

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
April 8, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dean Vonderheide called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies then called the roll:

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

Also, present were Police Chief Chad Dick, Street Commissioner Jeff Theising, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang, Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director Cale Knies, City Engineer Chad Hurm, Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman, 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. All three board members were present in person, which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Mayor Dean Vonderheide 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 on March 25, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from March 25, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

PROCLAMATION. Mayor Vonderheide read the proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunication Week and declared the week of April 13th to 19th, 2025 as the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. He then presented Brittany Schreiner and the other telecommunicators present with the proclamation.

CLAIMS. The claims against the city from March 14, 2025, through April 8, 2025, were presented to and examined by the board in the total amount of \$2,705,677.04. Claims to note were \$279,985 to Motorola Solutions for the Portable Radios for the Police Department and \$196,073.00 to Ragle, Inc. for the Multiuse Trail Project. Thereafter a motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

STRASSENFEST ROAD AND STREET CLOSURES

Corie Eckerle of the Strassenfest Committee requested a blanket approval for the closures as presented from July 24, 2025, through August 5, 2025, for the 2025 Strassenfest. The Thyen Clark Cultural Center is not needed because the BBQ Contest is not happening this year. Vintage Baseball will not be held at Schroeder Complex. They are requesting the garden by the Schaeffer Barn be used for Colonial Crafts by the Daughters of the American Revolution Attorney. Other than that, there have been no major changes from years past. The Strassenfest Committee has coordinated with the Park Department, the Street Department, the Police Department, the Electric Department and the Fire Department and they will have safety meetings with these departments at the end of April as well. Board Member Nancy Eckerle brought up that the River Centre Parking lot is supposed to dedicate fifty spaces for all community events that go on. However, she observed during Strassenfest that the lot is guarded, and no parking signs are posted during Strassenfest.

Thereafter a motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the request from the Strassenfest Committee for the use of City of Jasper properties and street closures as outlined in the document provided April 8, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

SULTAN'S RUN EASEMENTS

Phil Buehler with Brosmer Land Surveying and Engineering on behalf of Sultans Run Golf Club, LLC requested acceptance of two twenty-foot public utility and drainage easements on the one lot plat Sultan's Run First Addition on Meridian Road, a quarter mile south of the entrance into Sultan's Run. The lot is approximately 9.3 acres. The intent of this is for Chris Tretter, General Manager of Sultans Run, to build a house on this property. The plat was approved by the Plat Committee last week and the County Commissioners have approved the dedication of right of way of Meridian Road.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the two twenty-foot public utility and drainage easements on the one lot plat Sultan's Run First Addition on Meridian Road as requested. Motion carried 3-0.

OLD JASPER DAY/STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Nancy Eckerle of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Lion's Club requested permission to use the Dave Buehler Riverwalk Plaza area (all shelter houses and the gazebo) on Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm for the Old Jasper Day and Strawberry Festival. They have coordinated with the Park Department.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to allow the Jasper Chamber of Commerce and the Lion's Club to use the Dave Buehler Riverwalk Plaza area (all shelter houses and the gazebo) to host Old Jasper Day/Strawberry Festival on Sunday, May 18, 2025 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm with set up to begin at 8:00 am and tear down to be completed by 6:00 pm. Motion carried 2-0, with Board Member Nancy Eckerle abstaining.

MONTHLY REPORT

Police Chief Chad Dick presented the previously distributed call report for the month of March. He recognized the three detectives for their professionalism and hard work. They investigated one major case that led to an arrest for Child Pornography and received a guilty verdict in a similar such case. He additionally reviewed some other notable work the department has done over the month to protect the City of Jasper. The board acknowledged receipt of the report.

Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman presented the previously distributed permitting report for the month of March. There were eighteen total permits, one of which was residential, two commercial, and fifteen accessory structures bringing \$3.4 million in investments to the City of Jasper. The board acknowledged receipt of the report.

CONTRACT APPROVALS

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to enter into a contract for the service plan for Z-Tron Radio Consoles that dispatch uses. The PSP is good for one year, it covers the software, hardware, after-hours phone support, membership in Z-Tron Max users' group. The existing PSP expires on June 10, 2025, and the cost is \$2,014.00 per console and the Police Department has four consoles for a total cost of \$8,056.00. This money was not budgeted for this year however they intend to pay for this out of contractual services and will make adjustments to their purchases for the remainder of the year. City Attorney Renee Kabrick noted that she has not seen a copy of the contract and requested to review the contract.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Police Department to enter into a contract with Z-Tron Radio Consoles in the amount of \$2,014.00 per console for a total of \$8,056.00 to be paid for out of Contractual Services for a one-year period beginning June 1, 2025, pending legal review of the contract. Motion carried 3-0.

QUOTE ACCPETANCE

Police Chief Chad Dick requested approval of a corrected computer quote from EXOS IT in the amount of \$22,508.88 including shipping. The quote that was approved at the last meeting included a mathematical error. The Police Department has budgeted for these computers and the quote is under budget.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the corrected quote from EXOS IT in the amount of \$22,508.88 for the Police Department's computers. Motion carried 3-0.

JUNK ASSETS

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to junk asset number 102015, a Decatur Genesis II Connect Radar Unit. It's twenty plus years old and no longer working. The cost to repair is greater than the cost to replace.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to remove a Decatur Genesis II Connect Radar Unit, asset tag number 10215 from the Police Department's list of fixed assets. Motion carried 3-0.

TRAINING AND TRAVEL REQUEST

Police Chief Chad Dick requested approval to send Officer Michael Conrad to attend training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy to become an Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor from May 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025. The cost is \$275.00 for training, \$670.00 for the hotel, and approximately \$175.00 for meals for the week totaling \$1,120.00. This will be paid for out of the Police Department's Training budget.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow Officer Michael Conrad to attend training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy to become an Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor from May 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025, for a total cost not to exceed \$1,120.00. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang updated the board and the community on UPS Truck Fire in the WITZ bottoms that occurred last night. The truck was running on Natural Gas. The road was closed from 8:30 pm until 1:00 am. There was nothing left of the truck and trailer after the fire. The officials from UPS in Louisville were on the scene. There was damage to the road and the guardrails. State agencies were on the scene. They received mutual aid from the Huntingburg Fire Department.

City Engineer Chad Hurm advised that the Traffic Committee is still working on a recommendation at the intersection of 4th Street and Main Street. They do not have an answer at this time but are contemplating several options that involve stop signs, elevated crosswalk, street tables. The markings are correct. They are in the process of doing a speed study at this time.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising reminded the public that the Dubois County Highway Department will be closing the bridge at the corner of 150 North and 400 West on Thursday, April 10, 2025, for one day, depending on the weather for deck preservation. They will notify the media. The closure can go on Jasper InSight as well.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising advised in regard to the recent rain event, that South Newton Street is now open, and 3rd and Newton is open as well. Clay Street, Second Street, and Cathy Lane at Kellerville Road are all still closed. He reminded the public that there is debris on those roads that are underwater and that no one should be driving through. He further asked that if the barricades are moved to please put them back for the safety of others.

Board Member Nancy Eckerle asked if the Fire Pit on the Downtown Square could be put on a fifteen-minute timer rather than a thirty-minute timer. Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director advised that the manufacturer recommended thirty-minute intervals for the firing pit mechanisms and gas regulators. The warranty would be void if moved to fifteen-minute intervals. Mayor Vonderheide noted that some retailers are turning it on for the aesthetic not

realizing that it leaves a bad look to be running with no one there and that it may require a combination of everyone working together to effectively solve the issues.

CLOSURES

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested permission to close the 19th Street, 20th Street, Emily Street and Poplar Lane in County Club Estates for the Community Crossings Project. They are phasing this project in an effort to not cut everyone off at one time. The contractor will begin on Poplar Lane then move to Emily Street and then work their way out from there. The project will last several months off and on. Work has already begun on Poplar Lane. The neighbors are well informed about the steps of this project.


A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to close 19th Street, 20th Street, Emily Street and Poplar Lane in County Club Estates as needed to complete the Community Crossings Project beginning immediately and lasting for several months on and off. Motion carried 3-0.

PROJECT UPDATE

City Engineer Chad Hurm gave an update on the Main Street Phase II project. Contractors are working between 7th and 8th Streets right now. They have the two main storm sewers up the middle of the road up to 8th Street in. They are currently working on the storm sewer on the east curb line up to 8th Street. Then they will move over to the west side in front of German American Bank. They will coordinate with the bank on access there. It will take a day or two to get through there and then a week to get back to normal. Board Member Nancy Eckerle advised to keep the area businesses informed on the progress. Hurm advised the intent is for the entire project to be done by mid-July. Board Member Tim Bell expressed concerns about people falling over the planters and curbs and final asphalt if it's not completed by the Strassenfest.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ___ with X without corrections or clarification this ___ day of _____, 2025.



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: 

Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer