

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA  
April 23, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday April 23, 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, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Office Kenny Hochgesang 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 March 19, 2025, 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 March 19, 2025, without corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

**Presentations.**  
Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, Kenny Hochgesang presented an overview of the Fire Department and Code Enforcement Department for the past year.

**Abatement Compliance.**  
Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Jasper Lofts, LLC. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Troy Lacer was present representing Jasper Lofts, LLC. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to find Jasper Lofts, LLC. in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Vine Street Lofts, LLC. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Troy Lacer was present representing Vine Street Lofts, LLC. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to find Vine Street Lofts, LLC. in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Real and Personal Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Jasper Engine Exchange, Inc. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Jason Kelly was present representing Jasper Engine Exchange, Inc. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Chad Lueken to find Jasper Engine Exchange, Inc. in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Real and Personal Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with the Statement of Benefits Form for its Personal Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Ditto Sales, Inc. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Laura Mehling was present representing Ditto Sales, Inc. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to find Ditto Sales, Inc. in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Personal Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from German American Bank. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Scott Miller was present representing German American Bank. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by John Schroeder to find German American Bank in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Braun Family Properties, LLC. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Neil Verkamp was present representing Braun Family Properties, LLC. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to find Braun Family Properties, LLC. in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Personal Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Meyer Distributing, Inc. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Neil Verkamp was present representing Meyer Distributing, Inc. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to find Meyer Distributing, Inc. in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Personal Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Transit Properties, LLC. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Neil Verkamp was present representing Transit Properties, LLC. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to find Transit Properties, LLC. in substantial compliance with the statement of benefits for its Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for its Real Property Improvements for 2025 pay 2026 from Krempp Corporation. were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Bill Kaiser was present representing Krempp Corporation. The council then reviewed the information that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to find Krempp Corporation in substantial compliance with its second amended statement of benefits for its Real Property Improvements. Motion carried 7-0.

**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 second/final reading. Motion carried 7-0.  
City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-4 by title only.  
Thereafter a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Chad Lueken to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-4 on the second/final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

**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 second/final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Thereafter a motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-6 on the second/final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Ordinance No. 2025-8**

##### **An Ordinance Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (Amending the Downtown Jasper Social District)**

A motion was made by Vince Helming and seconded by Chad Lueken to read Ordinance No. 2025-8 by title only on the first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2025-8 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Vince Helming to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-8 on the first reading. Additional discussion was held. It was recommended that Rice and Spice be added to the list of approved locations. It was recommended that the boundaries of the DORA be changed, and Snap's be added to the list of approved locations. It was recommended that the hours of the DORA be changed from 10:00 am to 12:00 am. Restaurants may use approved cups or stickers, and metal signage may be used on existing signs with the Board of Public Works approval. Motion carried 6-1, with Phil Mundy voting nay.

#### **Resolution No. 2025-2**

##### **A Resolution Authorizing Funds Transfer (Community Crossing Fund)**

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Vince Helming to read Resolution No. 2025-2 by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Resolution No. 2025-2 by title only.

Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to approve Resolution No. 2025-2 on the first reading. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Gas Contractor's License**

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Paul Lorey to approve a Gas Contractor's License for Alex Renner of Renner Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning. Motion carried 7-0

#### **Annual Financial Report Adjustment**

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested approval to make adjustments to the annual financial report to correct two specific errors that were found while reconciling bank statements in the amount of \$656.06 for Golf Now fees what were doubly accounted for and \$560.00 for the train gift card that was receipted incorrectly. Additionally, Knies requested approval to write off \$20.36 that has carried over on the financial statements since 2023.

A motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Chad Lueken to approve the adjustments to the annual financial report in the sum of \$656.06 and \$560.00 and the write off of \$20.36. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **City Policy 314 Educational Training Assistance**

Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman requested approval of an exception to the City Policy 314 Educational Training and Assistance which only allows the City of Jasper to pay for Training for Regular Full Time Employees. Moorman requested that the City of Jasper pay for AED/CPR Training for several part time and seasonal part time employees for the safety and well-being of the community and to comply with the City of Jasper's safety policies. The Park Department has money in the budget to pay for these trainings and Human Resources will keep a list of these employees to comply with the City of Jasper Safety Policy.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Paul Lorey to allow the Park Department to pay for AED/CPR Training for a list of Part Time and Seasonal Part Time employees to comply with the City of Jasper Safety Policy. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Donation Acceptance**

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested council acceptance of donations made in the month of March to the Art Department totaling \$4,471.00. Of that total, \$1,148.10 were restricted donations and the Arts Department Board is in agreement with the restrictions placed on those donations. Knies also requested council acceptance of donations made in the month of March to the Park Department totaling \$85,606.52. All of those donations were restricted, and the Park Department Board is in agreement with the restrictions placed on those donations.


Thereafter a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to accept the donations to the Art and Park Departments as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Additional Notes**


Council member Nancy Eckerle asked for clarification on the City's approach to eBikes. Council member Phil Mundy advised that he had has had several conversations with Police Chief Chad Dick and various other members of the Jasper Police Department and concluded that there are laws surrounding eBikes and that the police department would be enforcing those laws as well as working towards educating the public on those laws.

**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 7:11 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_\_ with ✓ without corrections or clarification this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2025.

  
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Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest:

  
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Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer