

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
June 24, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

CALL TO ORDER

Board member Nancy Eckerle called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies then called the roll:

Mayor Dean Vonderheide	Absent
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. Two of the three board members were present in person, which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Board member Nancy Eckerle 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 June 10, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the minutes from June 10, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 2-0.

CLOSURES

Kate Schwenk with the Heart of Jasper requested approval to close Astra Alley that runs north and south during the week of July 7-11, depending on the weather. The closure is to touch up chipped paint on the floor mural. Schwenk does not anticipate taking the whole week.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the request of the Heart of Jasper to close the Astra Alley during the week of July 7-11, weather pending. Motion carried 2-0.

PARKLANDS PRAIRIE WALK

Park and Recreation Director Tom Moorman presented information on the fourth annual Parklands Prairie Walk held on Wednesday, July 9, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Will Drews and Olivia Fry are attending again this year to help. Moorman anticipates about 50 participants. Attendees gather at the pavilion and walk with leaders with a list of native flowers and species.

CLOSE VEHICLE QUARTERS BATTLE TRAINING

Jasper Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to send Officers Burton and Goller to Close Vehicle Quarters Battle Training (CVQB Training). This is a train the trainer program, so upon successful completion, the officers are able to come back to the Jasper agency and train the rest of Jasper Police. CVQB Training involves learning safe traffic stop tactics. The training takes place July 7-11 in the Newburgh, Indiana area. The cost for both officers to attend is \$1,800.00. Police Chief Chad Dick states that they do have money in their training budget for this.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve sending Officers Burton and Goller to Close Vehicle Quarters Battle Training in Newburgh on July 7-11 at a cost of \$1,800.00. Motion carried 2-0.

MONTHLY REPORT

Fire Chief Kenny Hochgesang provided a monthly report on closed violations resolved this month by Code Enforcement. The majority are weed violations and there are still a few owners that the department is in contact with. The owners are responsible for maintenance needed on the property. Hochgesang also presented a list of open violations and the fuel maintenance report.

Fire Chief Kenny Hochgesang provided safety tips for the upcoming 4th of July holiday regarding fireworks. The department will post the safety tips on the city's website as normal reminding citizens to be safe and follow guidelines for fireworks. The permitted hours and locations to set off fireworks will also be posted.

ENCROACHMENT REQUEST

Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman introduced Kyle Jahn, owner of Wood Capital Pizza. Jahn requested encroachment permission on the front southeast side of the Wood Capital building at a fire exit with a steep 12-inch step down to the sidewalk. Their project manager and architects would like to put in a limestone step to make it safer.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the encroachment of the step on the southeast corner of the Wood Capital Pizza building. Motion carried 2-0.

Kyle Jahn also requested permission for a dumpster for the utility easement on the north side of their building towards Newton Street, where the parking lot is. There is a section of the building with a white fence that needs to be torn down in order to add parking spots for workers. Jahn would like to get a dumpster for the pizza business and have the dumpster for about 6 months to allow time for the construction. After, the dumpster would be moved back, and it will be easier for pizza deliveries for the restaurant. Board member Nancy Eckerle suggests to check with German American Bank that it is not infringing on their property for dumping.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow Wood Capital Pizza a 3-yard dumpster for 6 months at the north utility easement at the northside of the Wood Capital Pizza building at the fenced in area. Motion carried 2-0.

RESOLUTION BPWS 2025-3

Resolution BPWS 2025-3 is a resolution for the Public Works and Safety regarding the fee for trash stickers. The proposed resolution raises the trash tag fee from \$1.50 per trash sticker to \$2.00 per sticker. The effective date for this to go into effect is January 1, 2026. The Board feels it is best to table this discussion as they are ahead of time to do so without more previous discussion. Street Commissioner Jeff Theising has sent out the latest version of costs associated with trash sticker fees. Theising agrees to further discussion on when the increase will go into effect and to table the Resolution. Theising anticipates to be prepared for discussion next meeting.

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. Motion carried 2-0.

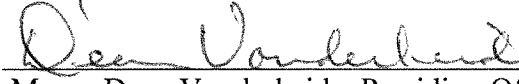
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT

Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested approval for the School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement with the Greater Jasper Consolidated School for a primary, middle school resource officer and a high school resource officer. The agreement presented shows that the school will reimburse the City 80% of each of the officer's salary which totals \$86,499.60 per officer for a total of \$172,999.20 for the 2025-2026 school year. Knies has yet to hear back from the school board for approval.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the SRO Agreement between the City of Jasper and Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools for a per officer basis of \$86,499.60 with a total contract of \$172,999.20. Motion carried 2-0.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 2-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:31 a.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ___ with ✓ without corrections or clarification this 8th day of July, 2025.



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: 

Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer