

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
April 22, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 22, 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:

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

Also, present were Lieutenant Dave Burger, 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 April 8, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from April 8, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS. The claims against the city from April 22, 2025, through April 22, 2025, were presented to and examined by the board in the total amount of \$3,922.88. This was a special claim run to take care of claims that were not submitted by the previous deadline but needed to be paid in order to avoid late fees. Thereafter a motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

TEMPORARY RAMP INSTALLATION

Ashley Keifer on behalf of Tim Doersam, Gas and Water and Rob Young, General Manager of Utilities requested approval for Fer-Pal Infrastructure to install temporary ramps at the following locations in the Skyline Subdivision: 2504 Birk Drive; the crossing at Martin Court on Birk Drive; the crossing/dead end street heading toward Advantage Fire on Birk Drive; the area near 2625 Birk Drive; and the area near 2527 Alois Court. Fer-Pal is being contracted with to perform a cleaning and lining of watermains in the Skyline Subdivision. The ramps are needed to allow vehicular traffic to drive over temporary water bypass lines and to allow all customers to remain in service through the timeline of the project. The project is expected to be launched on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, and it is estimated that the project will last eight to ten weeks. Similar ramps will be laid in over the driveways for lines to run throughout the neighborhood. Fer-Pal will then clean up all the ramps that are laid on city streets and driveways once the work has been completed.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow Fer-Pal Infrastructure to install temporary ramps at the locations described on city streets and over the driveways in the Skyline Subdivision. City Attorney Renee Kabrick reminded Utilities that a notice to proceed needs to be issued. Nancy Eckerle recommended putting the information on Jasper Insight as well. Motion carried 3-0.

NOTE

Ashley Keifer of the Utilities Department advised that they are currently staging materials to begin work on the main replacement on 4th Street near Jerry Brewer Alumni Stadium. They will be confirming dates to request temporary closures of 4th Street to allow for the main replacement to take place. More details will be forthcoming at the next BPWS meeting. This is a full replacement and is being done internally.

CHURCH IN THE PARK

David King of Crosspoint Fellowship Church requested approval to use Bohnert Park to host Church in the Park on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Service will be held at 10:30 am with set up to begin at 9:00 am and tear down to be completed by 4:00 pm. They have coordinated with the Park Department.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the use of Bohnert Park shelter houses and area around the volleyball courts by Crosspoint Fellowship Church for Church in the Park on Sunday, June 8, 2025, beginning at 10:30 am with set up to begin at 9:00 am and tear down to be completed by 4:00 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

QUOTE APPROVAL

Lieutenant Dave Burger requested permission to move forward with the EXOS quote for a dispatch computer in the sum of \$1,999.99. This will be paid for out of the Police Department's budget for new computers.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the quote for a dispatch computer from EXOS in the sum of \$1,999.99. Motion carried 3-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang presented the previously distributed Fuel Maintenance Report and the Code Enforcement Report. The board acknowledged receipt of these reports.

RESIGNATION

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested approval of resignation from JVFD member Brock Hopf effective April 7, 2025.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the resignation of JVFD member Brock Hopf effective April 7, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

JUNK ASSETS

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested permission to remove a Tait Radio with asset number 26362887 from the Fire Department's list of fixed assets.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to remove the Tait Radio with asset number 26362887 from the Fire Department's list of fixed assets. Motion carried 3-0.

DISTRICT 18 IVFA PARADE & QUEEN CONTEST

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested use of the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center and Jasper City Streets for the District 18 IVFA Parade & Queen Contest on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at 1:00 pm. They have coordinated with the Art Department and the Police Department, and they will coordinate with the Street Department for this event. The last time this event was in Jasper was in 1984.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the JVFD to host the District 18 IVFA Parade & Queen Contest on Sunday, October 12, 2025, with set up and tear down between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm and the event start time to be at 1:00 pm with the parade to begin at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center on the route that has been outlined. Motion carried 3-0.

ENGINE ONE UPDATE

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang advised that Engie One has been out of service for approximately five weeks waiting on the supplier to send a Diesel Exhaust Fluid unit needed for repair. The part was received however it was the wrong part, and they are now back to square one waiting another four to six weeks for the correct unit. State Legislation requires that emergency vehicles have this DEF unit. The fire department has not had use of that truck for a month and it's only three years old.

PROJECT UPDATE

City Engineer Chad Hurm gave an update on the Downtown Phase II project. The contractor, Ragle, will have the paving crews on the south side of Main Street tomorrow and striping will be done on Friday to conclude work on that side. Streets will be closed temporarily for several hours to complete the asphalt work. Businesses have been notified.

50/50 SIDEWALK PROJECT

City Engineer Chad Hurm would like to request the use of the 50/50 Sidewalk Project Program at 436 W 8th Street for Thomas Fierst. The total amount of the project is \$2,430.00 with the city responsible for 50% of that at \$1,215.00. It does meet the city's criteria for replacement.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve use of the 50/50 Sidewalk Project Program at 436 W 8th Street with the city being responsible for \$1,215.00. Motion carried 3-0.

LANDFILL LETTER OF CREDIT

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested permission to approve and update the German American Bank letter of credit with IDEM for the landfill in the amount of \$108,638.37. German American Bank waives the fee associated with obtaining this letter of credit.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve and update the German American Bank letter of credit for the financial assurance of the landfill per the contract with IDEM in the sum of \$108,638.37 due prior to June 15, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.


SUMMER INTERN

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested permission to hire a summer intern, Rachel Brown, a Public Finance major at Indiana University, beginning May 12, 2025. This is an unpaid position however she will be receiving class credit through Indiana University in exchange for her work with the City of Jasper. She will be required to fill out an application as well as any necessary city paperwork.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve hiring Rachel Brown as an unpaid summer 2025 financial intern beginning May 12, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 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