**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE**

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER**

**June 10, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, June 10, 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, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang and 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 May 27, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from May 27, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

Claims were distributed in the from May 16, 2025, to June 10, 2025, in the amount of $4,879,978.79. Claims to note include a Cultural Center payment in the amount of $357,000.00, a pool lease payment in the amount of $285,000.00, and a GO bond payment in the sum of $371,278.00.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the claims as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

**HUMANE SOCIETY PET CONTEST**

Jessica Bingle with the Dubois County Humane Society requested approval of the use of Jaycee Park for their pet contest during Jasper’s annual Strassenfest. Bingle has coordinated with Park and Recreation Board for approval that the park is not in use at that time. They expect 25-30 entrants for the contest, and it will be held Saturday, August 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Humane Society to use Jaycee Park on August 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. till end for their pet contest. Motion carried 3-0.

**SIDEWALK AND PARKING CLOSURE**

Mark Young with Young Masonry requested permission to block off the sidewalk and three parking spaces located behind Sieberts on Jackson Street. Young Masonry will be closing in air conditioning unit holes and need room for equipment. The plan is to complete the project in one day on a Monday, but there is a possibility that it runs over into Tuesday. Possible dates to complete depending on the weather conditions are June 30, 2025, July 7, 2025, or July 14, 2025. There are no conflictions on the square during that time. Young does not need assistance from the Board.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow Young Masonry to close the sidewalk and three parking spaces behind Seibert’s on either June 30, 2025, July 7, 2025, or July 14, 2025, and possibly leading into the next day. Motion carried 3-0.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

Jasper Police Chief, Chad Dick, provided the police department’s monthly report from May. On May 23, 2025, Josh Priddy graduated from SWLEA and is back with the department, currently riding with Officer Conrad. Police Chief Chad Dick provided reports of multiple arrests including traffic stops and detective work. The department secured a grant allowing them to get a piece of equipment called a Data Pilot to extract evidence from cell phones. Both School Resource Officers finished out the school year with three arrests, five drug and alcohol violations, and more. The police department has done well and had fast responses.

**JUNK ASSETS**

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to junk three assets. These assets include 101879 Decatur Radar, 102779 Atlas logging recorder, and 103189 an office chair. The radar no longer works, Atlas recorder was recalled and no longer works, and the office chair’s base is broken.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the police department to junk the three assets of 101879 a radar unit, 102779 an audio recorder, and 103189 an office chair. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION BPWS 2025-4**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick presented Resolution BPWS 2025-4, a resolution authorizing the purchase of field property including the storage building for use by the Jasper Police Department. It is the building adjacent to the parking lot of the police department, located by Old National Bank (ONB). ONB and Board are discussing purchasing with an all-in price of $25,000.00, which allows the city to purchase without the additional cost of appraisals. In spite of the city’s pause on spending, JPD and the Board decided it was a good opportunity for the city. The additional space will be used as garage space and storage and bought with the $25,000 EDIT funds appropriated for the police department. Insurance will cost roughly $530.00 per year and utilities are about $130.00 per month. The department has money in their current budget to offset these expenses.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve Resolution BPWS 2025-4 to move forward with the purchase of the ONB building. Motion carried 3-0.

**WINDOW REPLACEMENT**

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested approval to seek bids to replace the existing windows for City Hall. They have been talking about doing this for several years and it will cost approximately $200,000.00. Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies indicated that she is unsure if there was money in this year’s budget for this project and would like the opportunity to review. The board would like to move forward with seeking quotes while determining if there is money in the budget.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow City Engineer Chad Hurm to seek bids for the replacement of windows at City Hall. Motion carried 3-0.

**REQUESTS FOR CHANGE ORDER**

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested approval for change order for the 15th Street Extension project in the amount of $15,000.00. The project had been put on pause to be phased, but design and permitting on the project has been moving forward. The additional money includes the drill, work crew, and time and materials. The original contract amount was $354,690.00 with a previous change order as well. The additional $15,000.00 will make it $369,690.00.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept the change order in the amount of $15,000.00, including the drill. Motion carried 3-0.

City Engineer Chad Hurm requests approval for change order on the Multi Use Trail Project Phase II. It is an all-inclusive change order, and they do not anticipate additional problems. This project encompasses $7,302.75 for the Trail Head at Northwood Avenue which was not included in the original plans and time, materials, rentals, and any other incidentals associated with delays not contractor related. The total change order is $136,939.58. The original contract price was $2,094,222.13 bringing the new contract amount to $2,231,161,71. Estimated $2.4 million for the project and appropriated that amount, so it is still under budget. The expected time for completion is in late July.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the change order on the Multi Use Trail in the amount of $136,939.58. Motion carried 3-0.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

City Engineer Chad Hurm provided an update on Main Street. They are currently working on concrete sidewalks between 7th and 8th Street which were torn out. They have the storm sewers in the parking areas. Expecting delivery this week of a manhole structure that goes in the intersection of 9th and Main. Once they receive it, they can continue with the storm sewer run. From 7th to 8th, there are two storm sewers ran there. They have a couple areas of storm sewer that were repaired. They continue working on concrete and expect substantial completion by July 28 and the crew is still on pace for that date.

**STREET CLSOURES**

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising had both requests approved electronically over email. The requests included permission to close Mill Street between 9th and 12th Street on Tuesday, June 10th and permission to close 11th Street at the intersection with Mill Street on Wednesday, June 11th. Both were approved.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING UPDATES**

Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman provided a summary on May’s building permits. There were 12 residential permits, 2 commercial units, and 13 accessory structures. This is a total of $3.49 million in added value to the city.

Gunselman also provided a reminder to the community that with the warmer weather coming and the use of boats, trailers, RVs, etc. (anything with a license plate), they need to be parked on an approved surface. This includes concrete, pavement, or rocks. Unapproved surfaces are grass or lawn.

**RESOLUTION BPWS 2025-2**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick has had conversations on the safety of the intersection Mill Street and 4th Street and the Safety Committee recommended proceeding with adding a stop sign. This would make the intersection a 3-way stop. In addition, the downtown project also included the plan for stop signs at 5th St and Main St and 7th St and Main St. This language was included in this resolution as well. If the resolution passes, the recommendation will go to the Common Council to amend the traffic ordinance to include language that would reflect 4-way stops at both 5th and Main and 7th and Main and a 3-way stop at 4th and Mill. With limited visibility at the Mill intersection, the Board believes this is the best answer. Mill St will become a one lane road for a section with an additional 6-8 parking spots on the sides.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to adopt Resolution 2025-2 to add a stop sign at Mill St and 4th St as well as at 5th and Main and 7th and Main. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION BPWS 2025-3**

Resolution BPWS 2025-3 is a resolution for the Public Works and Safety regarding the fee for trash stickers. The trash sticker fee will be increased from $1.50 per trash sticker to $2.00 per sticker. The effective date for this to go into effect is January 1, 2026, but this date is open to discussion. Street Commissioner Jeff Theising has some number figures that are not finalized on the reasons for increasing the sticker price. It appears $2.00 would be an accurate price for the time and the price has not been changed since 2010. Theising plans to finalize the numbers and share them with the Board members.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to table discussion of Resolution BPWS 2025-3 for the trash sticker fee increase until the next Board of Public Works and Safety meeting for further discussion and review of data.

**PROJECT ROAD BOND AGREEMENT**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick previously asked for approval at a BPWS meeting for an interlocal agreement between the city and county concerning a street bond agreement pertaining to the construction of Northwood Estates. Since then, the developer has met with the mayor and city staff and reviewed the streets intended to be used for construction., they determined that the road bond amount could be reduced. This is just information for the Board since a road bond had been previously approved with no specific dollar amount. The road bond agreement will include a bond in the amount of $75,500.00 which will include $96,535.00 for an amount totaling 1.05 miles for the city which is $52,500.00 and .88 miles for the county which is $44,035.00. This is just information provided by the City Attorney.

**ADJOURNMENT**. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

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

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Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer