORDER

Board member Nancy Eckerle called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies then called the roll:

Mayor Dean Vonderheide	Absent
Board member Timothy Bell	Present
Board member Nancy Eckerle	Present

Also, present were Police Chief Nathan Schmitt, Assistant Street Commissioner Matt Kiefer, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang, Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director Cale Knies, City Engineer Chad Hurm, City Attorney Renee Kabrick, Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman, and Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies.

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. Board member Nancy Eckerle 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 September 24, 2024. Thereafter, a motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 24, 2024, without correction. Motion carried 2-0.

PROCLIMATION. Board member Tim Bell on behalf of Mayor Vonderheide declared WHEREAS, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce has been in existence since 1954 and is celebrating its 71st Anniversary of providing citizens with a better place to live and work; and WHEREAS, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce works with merchants and industry to advance the civic, economic, industrial, professional, and cultural life of our city; and WHEREAS, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce encourages the growth of existing businesses and welcomes new firms and individuals who locate here; and WHEREAS, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce provides information, directions, maps, workshops, small business planning sessions, tourist information, statistical data and rental information; and WHEREAS, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce is the “welcome” office for the city of Jasper and is involved in many fun and entertaining activities for young and old. THEREFORE, October 14-18, 2024, is proclaimed as Jasper Chamber of Commerce Week.

CLAIMS. Claims were distributed for the period of September 13, 2024, through October 8, 2024, for a total of \$2,882,353.97. Claims to note were \$192,861.50 to Ragle Construction for the Multi-Use Trail Phase II Project, \$385,537.50 to Ragle Construction for the Main Street Phase II Project and \$194,134.63 to Pavement Solutions and Rejuvtec for the Pavement Preservation Project. A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried 2-0.

PARKLANDS CONTROLLED BURN

Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman advised that they continue to push off the controlled burn at the Parklands due to weather. He will continue to be in contact with Olivia Frye, the biologist who is assisting with the burn. He

anticipates that it may take place this week yet. He will continue to keep the board updated.

TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

Mayor’s Assistant Lisa Bower advised that the City of Jasper Trick or Treat Hours are Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and reminded residents to only go to homes with front porch lights on.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Police Chief Nathan Schmitt presented the previously distributed Jasper Police Department Activity Report for the month of September 2024. Schmitt noted that Officer Jhazz Bieker completed Drug Recognition training certifying him as a Drug Recognition Expert. He also noted that calls were down, but arrests were up.

JUNK ASSETS

Police Chief Nathan Schmitt requested approval to remove asset number 102785, a NUUO Camera System and asset number 102208, an ICOM Repeater from the Police Department’s list of fixed assets. Both items are no longer in working order and have been replaced.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to remove asset numbers 1027852 and 102208 from the Police Department’s list of fixed assets. Motion carried 2-0.

Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director Cale Knies requested approval to remove asset numbers 103000, 103001 and 102561 from his list of fixed assets.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to remove asset numbers 103000, 103001 and 102561 from the Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Department’s list of fixed assets. Motion carried 2-0.

JPD HIRING

Police Chief Nathan Schmitt reminded the public that the Jasper Police Department is accepting applications for several open officer positions. He advised that the application can be completed online at jasperin.gov or a hard copy can be picked up at the Police Department. Schmitt noted that if anyone has ever wanted to be part of the city, community, or police department, this is a great opportunity.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang advised that this week from October 6, 2024, to October 12, 2024, is Fire Prevention Week. This year’s theme is Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You. He reminded the public that smoke detectors are inexpensive and do make a difference. The department will be going around to schools and participating in timed fire drills. They will also be talking to the children about fire prevention.

PROJECT UPDATES

City Engineer Chad Hurm gave an update on Phase II of the Downtown Revitalization Project and the Phase II of the Multiuse Trail Project.

TREE REMOVAL

Assistant Street Commissioner Matt Kiefer requested approval to remove a dead tree in front of 408 Mill Street and approval to close Mill Street from 4th Street to 5th Street while the Street Department removes the tree. Motorists can detour east on 4th and McCrillus Streets. They hope to get to it within the next couple of weeks.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Street Department to remove the dead tree at 408 Mill Street and close Mills Street during the process when it works for the Street Department and for however long it takes. Motion carried 2-0.

LEGAL INTERN

City Attorney Renee Kabrick requested permission to proceed with the hiring process for a Legal Intern for the summer of 2025. This is a budgeted position.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle for the Legal Department to begin the hiring process for a summer Legal Intern for 2025. Motion carried 2-0.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 2-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:21 a.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ____ with ✓ without corrections or clarification this 29th day of October, 2024.



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: 

Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer