

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA  
MARCH 22, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 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.** Financial Coordinator Sharon Sander 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		
David Hurst	X		
Paul Lorey	X		
Kevin Manley	X		
Nancy Eckerle	X		
Philip Mundy	X		
City Attorney Renee Kabrick		X	
Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies			X

Also present was Financial Coordinator Sharon Sander on behalf of the Clerk-Treasurer's Department.

Sander announced that to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. Six of the seven 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 Vonderheide asked that all present take a moment for personal reflection.

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

**Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes from Regular Council Meeting February 22, 2023, were distributed to and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Paul Lorey to approve the minutes from February 22, 2023, without corrections. Motion carried 6-0.

**Indiana Regional Planning Commission.** Nathan Held, newly appointed Executive Director of Indiana Region 15, introduced himself to the Council and provided an update on who Indiana Region 15 is and what they do. Indiana Region 15 is a Regional Planning Commission established under Indiana State Code, an Economic Development District through the US Dept of Commerce Economic Development Administration, and a Rural Planning Organization through INDOT. Through these designations, they work with all the communities in their six-county region to identify needs, prioritize those needs and work to find any type of resources that are out there to help fulfill those needs. Over the last 50 years they have worked to bring in over \$150 million in grant money to the regions. In the City of Jasper specifically they have brought in a little over \$8.2 million. Also, they are currently working on a \$1.1 million grant through the Economic Development Administration for the City of Jasper.

**Jasper Police Department Presentation.** Police Chief Nathan Schmitt gave a presentation on the Police Department and highlighted the department's accomplishments in 2022. A 911 portal was supplied by the county with 911 funds and is up and operational. It's important to note what with that the department started a Rapid SOS Program and GPS locates every cell phone that has push button SOS. This has allowed the department to locate more people who may or may not have an emergency where in the past they could not be located. The Department had 90 hang up 911 calls in November 2022 and in December when the program started, they had 181 hang up 911 calls.

Though it has created more work for the department it has allowed them to respond better to domestics and other issues that they were unable to respond to in the past.

The department got new flooring on the main floor of the Police Department. The original flooring was from 1995 and needed replacement.

The department held their first Annual Community Day. This was spearheaded by Clint Stewart, several other officers and their wives including Lisa Bower. The event was a success, and they were able to showcase what the department does and share with the community the other public safety departments throughout the county.

The department hired five new police officers and one new telecommunications officer. They are back up to staff. All the officers are now on the road except for two who are currently in the Academy. They are targeted to graduate on April 28, 2023, and should be out on the road solo just in time for Strassenfest which is great as they are always in need of extra manpower around that time.

State standards dictate that all officers are required to do 24 hours of training for every officer. In 2022 the Jasper Police Department completed 1,783 training hours which averages out to 77 hours per officer. They pride themselves on being above standard and do a fantastic job of being current on best practices.

The department has 41 projects they are trying to implement for 2023 including new exterior vests and firearms. The items were budgeted for but like with everything prices have risen. However, he reports that despite the increases for both projects combined they were able to come in at just \$100 over budget. The department did retire a canine officer and are looking for another. This is an unbudgeted item, and they will rely on community support for that. The second Annual Community Day is planned for August 30, 2023. This is something they hope to continue every year. The department is working with the Clerk Treasurer's office to implement a new time keeping program. Currently they use the old method of physically punching a clock and are looking for a system that will be more accurate and more efficient.

New windows are in the works for the west side of the Police Department. They are currently using paper towels to keep the cold air and weather out. The department hired a new part time dispatcher, a retired police officer. They were hoping to hire multiple part-time dispatchers but were only able to find one at this time. They are working with other law enforcement departments and public safety officials in the county towards implementation of a public safety tax. Right now, they are talking to people and getting the word out and trying to help the community understand their needs. The County attorney is working on how to proceed from there.

They are working on getting 2-ton paging going which will allow them to hear both VHS and Blurray simultaneously. They are hoping to add new portable radios which would be a 2024 budget item request. They are waiting for the 2 new police cars they ordered last year and have not ordered ones for this year yet. They are looking at getting a second 911 terminal to have 2 fully functioning 911 workstations. This will cut down on the time it takes for the dispatchers to respond to an emergency. They hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> detective in the detective division which is now running at a full staff. Would like to consider a 4<sup>th</sup> in the future.

All in all, in 2022 the department had 15,803 calls for service. So far in 2023 those numbers are up substantially. Some of this has to do with the Rapid SOS system but some if it just that calls are up overall.

**Tax Abatement Compliance Forms.** Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Personal Property for 2023 pay 2024 from Indiana Furniture Industries were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Bernie Kreilein was present representing Indiana Furniture Group. Kreilein then reviewed the date on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Chad Lueken to find that Indiana Furniture Group is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for personal property. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-9**

#### **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CUTTING INTO AND EXCAVATION OF PUBLIC STREETS (Amending Ordinance No. 788)**

A motion by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to consider Ordinance No. 2023-9 for one reading only. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to read Ordinance No. 2023-9 by title only. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so read Ordinance No. 2023-9 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-9. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-11**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR THE CITY FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023.**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manly to consider Ordinance No. 2023-11 for one reading only. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Dave Hurst to have Ordinance No. 2023-11 read by title only. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so read Ordinance No. 2023-11 by title only.

A public hearing was held. There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to close the public hearing. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Phil Mundy to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-11. Motion carried 6-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-14**

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL OF ANIMALS  
WITHIN THE CITY AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SUCH  
REGULATIONS.**

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Paul Lorey to have Ordinance No. 2022-14 read by title only. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so read Ordinance No. 2022-14 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2022-14 on this third and final reading. Motion carried 6-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-6**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN PROPERTY WITHIN JURISDICTIONAL  
LIMITS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY.**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Phil Mundy to read Ordinance No. 2023-6 by title only on second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so read Ordinance No. 2023-6 by title only on second reading.

A motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Kevin Manley to approve Ordinance No. 2023-6 on second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to have Ordinance No. 2023-6 read by title only the third and final reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, read Ordinance No. 2023-6 by title only on the third and final reading.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Kevin Manley to pass and adopt ordinance No. 2023-6 on the third and final reading. Motion carried 6-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-8**

**AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PLATTED SUBSURFACE DRAIN EASEMENT  
(EDWARD A. MEHRINGER AND KRISTI M. MEHRINGER).**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to read Ordinance No. 2023-8 by title only on the second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so read Ordinance No. 2023-8 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to approve Ordinance No. 2023-8 on the second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to have Ordinance No. 2023-8 read by title only on the third and final reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so read Ordinance No. 2023-8 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-8 on the third and final reading. Motion carried 6-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-10**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF JASPER REDEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY.**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to read Ordinance No. 2023-10 by title only on the second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so read Ordinance No. 2023-10 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Chad Lueken to approve Ordinance No. 2023-10 on the second reading with a change in the language to read that one of three of the appointments must be a Council Member. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Phil Mundy to read Ordinance No. 2023-10 by title only on the third and final reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Financial Coordinator, Sharon Sander, so ready Ordinance No. 2023-10 by title only.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-10 on the third and final reading with the amended language. Motion carried 6-0.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Chad Lueken to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved ✓ with      without corrections or clarification this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

  
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Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer

Attest:   
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Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer