

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA  
March 19, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday March 19, 2025, 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		
Vince Helming	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.

Additionally, Police Chief Chad Dick and Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman were in attendance.

**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 the Regular Council Meeting held February 19, 2025, were distributed to, and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Paul Lorey and seconded by Council member Vince Helming to approve the minutes from March 19, 2025, without corrections. Motion carried 6-0.

**Presentations.**

Police Chief Chad Dick presented an overview of the Jasper Police Department for the past year.

**Abatement Compliance.**

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for 2011-15 Personal Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Indiana Furniture, Inc. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Lori Klem and Max Verkamp were present representing Indiana Furniture, Inc. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to find that Indiana Furniture, Inc. is in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its 2011-15 Personal Property Improvements. Motion carried 6-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for 2021-10 Personal Property, and 2021-10 Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Indiana Furniture, Inc. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Lori Klem and Max Verkamp were present representing Indiana Furniture, Inc. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Chad Lueken to find that Indiana Furniture, Inc. is in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its 2021-10 Personal Property, and 2021-10 Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 6-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form CF-1 for 2019-09 Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Park Place Estates One, LLC were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Ruger Kerstiens was present representing Park Place Estates One, LLC. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to find that Park Place Estates One, LLC is in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its 2019-09 Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 6-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form CF-1 for 2020-1 Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Park Place Estates One, LLC, were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Ruger Kerstiens was present representing Park Place Estates One, LLC. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Phil Mundy to find that Park Place Estates One, LLC is in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its 2020-1 Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 6-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form CF-1 for 2024-19 Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Park Place Estates One, LLC, were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Ruger Kerstiens was present representing Park Place Estates One, LLC. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Vince Helming to find that Park Place Estates One, LLC is in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its 2024-19 Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Ordinance No. 2025-5**

##### **An Ordinance to Rezone Certain Property within Jurisdictional Limits of the Jasper Advisory Plan Commission. (David A. and Lisa J. Seng)**

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to read Ordinance No. 2025-5 by title only on the first and only reading. Motion carried 6-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-5 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-5 on the first and only reading. Mike Rendel on behalf of the petitioners gave an overview of the plan and the project. Phil Buehler of Brosmer Land Surveying on behalf of the petitioners explained the need to rezone the property. Council member Paul Lorey advised that a public hearing was held by the Plan Commission on March 5, 2025, and the Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to rezone the parcels from A1 (Agricultural General) to RR (Rural Residential) and to amend the zoning maps of the City of Jasper. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Resolution No. 2025-1**

##### **A Resolution Opposing Indiana Senate Bill 1 and Other Legislation Impacting Local Government Finances and Public Services.**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to read Resolution No. 2025-1 by title only.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Resolution No. 2025-1 by title only.

John Schroeder made a motion to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2025-1. The motion was not seconded. City Attorney Renee Kabrick advised of the different options surrounding Resolution No. 2025-1. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies advised of the implications of the bill and other bills as it's written. Vince Helming advised he welcomes legislators to slow down the increase in property tax bills. Resolution 2025-1 expired without a second motion.

#### **Ordinance No. 2025-3**

##### **An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Its Taxable Economic Development Revenue Bonds and Approving Other Actions in Respect Thereto.**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to read Ordinance No. 2025-3 by title only on the second/final reading. Motion carried 6-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-3 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Vince Helming to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-3 on the second/final reading. Additional discussion was held. Motion carried 6-0.

**Ordinance No. 2025-4**

**An Ordinance Amending Fees for the Activities of the Jasper Department of Parks and Recreation.**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to read Ordinance No. 2025-4 by title only on the first reading. Motion carried 6-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-4 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Vince Helming to approve Ordinance No. 2025-4 on the first reading. Park Director Tom Moorman explained the reasoning behind the change in the fee structure. Motion carried 6-0.

**Ordinance No. 2025-6**

**An Ordinance Affixing Salaries and Wages for the Elected Officials and the Civil City Employees for the Year 2025 (Amending Ordinance No. 2024-19 (Amending Jasper Municipal Code §1.15.020)**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to read Ordinance No. 2025-6 by title only on the first reading. Motion carried 6-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-6 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to approve Ordinance No. 2025-6 on the first reading. Park Director Tom Moorman explained the reasoning behind the amendment to the Salary Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0.

**TIF Management Report.** Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies presented the annual TIF Management Report for 2024 to the Council. The Council acknowledged receipt of the report.

**Donation Acceptance.** Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested council acceptance of donations made in the month of February to the Art Department totaling \$3,475.00. Of that total, \$3,000.00 was restricted to be used for special workshops. The Arts Department Board is in agreement with the restrictions placed on those donations.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to accept the donations to the Art Department in an amount totaling \$3,475.00. Motion carried 6-0.

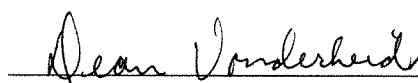
**Regional Wellness Center Update and Discussion.** Mayor Vonderheide advised that there is still a lot still up in the air with regard to the Regional Wellness Center. Through the build operate transfer process, the design team has produced an exceptional design for the project. The guaranteed maximum price is still being determined for the entire project. A number has been identified for Phase I, but that has not been put out for bid yet. Phase I is site preparation, utility installation and stormwater work and the total for that work is \$3.34 million. Phase I will be included in the overall guaranteed maximum price. Donations are still coming in and still being welcomed and accepted. Mayor Vonderheide feels confident that they will meet their donation goal. Council member Nancy Eckerle advised that she has received several questions from residents. Mayor Vonderheide advised that those questions will all be addressed.

**Outdoor Pool Update.** Mayor Vonderheide steered the discussion to the Outdoor Pool. He encouraged the council to visit the site. There are extremely exciting things going on there right now. The concrete pads are being poured around the pool area and the slides are up. They will begin filling the pool with water by May 1, 2025.


**Live Streaming and Archiving.** Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies advised that beginning July 1, 2025, meetings will be live streamed and archived. The recommendation has been made to practice, practice, practice. She hopes with the help of Mayor's Assistant Lisa Bower the April meeting could be live streamed in an effort to work out any complications that may arise.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, a motion was made by Council member John Schroeder and seconded by Council member Chad Lueken to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_\_ with   x   without corrections or clarification this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer