

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
May 27, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, May 27, 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, Street Commissioner Jeff Theising, 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. Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang and Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman were absent.

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 May 13, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from May 13, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

KIMBALL INTERNATIONAL YEAR END CELEBRATION

Chris Cales with Kimball International requested approval to barricade and close off 340 E 11th Avenue on Wednesday, August 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for their 50-year end celebration. Cales has coordinated with the Street Department and does not intend to need barricades from the Street Department as Kimball will use their own.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow Chris Cales and Kimball International to use barricades and close off 340 E 11th Avenue on the dates presented during the hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to host Kimball's 50th year end celebration. Motion carried 3-0.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

Joseph Munning IV with Holy Family Catholic Church, requested permission to host the Corpus Christi Procession for the fourth year on the city streets near Holy Family Church. The procession will be held Sunday, June 22, at 8:30 a.m. A map has been presented with the procession starting on the Holy Family property, stop at the corner of Schroeder Avenue for prayer, down Brames Road and stop at a house on Brames, then onto Church Avenue. Once the procession is on Church Ave, they will come back to Holy Family Church in front of the gym and hold the remainder of the event on Holy Family property. Munning has coordinated with the Street Department, and they will provide traffic cones and slow down signs. He would like Jasper police officers on the corner of Brames and Church and one further south of Schroeder on Brames. He does not think the procession will need a police escort or emergency medical services. Munning will coordinate with the Jasper Police Department if they need anything.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Holy Family Catholic Church to use the city streets for the Corpus

Christi Procession on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 8:00 am with set up and tear down from 6:30 am to 10:30 am. Motion carried 3-0.

ARCHANGEL DRAINAGE EASEMENTS

Ethan Hopf with Trimark Surveying, presenting on behalf of Rockport and Roll, is requesting approval for three public drainage easements. The drainage easements are associated with the improvements Rockport and Roll plans on doing within the Archangel addition and James Hochgesang addition on the southeast side of Jasper. With construction plans of building triplexes along St. James Ave and 3rd Ave, they got approval for the drainage reports. They plan on building detention basins on the north and south side of Archangel addition to detain the improvements and outlet the basins. A map was provided with 3 drainage easements, one being a 10 ft drainage easement on lots 5 and 6 of James Hochgesang addition and a drainage easement accompanying a basin on lots 3 & 4 and 6 & 7 on the Archangel addition. Everything is within the City of Jasper Unified Development Ordinance. This is just the establishment of the drainage easements.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to allow Rockport and Roll to establish drainage easements within the Archangel addition as proposed. Motion carried 3-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT HIRING

Jasper Police Chief, Chad Dick, requested approval to move forward with the hiring and conditional offer of employment of Daniel Moore. Academy is set to start July 21st. Moore, 20, will be entering Academy as a dispatcher until he turns 21, he will then be training as an officer.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to extend a conditional offer of employment to Daniel Moore as an officer and to attend the Academy in July and be transitioned from dispatch to officer after he turns 21. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick would like to table discussion of the Exos quote until the next Board of Public Works and Safety meeting. He is waiting for clarification from Exos on the quote.

Police Chief Chad Dick provided an update that Josh Priddy graduated from SWLEA (Southwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy) this past week. Priddy is being processed and will be out in the community.

RIDE SAFE RIDE SMART SAFETY GUIDELINES

Board member Nancy Eckerle brought up the guidelines and thanked the group that researched and worked on this. Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director Cale Knies steps up to talk about the promotion of the guidelines. The Safety Committee has been studying the safety of ebikes/escooters, especially regarding the Riverwalk and Parklands. The largest part of the safety involved is education. Cale Knies and Council member Phil Mundy talked with the police department and gathered information from the Indiana Code on ebikes and scooters. The information was put on an educational flyer where it will be posted to social media. The class of the bike is classified by wattage and the bikes will be labeled by wattage. Questions are raised if it is illegal to ride bicycles on the sidewalks and if this includes ebikes, depending on their class.

PROJECT UPDATES

City Engineer Chad Hurm provides a project update on Main Street. Concrete crews are still working and pouring concrete between 7th and 8th Street. They previously poured concrete for German American Bank driveway and switching back to that section this week. They are continuing to move north and start on demo of intersection of 8th St.

Making progress on the Trail Project on the north side of Jasper where they are moving dirt on the practice range along the north property line. They are sharing concrete crews between Main St. and the north side of town. Main St. has been the priority as they are getting ready for curb and gutter on the highway.

Once done, they can patch it back in and complete the rest of the work behind the curb.

The traffic committee, consisting of the Police Department, Street Department, and Engineering Department, recommends that at the intersection of 4th and Mill Street, a stop sign be installed at Mill St. north. This will create a 3-way stop due to Mill St. being one way north. They also recommend that Mill St. between 3rd Ave. and 6th St. be one lane instead of two, allowing for easier traffic flow. Possibility of adding parking stalls on each side. There is a recommendation from the Board of Works to the Council to bring a Resolution for the stop sign to be approved as well as a map. This topic was tabled until next meeting.

STREET DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requests road closures at two intersections. One at Leopold and E 15th St northside of the intersection where an inlet and pipe have gone bad, and they are going to replace both. The other is at Cherry St. and E 15th St southside of the intersection where the inlet and pipe, which runs across the intersection, need replaced. This intersection is to be done first. E 15th St traffic will be managed with traffic cones and eliminating excess traffic by working off the Leopold St. side. The Cherry St. work will be done out of traffic with the use of cones on the Cherry St. side. Cherry St. intersection could start as early as May 28 and Leopold starting after. Road closures should only take one day for each intersection. They will close at 8 a.m. and reopen by 5 p.m. with the information being posted on Jasper Insights.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Street Department to close Cherry and E 15th then Leopold and E 15th for work to be done, each for one day. Motion carried 3-0.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requests approval to award rejuvenating projects to Rejuvtec, also known as Dustmasters Inc. The Street Department asked for bids, and it came to just over 51,000 square yards. Their sole source supplier from last year, Rejuvtec, bid at \$1.28 per square yard this year, it was \$1.27 last year. The total estimate for rejuvenating projects is \$65,743.08. Theising anticipates it to be slightly less. The Street Dept budgeted \$100,000 for rejuvenation.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Street Department to accept rejuvenating from the single source provider known as Rejuvtec in the amount of \$65,743.08. Motion carried 3-0.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising seeks approval of accepting a quote for a snowplow for Truck 9. Truck 9 is currently on order, and they have ordered the chassis and salt spreader. Before ordering the snowplow, they must know what Chassi they are getting to get the correct hitch to hook the plow to. Received two quotes, with the lowest being from Central Parts Warehouse at \$7,543.39. Theising recommends the acceptance of this quote as it is below their budgeted \$8,500.00. Mayor Vonderheide discussed if it was a needed piece of equipment and decided that Truck 9 needs to be fitted out for this coming winter.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the recommendation of the bid for the snowplow from Central Parts Warehouse in the amount of \$7,543.39. Motion carried 3-0.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising seeks approval to accept a quote on a 3-ton forklift. They are replacing a 1972 Allis Chalmers model that is no longer reliable. They sent out three requests and received two with the lowest coming in from Black Equipment at \$39,017.20. Theising recommends the acceptance of this bid as they had budgeted \$50,000 for this equipment so it is significantly less.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the recommendation of the bid for the 3-ton forklift from Black Equipment in the amount of \$39,017.20. Motion carried 3-0.

2025 PAVING AND PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECTS

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising presented the 2025 Paving and Pavement Preservation list. Theising explains the lack of annual resurfacing, liquid road, and micro surfacing is due to a full schedule with the Community

Crossings matching grant. 2024-1 Paving Projects have been completed. W 14th St and E 6th St projects are completed and turned out well. 2024-2 consists of the paving projects for the Community Crossings matching grant. They have completed some of these projects and plan on the rebuild of the most significant one, Country Club Estates.

DUMPSTER REQUEST PROCESS

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising suggests a procedural change in the dumpster request process. Calls will now be directed to Theising to streamline the process by eliminating one step. If Theising is not available, there are backup contacts to reach. Confirming that the Board agrees with this, there is no action required for internal procedural change.

APRIL BUILDING PERMITS

Adam Bower presented the April building permits in place of Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman. The April building permits summary includes 21 permits approved: 3 new single-family homes, 1 commercial permit, Jasper Elementary School north side addition permit, and 16 other residential projects. This totals to \$3,247,133.00. There were an additional 5 permit requests submitted that have not been processed yet.

ORIDINACE WRITE OFF REQUEST

City Attorney Renee Kabrick requests permission to write off an item under code enforcement. It is an aging case from 2024 from a home on Plymouth Street, the owner being Jeff Clark. At the time, the Street Department provided an estimate of clean up. By the time they had gotten there, the clean up had been taken care of. Inadvertently, the case got closed with a fine of \$100.00 associated with the case. Since then, the property was sold in foreclosure, and there is little likelihood of being able to locate the previous owner to collect the fine.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve City Attorney Renee Kabrick to write off the \$100.00 fine for the ordinance violation. Motion carried 3-0.

WGI CONSULTING AGREEMENT

Mayor Vonderheide requests approval to select WGI for the long-range comprehensive plan. The contract is a 12-14 month plan. The contract would go into effect immediately and the total project amount is \$143,000.00. The funding has been appropriated by Council from the Riverboat Fund.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the contract for WGI consulting agreement for the long-range comprehensive plan. Motion carried 3-0.

HVAC QUOTE AT STATION 3

Mayor Vonderheide requests the approval of a quote for an HVAC system at Station 3 for the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department. Received 3 quotes with Schmidt Contracting being the lowest bid at \$7,270.00. Mayor Vonderheide recommends moving forward with this bid.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the bid from Schmidt Contracting for the HVAC system at Station 3 at the amount of \$7,270.00. Motion carried 3-0.

LOCAL BUSINESS PARKING

Mayor Vonderheide has received suggestions from local businesses that the Board look into improving parking around the square, specifically on the north side. This would improve the parking for the retail businesses. One suggestion was to identify the area in front of Mike’s Barbershop for parking. Mayor Vonderheide suggests looking into it from a construction standpoint and weighing the options.

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 9:02 a.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ___ with X without corrections or clarification this 10th day of June, 2025.

Dean Vonderheide
Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: Kiersten Knies
Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer