

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
NOVEMBER 20, 2019**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

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

Roll Call.

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm called the roll.

Mayor Dean Vonderheide	Present
Council members:	
John Schroeder	Present
John Bell	Present
David Hurst	Present
Earl Schmitt	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Nancy Eckerle	Present
Philip Mundy	Present
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm	Present

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

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

Welcome. Mayor Vonderheide welcomed the boy scouts from Troop 185 who were in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes.

The following minutes were distributed to and examined by the Council:

1. October 23, 2019 regular common council meeting

A motion was made by Council member Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to approve the minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

POOL FENCES AND POOL COVERS DISCUSSION AND UPDATE

City Attorney Renee Kabrick reviewed what has occurred regarding the issue of pool fence/pool cover requirements. At the August 21, 2019 meeting, the council recommended requiring either a fence or a lockable pool cover for in-ground pools, adopt New Haven's note for above-ground pools, and make the language part of the Unified Development Ordinance [UDO]. The Plan Commission discussed this matter at several of its meetings and finally instructed the attorney to eliminate the language in the UDO because they are not comfortable with allowing one to get a variance that would only require a pool cover and not a fence.

Board of Zoning Appeals Chairman Josh Gunselman read a prepared statement noting fences are the best barriers from pool tragedies and pool covers only serve as an additional layer of safety. The Plan Commission voted to keep pool fences. It's a public safety issue and no exceptions should be granted.

Plan Commission President Paul Lorey said commission members did a lot of due diligence and after a long debate and discussion, voted to leave the pool fence ordinance as is.

Council members then asked questions and made comments regarding this issue.

Kabrick said no action will be taken at this meeting, it was just an opportunity for the plan commission and BZA to inform the council of its decision.

DUBOIS STRONG UPDATE

Dubois Strong President Ed Cole gave an update on the organization's activities. He reported on such things as the event held for 9th graders from the four county schools and their career paths, the southwestern Indiana Ag profession, rural broadband, the Neighborhood Assistance Program, and the Enterprise Loan Fund.

UTILITY SERVICE BOARD REPORT

General Manager of Utilities Gerald 'Bud' Hauersperger gave a report on the regular monthly Utility Service Board meeting held on November 18, 2019. A copy of the Utility Service Board minutes is supplied to each council member.

GAS CONTRACTOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Mayor Vonderheide said a gas contractor license application was submitted by Philip Wagner with A & B Inc dba Mehringer's Plumbing and Heating. He scored an 92% on the test.

A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member John Schroeder to approve a gas contractor license for Philip Wagner with A & B Inc dba Mehringer's Plumbing and Heating. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-37 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE JASPER DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND ESTABLISHING FEES FOR MEMBERSHIPS AT THE JASPER DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION GOLF COURSES

(Amending Ordinance No. 2002-54 and repealing ordinances)

This ordinance changes certain park department fees.

A motion was made by Council member Earl Schmitt and seconded by Council member John Bell to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Earl Schmitt and seconded by Council member Nancy Eckerle to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member David Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2019-37. Motion carried 7-0.

Under discussion, Park and Rec Assistant Director in Charge of Operations Rob Gutgsell explained some of the fee changes such as eliminating membership fees at Ruxer Golf Course and eliminating nonresident fees at the golf courses. City Attorney Renee Kabrick said the plate fee for when one rents the Parklands pavilion has been eliminated.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-38 AN ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA, FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

This ordinance transfers appropriations within a department for the 2019 budget.

A motion was made by Council member Philip Mundy and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Council member David Hurst to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member John Schroeder to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2019-38. Motion carried 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-39 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
(Amending Ordinance No. 2006-13)**

This ordinance changes the start time for the monthly council meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Council member John Bell and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Earl Schmitt and seconded by Council member David Hurst to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Council member Philip Mundy to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2019-39. Motion carried 7-0.

UPDATE ON DECOMMISSIONING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Park and Rec Assistant Director in Charge of Operations Rob Gutgsell said several months ago the park board researched if they could decommission some neighborhood parks. They focused on six properties and at the November 2019 meeting, the board took action on three properties; Uebelhor Park, the Northwest Suburban Park, and the State Police Park.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick said the City does not own Uebelhor Park. The City opened communication with the Uebelhor family. The City will not maintain or use this property as a public park as of January 1, 2020.

Northwest Suburban Park-- this property was deeded to the City under the condition that it revert back to the grantors or heirs if the City stopped using it as a recreational park.

State Police Park-- this property was deeded to the City with no restrictions placed on the deed. The City will look at its options such as developing the property or disposing of the property.

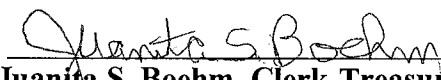
Comments. Council member Nancy Eckerle suggested the City be proactive and look at creating a scooter law.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member David Hurst and seconded by Council member John Schroeder to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ✓ with ✓ without corrections or clarification this 18th day of December, 2019.



Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest: 

Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer