

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER  
May 13, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 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 Chief of Police Chad Dick, 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. 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 22, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from April 22, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

**PROLCIMATION.** Mayor Dean Vonderheide proclaimed the week of May 11, 2025, through May 17, 2025, as National Police Week and presented Police Chief Chad Dick with the proclamation.

**CLAIMS.** The claims against the city from April 11, 2025, through May 13, 2025, were presented to and examined by the board in the total amount of \$5,861,500.51. Thereafter a motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

**QUOTE/BID OPENINGS**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick opened the bids for a forklift for the Street Department as follows:

Black Equipment	\$39,017.20	Delivery Date of April 2026
MH Equipment	\$433,772.20	Delivery Date of April 2026

City Attorney Renee Kabrick noted that MH Equipment was missing an affidavit and was likely off a digit on their quote amount and would need clarification from MH Equipment.

Assistant Street Commissioner Matt Kiefer advised that the Street Department would like to take the bids for the forklift under advisement for further review and clarification and come back to a future meeting with a recommendation. Thereafter a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to take the bids under advisement. Motion carried 3-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick opened the bids for a snowplow for the Street Department as follows:

Meyer Truck Equipment:	\$8,150.00	Delivery Date 4-5 weeks from PO
Central Parts Warehouse:	\$7,543.39	Delivery Date 30 days from PO

Assistant Street Commissioner Matt Kiefer advised that the Street Department would like to take the bids for the snowplow under advisement for further review and come back to a future meeting with a recommendation. Thereafter a motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to take the bids under advisement. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **CAMP FRANK**

Austin Simmers requested permission to use the baseball fields at Bohnert Park on May 29, 2025, June 6, 2025, June 20, 2025, June 23, 2025, July 14, 2025, July 18, 2025, and July 21, 2025, to host Camp Frank, a baseball camp for incoming students in grades three through freshman in all of Dubois County. There will be two sessions a day from 10:00 am to 11:15 am and 11:30 am to 12:45 pm with set up to begin at 9:45 am and tear down to be complete by 1:00 pm. He has coordinated with the Park Department and has waiver forms for the attendees to sign. The cost of the camp is \$20.00 per session or \$100.00 for a summer pass that allows a camper to attend all sessions.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to allow Austin Simmers to use the baseball fields at Bohnert Park on the dates presented during the hours of 9:45 am to 1:00 pm to host Camp Frank, a baseball camp for incoming third through freshman students in all of Dubois County. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE**

Carla Striegel-Winner with Patoka Lake Water Shed Committee requested permission to use the Riverwalk Trail for guided walks on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. This is in conjunction with National Trails Day Hike and Learn. They will have several booths at the Farmer's Market including the Hoosier National Forest, Soil and Water Conservation, Solid Waste District, and Storm Water. The plan is to lead themed guided walks from the Farmer's Market to the Riverwalk. The participants will be required to fill out waivers.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Patoka Lake Water Shed Committee to use the Riverwalk Trail for guided walks on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **STRASSENFEST BIKE RIDE**

Whitney Lubbers with DC Multisport requested approval of multiple routes in Dubois County for the Strassenfest Bike Ride on Saturday, August 2, 2025, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is done every year. The routes are similar to last year with a few minor changes. There will be Dan Henrys and SAG support. The price point is kept low and includes a shirt. They have coordinated with the Dubois County Highway Department and the Dubois County Sheriff's Department.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the Strassenfest Bike Ride on Saturday, August 2, 2025, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on multiple routes in Dubois County. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE**

David Flynn of the Dubois County Veterans Council requested closure of the west side of the Downtown Square on Saturday, May 24, 2025, to host an annual Memorial Day Observance in honor of veterans in Dubois County. The event begins at 10:00 am with set up to begin at 9:00 am and tear down will be completed by 11:00 am. They have coordinated with Safety, the Police Department, the Street Department, and the Park Department. They have also coordinated with the Courthouse groundskeeper. Deceased Marine Core Master Sergeant Dennis Englert will be honored, and his family will be presented with a plaque. Senator Daryl Schmitt is the guest speaker. And there will be a twenty-one-gun salute. A reception will follow at the American Legion.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Dubois County Veterans Council to close the west side of the Downtown Square on Saturday, May 24, 2025, for the annual Memorial Day Observance beginning at 10:00 am with set up to begin at 9:00 am and tear down to be completed by 11:00 am. Motion carried 3-0.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Police Chief Chad Dick presented the previously distributed monthly call report for the police department. The board acknowledged receipt of the report.

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang presented the previously distributed fuel maintenance report and code enforcement report. The board acknowledged receipt of both reports.

The board acknowledged receipt of the previously distributed permitting report from Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT HIRING**

Police Chief Chad Dick requested to withdraw the conditional offer of employment made to Wyatt Street due to a health issue.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to withdraw the conditional offer of employment made to Wyatt Street by the Jasper Police Department. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick requested to begin the hiring process for a Jasper City Police Officer for the open position left by the withdraw of the conditional offer of employment to Wyatt Street.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Jasper Police Department to begin the hiring process for the one open Police Officer position. Motion carried 3-0.

## **SOP**

Police Chief Chad Dick requested adoption of the Uniform Statewide Policies on Deadly Force, the Uniform Statewide Policy on Minimum Standards for Vehicle Pursuits, and the Uniform Statewide Policy on Defensive Tactics Training Program. The department is working with Bliss McKnight on a policy review and anticipate these changes will be part of the handbook amendment process but in the meantime requests these policies be effective as of the end of day on May 2, 2025.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell based on Chief Dick's directive that the Jasper Police Department shall follow and abide by the Uniform Statewide Policy on Deadly Force, the Uniform Statewide Policy on Minimum Standards for Vehicle Pursuit, and the Uniform Statewide Policy on Defensive Tactic Training effective at the end of business on Friday, May 2, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

## **AMERICAN TEST CENTER**

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested permission to hire American Test Center to preform ladder testing for the department in the sum of \$3,055.50. This will be paid for out of the Fire Department's Budget. Once approved they will push for the testing to occur this fall.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department to hire American Test Center for annual ladder testing in the sum of \$3,055.50. Motion carried 3-0.

## **SEEK QUOTES**

Assistant Street Commissioner Matt Kiefer requested permission to seek quotes for the Street Department's annual rejuvenator pavement preservation project. The board has been provided with the square miles and the estimated cost is \$67,000.00.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Street Department to seek quotes for the annual rejuvenator pavement preservation project. Motion carried 3-0.

## **RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND**

Assistant Street Commissioner Matt Kiefer at the request of KFAM Partners, LLC requested release of the University Heights Performance Bond. City Engineer Chad Hurm had previously indicated that an inspection has been performed, and all items have been installed in satisfactory condition. Hurm

further recommended that the University Heights Performance Bond in the amount of \$82,500.00 be released and that KFAM Partners, LLC establish a Maintenance Bond in the amount of \$20,625.00. City Attorney Renee Kabrick indicated that the Performance Bond and Maintenance Bond combined must be in place for no less than one year. Board member Nancy Eckerle requested clarification on how long the maintenance bond will be in effect at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to release for the University Heights Performance Bond in the amount of \$82,500.00 and instructed KFAM Partners, LLC establish a Maintenance Bond in the amount of \$20,625.00. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **TRAVEL TRAINING REQUEST**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick requested permission to attend the AIM Conference for Indiana Municipal Lawyers in Noblesville, IN, the last Thursday and Friday in June. The cost of the conference is \$320.00 and two nights in the hotel are approximately \$350.00, plus the cost of meals. This will be paid for out of the Legal Department budget.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow City Attorney Renee Kabrick to attend the AIM Conference for Indiana Municipal Lawyers in Noblesville, IN, the last Thursday and Friday in June. Motion carried 3-0.

**ADJOURNMENT.** A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

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

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

Attest:   
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Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer