

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA  
January 21, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday January 21, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

**Call to Order.** Mayor Dean Vonderheide called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Roll Call.** Deputy Clerk Treasurer Carma Gentry called the roll.

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Dean Vonderheide	X		
Council members:			
John Schroeder	X		
Chad Lueken	X		
Vince Helming	X		
Paul Lorey	X		
Kevin Manley	X		
Nancy Eckerle	X		
Philip Mundy	X		
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	X		
Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies			X

Gentry announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. All the council members were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting, which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

**Moment of Personal Reflection.** Mayor Dean Vonderheide asked that all present take a moment for personal reflection.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Mayor Dean Vonderheide invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held December 17, 2025, were distributed to, and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Vince Helming to approve the minutes from December 17, 2025, without corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

**Presentations.**

Mayor Vonderheide gave the State of the City Address.

**Ordinance No. 2025-32**

**An Ordinance to Rezone Certain Property within the Jurisdictional Limits of Jasper of the Jasper Advisory Plan Commission.**

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Paul Lorey to Table Ordinance No. 2025-32. Motion carried 7-0.

**Resolution No. 2026-1**

**A Resolution Confirming the Designation of a Portion of the City of Jasper as An Economic Revitalization Area and Approving a Statement of Benefits.**

A motion made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Vince Helming to read Resolution No. 2026-1 by title only on the first and only reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Resolution No. 2026-1 by title only.

Mayor Vonderheide opened the meeting up for a public hearing. There being no one from the public appearing, a motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Vince Helming to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2026-1 on the first and only reading. Motion carried 7-0.

**Resolution No. 2026-2**

**A Resolution Confirming the Designation of a Portion of the City of Jasper as An Economic Revitalization Area and Approving a Statement of Benefits.**

A motion made by Vince Helming and seconded by John Schroeder to read Resolution No. 2026-2 by title only on the first and only reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Resolution No. 2026-2 by title only.

Mayor Vonderheide opened the meeting up for a public hearing. There being no one from the public appearing, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by John Schroeder to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2026-2 on the first and only reading. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Resolution No. 2026-3**

#### **A Resolution Approving Bonds and leaves for a Regional Wellness Center Project.**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle read Resolution No. 2026-3 by title only on the first and only reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Resolution No. 2026-3 by title only. Matt Eckerle with Baker Tilly and Rich Starkey with Barnes and Thornburg presented the plan for bonds and leasing for the Regional Wellness Center Project.

A motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Kevin Manley to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2026-3, on the first and only reading. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Encumbrances for 2025 into 2026**

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Carma Gentry presented the previously distributed list of encumbrances for 2025 to be carried over to 2026 including the amount and the description of each. These encumbrances represent funds that were committed in 2025 but not fully expended. The total encumbrance amount is \$4,531,016.90.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Chad Lueken to accept the Encumbrances for 2025 into 2026 as presented by Deputy Clerk Treasurer Carma Gentry in the total amount of \$4,531,016.90. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements**

A motion was made by John Schroeder and seconded by Kevin Manley to approve Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements as presented from Nancy Eckerle, Josh Gunselman, Kenny Hochgesang, Leighton Hochgesang, Ben Knies, Kiersten Knies, Paul Lorey, Phil Mundy and Phil Schmidt. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Acceptance of Donations**

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Carma Gentry requested Council acceptance donations in the amount of \$9,720.00 to the Art Department, \$32,000.00 to the Park Department, \$5,000.00 to the Fire Department and \$1,700.00 to the Police Department. Each respective board has approved the restrictions associated with these donations.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to accept the donations as presented.

### **Gas Contractor License Approval**

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Vince Helming to approve a Gas Contractor's License for Michael B. Ferguson of Benner Heating and Air. Motion carried 7-0

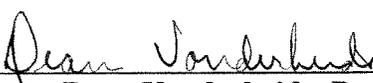
### **President Pro Tempore for 2026**

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by John Schroeder to appoint Paul Lorey to serve as Council President Pro Tempore for 2026. Motion defeated 4-3.

A motion was then made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Vince Helming to appoint Phil Mundy to serve as Council President Pro Tempore for 2026. Motion carried 4-3.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, a motion was made by Council member Vince Helming and seconded by Council member Paul Lorey to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:20p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_\_ with   A   without corrections or clarification this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer