

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER
AUGUST 12, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 12, 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 Police Chief Chad Dick, Street Commissioner Jeff Thiesing, 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 22, 2025. Thereafter, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the minutes from July 22, 2025, without correction. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies presented the previously distributed claims for a period ranging from July 7, 2025, to August 7, 2025, totaling \$4,072,142.12.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Mayor Vonderheide to approve the claims in the amount as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

BID OPENING

City Attorney Renee Kabrick opened bids for the Street Department's Tire Changer as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Quality Automotive: | Base Bid \$17,308.17 |
| Rick Davis: | Base Bid \$13,963.60 |

Street Commissioner Jeff Thiesing requested permission to take the bids under advisement as there is quite a discrepancy in the pricing and both units came in over budget. Additionally, they had requested bids from three manufacturers and one failed to return a bid.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to take the bids for the Street Department's Tire Changer under advisement. Motion carried 3-0.

EASEMENT ENCROACHMENT

Brad Eckerle with Brosmer Land Surveying on behalf of Brian Lori Murphy requested approval of an easement encroachment at 1050 North Sapphire Drive. Approval for the rear set back was obtained at the July BZA Meeting. City Engineer Chad Hurm advised that it had been through the normal encroachment process and no departments had taken any issue with the request.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the easement encroachment request of Brian and Lori Murphy at 1050 North Sapphire Drive. Motion carried 3-0.

CLOSURES

Rob Young General Manager of Utilities requested permission to close the intersection at 4th Street and Clay Street for a water main replacement August 13, 2025, to August 15, 2025, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and again to complete the water service tie-ins from September 8, 2025, to September 10, 2025, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to allow the Utilities Department to close the intersection at 4th Street and Clay Street for a watermain replacement from August 13, 2025, to August 15, 2025, form 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

Kate Schwenk with Heart of Jasper and the Strassenfest Committee requested permission to reserve Jaycee Park, the Jasper Pool and the Parklands on July 2026 beginning at 5:00 pm to host the Downtown Chowdown. The intent is to host Patriotic Park Party in conjunction with the Downtown Chowdown however there is a lot more details to work out. Schwenk will go to the Park Board as well to request appropriate approvals but for now the request is to reserve the parks and pool.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to allow the Heart of Jasper to use Jaycee Park, the Jasper Pool, and the Parklands on July 2, 2026, beginning at 5:00 pm for the Downtown Chowdown. Motion carried 3-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Police Chief Chad Dick presented the previously distributed monthly call report for the Jasper City Police Department. The board acknowledged receipt of the report.

Director of Community Development and Planning Josh Gunselman presented the previously distributed permitting report for the month of July. There were twenty permits filed, with two homes built within the jurisdictional limits and one outside and a commercial building permit and various accessory structures totaling a little over \$2,000,000.00. The board acknowledged receipt of the report.

DECLARATION OF AUCTION ITEMS

Police Chief Chad Dick requested permission to remove asset numbers 100173 and 100177, both Fuji Bicycles and asset number 600021, a Command Trailer, and 600104 a 1988 American General HumV from the Police Department's asset list and place them on the auction list. There will be a minimum placed on the HumV and the Cargo Trailer.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to remove asset numbers 100173, 100177, 600021, and 600104 from the Police Department's asset list and place them on the auction list. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested to approve the following items for the City Auction: a pool table, three box fans, two extension cords on reels, three file cabinets and a set of lockers. These items do not have asset numbers.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the following items to be placed on the City Auction: a pool table, three box fans, two extension cords on reels, three file cabinets and a set of lockers. Motion carried 3-0.

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising request permission to remove the following items for the Street Department's asset list and declare them for the City Auction: asset numbers 100516, 100540, 102117, 102717 and 600075.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to remove asset numbers 100516, 100540, 102117, 102717 and 600075 from the

Street Department’s asset list and declare them for the City Auction. Motion carried 3-0.

FIRE FIGHTER STATUS CHANGE

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested permission to change the status of Jasper Volunteer Fire Fighter Nathan Durcholz from inactive to active. Durcholz plans to return from leave on August 4, 2025. He had been placed on leave effective December 20, 2024.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Tim Bell to change the status of Jasper Volunteer Fire Fighter to active effective August 4, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang requested permission to change the status of Jasper Volunteer Fire Fighters Austin Schmidt, Adam Bower, Chase Spears, and Trace Weidenbenner from Probationary Firefighters to Firefighters effective August 12, 2025.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to change the status of Jasper Volunteer Firefighters Austin Schmidt, Adam Bower, Chase Spears, and Trace Weidenbenner from Probationary Firefighters to Firefighters effective August 12, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

CHANGE ORDER

City Engineer Chad Hurm requested approval for a change order for the Multiuse Trail in the total amount of \$11,035.79. \$4,872.58 was for an additional signal housing and detectors at the intersection of 30th Street and Newton Street and \$6,123.20 was for to additional lineal feet and entrance speed bumps requested by the property owners at Holiday Liquors Property.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the change order totaling \$11,035.79 to Ragle, Inc. for the Multiuse Trail. Motion carried 3-0.

CITY AUCTION

Street Commissioner Jeff Theising requested permission to approve a contract between the City of Jasper and Brahm & Brahm Auction Company for the City Auction. The City Auction is set for September 13, 2025, at 8:00 am at the Street Department. The terms of the contract are the same as the years before, with no changes.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the contract between the City of Jasper and Brahm & Brahm Auction Company for the City Auction to be held on September 13, 2025, at 8:00 am at the Street Department. Motion carried 3-0.

WEST LAW CONTRACT

City Attorney Renee Kabrick requested permission to approve a new contract with Westlaw. The amount of the contract will not change in 2026, and the terms read that if the budget is not approved for the contract, it may be cancelled. Attorney Kabrick intends to cancel another contract in 2026 that she is not getting value from, and these changes will amount to an \$80.00 net increase.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Tim Bell to approve the City Attorney’s contract with Westlaw for a net increase of approximately \$80.00. Motion carried 3-0.

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP FIRE AGREEMENT

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested approval of the Bainbridge Township Fire Agreement. The Bainbridge Township Trustee has committed to providing the City of Jasper \$40,000.00 per year in exchange for fire protection for Bainbridge Township. The Trustee also advised that they would provide up to \$10,000.00 a year for capital purchases for the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department.

A motion was made by Mayor Vonderheide and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the updated Bainbridge Township Fire Agreement in the sum of \$40,000.00. Motion carried 3-0.

SQUARE 9

Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies requested board approval of a quote from Hoosier Business Machines in the sum of \$11,646.00 for Square 9 Software. The quote provides for 6 Global Search Cloud Users and 5 Read Only Licenses. The contract will be split 50/50 with the Utility Department. The quote will go to the Utility Service Board at the next meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to approve the quote from Hoosier Business Machines for Square 9 in the sum of \$11,646.00 to be split 50/50 with the Utilities Department. 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 9:07 a.m.

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

Dean Vonderheide
Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: Kiersten Knies
Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer