

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

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 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 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 Assistant Police Chief Aaron Persohn, Assistant Street Commissioner Matt Kiefer, Personnel/Safety/Loss Control Director Cale Knies, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang and Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman, 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 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 July 8, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from July 8, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

**MUSIC ON MAIN**

Ruger Kerstiens with Heart of Jasper for Music on Main requested permission to have Debbie Schuetter play music on the square, this Friday, July 25, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Top Notch, is having their grand opening around the firepit.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow music on the square by the firepit on July 25, 2025, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

**PERIMETER LIGHTING AGREEMENT**

City Attorney Renee Kabrick stated that the Heart of Jasper came to the City of Jasper with a perimeter lighting agreement, requesting permission to use City Hall to install a portion of lights. The agreement itself does not involve any monetary transaction. Ruger Kerstiens with the Heart of Jasper explained that the lights chosen are commercial grade and programmed to connect to the courthouse lighting. Throughout the year, the lights can be programmed to different colors. The Heart of Jasper has obtained permission from every building owner on the square to install the lights. They have removed the old lights and are prepared for the installation by Winterland. Install is estimated to take 2-3 days.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the perimeter lighting agreement between the Heart of Jasper and City of Jasper. Motion carried 3-0.

**ANNUAL KIDS' DAY EVENT**

Chloe Billa, the current chairperson for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Kids' Day event, requested permission to use the sidewalks around the square where the kids will set up their booths alongside the building fronts. Kids' Day encourages children K-12 to make and sell their own handmade products and learn about

entrepreneurship in the process. This year's event is set to be held on September 27, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with set up starting at 8:00 a.m. Billa asked the Street Department to refrain from blowing off the sidewalks that morning due to the tape and chalk that will be used. People preferred being on the sidewalks with the roads open to attract buyers. Information will be sent out through schools, churches, newsletters, and Facebook. Mayor Vonderheide suggested that the booths be moved further back to make room for walking.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the annual Kids' Day event to use the sidewalks around the square from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm with set up at 8:00 am. Motion carried 3-0.

### **JUNK ASSETS**

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to remove twenty-seven body camera assets off the asset list as they were traded in for new ones. There are twenty-seven total body cams that need to be removed from the asset list. The asset numbers are sequentially in order, which include 103117-103143.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the police department to remove twenty-seven body cam assets from the asset list, assets from 103117-103143. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to junk tasers that are no longer in use. There are six tasers that need to be junked due to outdated technology. The six asset numbers are 102853, 102856, 102859, 102860, 102862, and 102863. Chad Dick explained the life of tasers and how new ones are required to support the evolving technology.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the police department to junk six taser assets with asset numbers of 102853, 102856, 102859, 102860, 102862, and 102863. Motion carried 3-0.

### **OFFICER TRAINING**

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to send two officers, Officer Moorman and Officer Bieker, to attend Field Training Officer School in Evansville, Indiana. Training will take place August 18<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$400.00 per officer, plus an additional \$105.00 per officer for meal, for a total cost of \$1,010.00. There are no lodging costs.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve sending Officer Moorman and Officer Bieker to Field Training Officer School in Evansville from August 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$1,010.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to send Detective Greener to attend Investigating and Prosecuting Child Sexual Abuse and Online Exploitation Training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy from August 26, 2025 through August 28, 2026. The cost of the training is \$500.00, plus travel expense of \$352.75 for the hotel, and \$105.00 for a car, with a total cost of \$957.75. Mayor Vonderheide expresses that continued training is important for law enforcement.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve sending Detective Greener to Investigating and Prosecuting Child Sexual Abuse and Online Exploitation Training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy from August 26, 2025, to August 28, 2025, at a cost of \$957.75. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to send two officers, Officer Burton and Officer Mundy, to Glock Armor School. Training will take place October 7, 2025, in Evansville, Indiana. The cost is \$300.00 per officer for a total of \$600.00. Meals will be provided by Glock and there are no lodging costs. Training teaches officers to maintain and repair anything that may go wrong with their gun. Both officers are firearm instructors for the agency.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve sending Officer Burton and Officer Mundy to Glock Armor School on October 7, 2025, in Evansville at a cost of \$600.00. Motion carried 3-0.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang provided reports on code enforcement. Hochgesang gave information on the weed violations that have been resolved recently. A notable violation that had yet been resolved involves 1311 Kundeck St which is a foreclosure, and the mortgage company is taking care of that. Code Enforcement has been in contact for the weed violation with no progress. The legal department is following through with the trash violation. The next step would be to fine them to encourage responsiveness. Hochgesang also provided monthly reports and fuel maintenance reports to the board. The board acknowledged receipt of the reports.

## **MAIN STREET UPDATE**

City Engineer Chad Hurm provided an update on the construction being done on Main Street. They are currently paving outside the mayor's office this morning and will take approximately 3 days with base asphalt going down and intermediate asphalt on top of that. There is a period in between where they let one layer cure before laying the next layer. The finish coat will be completed by the end of August, there is no exact schedule yet. The intent is after the Strassenfest, to have work completed up to 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Concrete work has been completed up to that 9<sup>th</sup> St intersection. Planters have been filled, ADA pavers and crosswalks have been completed, asphalt is going down now. The last inch and a half of asphalt will go on later. They will wedge and level ramps, driveways, sidewalks, or any place where there is an elevation transition to ensure there is no tripping hazard. Signs will be removed later this week, and everything will be cleaned up on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHANGE ORDER**

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested approval of a change order for Ragel, Inc. for the Main Street Phase II project. Hurm stated the change order is specifically for south Main Street, up to the point they are at now. There are a couple of areas of undercut further north, but nothing as significant as what was done on the south side. The change order is in the amount of \$106,926.57 consisting of four basic items that are all completed. Item one was the stenciled concrete sidewalk along 4<sup>th</sup> St. There was an upcharge to replace that section back to the stencil pattern. Item three was additional tent anchors for the south end of Main St, south of 4<sup>th</sup> St. There were 8 or 9 anchors installed, totaling \$25,887.54. Item four was two water meter pits for both the north and south ends for the irrigation system for a cost of \$4,220.28. The last item is the modification to the storm sewer and undercut on the south end, totaling \$68,793.75. All items total to \$106,926.57. The department has been in contact with the Clerk-Treasurer and tracking available funds to ensure staying within their budget. All funds were previously identified to pay for this project.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the change order for south Main St in the amount of \$106,926.57. Motion carried 3-0.

## **PURCHASE UPDATE**

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising reminded the board of previous purchase approval of three items. These items include the camera, paint striping machine, and a tire changer. The items have been budgeted for, and the department is moving forward with bids for these items.

## **STORM SEWER LINING**

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested permission to accept lining for the storm sewer from Inliner Solutions in Orleans, Indiana for a 24-inch concrete pipe, approximately 140 feet in length, for \$28,000.00. Sanitary lines are included in this bid for Wastewater. This is for the Eck property at Poplar and Schuetter Road where the department knew they need to replace the lines and asked the contractor not to pour back. Unfortunately, this was not done, and they do not want to tear it out. There is a concrete pipe to seal that is in good condition currently. Orleans approved their part of the bid.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve permission to accept lining for a 140 foot, 24-inch concrete pipe for \$28,000.00 by Inliner Solutions. Motion carried 3-0.

### INDIANA STREET COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested permission to send Bob Sunderman, Matt Kiefer, and himself to the Indiana Street Commissioners Association conference. The conference is held in Plymouth, Indiana from September 23, 2025, through the September 25, 2025. The total cost for all three to attend, including the hotel, will be right around \$2,000.00.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow Jeff Theising, Bob Sunderman, and Matt Kiefer to the Indiana Street Commissioners conference, held September 23, 2025, to September 25, 2025, at a cost of around \$2,000.00. Motion carried 3-0.

### DUMPSTER REQUEST

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested permission for Jay Hamlin to place a dumpster along 7<sup>th</sup> St to have it there this Saturday and Sunday and planned to be removed on Monday. The dumpster may block the alley to not block any parking or the loading zone. The department will notify nearby property owners of the dumpster.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow a dumpster on 7<sup>th</sup> St over the weekend. Motion carried 3-0.

### RESOLUTION BPWS 2025-3

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising presented an analysis of trash sticker fees upon request. The fees are broken down in the collection types that they do such as trash collection cost, recycling costs and revenue generated, and rubbish collection and yard waste. The purpose of the trash sticker fee is not to pay for all costs, but to offset some of the costs so that it is not only funded by tax revenue. Theising's recommendation is to raise the trash sticker fee from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per sticker. The increase would at least cover the costs of the trash and recycling. The sticker fee has not been increased since 2010. City Attorney Renee Kabrick suggested that the fee be looked at every couple of years to keep up with the costs.

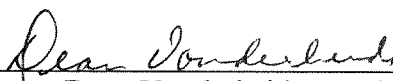
A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to accept Resolution BPWS 2025-3 with the recommendation to raise the trash sticker fee from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Motion carried 3-0.

### DOWNTOWN SOCIAL DISTRICT

Director of Community Development and Planning, Josh Gunselman, shared information on the Downtown Social District. Each summer, the period before and after the Strassenfest, the Social District is closed to protect the fest. The Downtown Social District is open from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. apart from the time before and after the Strassenfest. This year, the district will be closed starting Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 12:00 a.m. and reopen on Friday, August 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. No designated permitted vendors are allowed to serve open alcoholic beverages for carry out during this time.

**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 9:07 a.m.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_ with ✓ without corrections or clarification this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

  
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Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest:   
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Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer