

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA  
APRIL 19, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, April 19, 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.** Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies 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		

Knies 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 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.

**Firefighter Recognition.** Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang introduced Memorial Hospital Ambulance Service Paramedic Scott Fulcher who told the story of a dispatch call received on May 28, 2022, that resulted in saving the life of an infant that had abruptly been delivered at home at 25 weeks gestation. The council recognized and thanked Jasper City Firefighters Greg Vonderheide, Matt Allen, Seth Eckstein, and Nick Nowakowski for their heroic efforts in saving the life of the child that night.

**Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes from Regular Council Meeting March 22, 2023, were distributed to and examined by the Council. Corrections were pointed out. A motion was made by Council member Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Council member Chad Lueken to approve the minutes from March 22, 2023, with corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

**National Guard Community Outreach Presentation.** Col. Matthew Handy of the Indiana National Guard, also Aviation Brigade Commander, gave a presentation on the Indiana National Guard and what the National Guard provides to the community. The National Guard is 14,500 soldiers strong. There are 197 soldiers authorized for Jasper with about 160-170 active now. There is more to the guard than 1 weekend a month 2 weeks a year. The Jasper unit is a well-trained unit with a proud heritage that has been part of the community here for a long time. The same soldiers who defend our state and nation are people we work with, go to church with, and go to school with. About 30-40% of the soldiers are from Jasper. Jason Brady, Construction Facilities Manager for the Indiana National Guard discussed the National Guard's plan to modernize armories. The average age of the armories is 58 years with most being built in the 60s and 70s. In that time the armory has transformed – they use bigger equipment, females serve, and many units have no air conditioning. The National Guard is aware of Jasper's plan to develop a community wellness center. There is a commitment from the state and federal government to modernize readiness centers and the plan is starting to move forward. They have been working with the mayor and his staff, the YMCA, and Memorial Hospital to bring this plan to fruition. The

National Guard believes this facility will be key to Jasper and looks forward to using this successful model in their plan to modernize armories across the state.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5**  
**A RESOLUTION APPROVING BONDS AND LEASE FOR AN OUTDOOR POOL PROJECT**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Phil Mundy to read Resolution No. 2023-5 by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Resolution No. 2023-5 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by John Schroeder to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2023-5. City Attorney Renee Kabrick pointed out that this resolution is consistent with the documents that were approved by the Redevelopment Commission and the Redevelopment Authority for the Outdoor Swimming Pool project for Parks Department. Council member Nancy Eckerle pointed out that this is not the project the Armory was just talking about, this is to update the existing outdoor city pool. Council member Chad Lueken observed that there is some wiggle room built into projections in that the term could be up to 16 years and the amount borrowed could be up to 8.5 million dollars. Lueken then questioned if it's necessary to authorize the possibility to capitalize the interest. Atty Kabrick pointed out that like the other variables, the city will want to allow for any possibility hoping to avoid coming back and repeating this process. After no further discussion, Mayor Vonderheide called for a vote. Motion carried 7-0.

**Tax Abatement Compliance Forms.**

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Jasper Lofts were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Melissa Claridge was present representing Jasper Lofts. The council then reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to find that Jasper Lofts is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Vine Street Lofts were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Twana Lynch was present representing Vine Street Lofts. The council then reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul and seconded by John Schroeder to find that Vine Street Lofts is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Personal Property (finish line) for 2023 pay 2024 from Kimball Hospitality were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Tanya Mehringer was a present representing Kimball Hospitality. The council then reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to find that Kimball Hospitality is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for personal property (finish line). Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Personal Property (16<sup>th</sup> St) for 2023 pay 2024 from Kimball Hospitality were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Tanya Mehringer was a present representing Kimball Hospitality. The council then reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to find that Kimball Hospitality is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for personal property (16<sup>th</sup> St). Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Park Place Phase I were previously submitted to the council members for their review. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Chad Lueken to find that Park Place Phase I is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Park Place Phase II were previously submitted to the council members for their review. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to find that Park Place Phase II is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from 3 PEPLS were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Roger Seng

was present representing 3PEPLS. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to find that 3PEPLS is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from German American Bank were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Scott Miller was present representing German American Bank. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Kevin Manley to find that German American Bank is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Council member John Schroeder abstained from voting. Motion carried 6-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Jasper Engine Exchange were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Ralph Schwenk was present representing Jasper Engine Exchange. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Chad Lueken to find that Jasper Engine Exchange is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Council member Phil Mundy abstained from voting. Motion carried 6-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Personal Property for 2023 pay 2024 from Jasper Engine Exchange were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Ralph Schwenk was present representing Jasper Engine Exchange. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to find that Jasper Engine Exchange is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for personal property. Council member Phil Mundy abstained from voting. Motion carried 6-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Jasper Chair were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Jeff Barth was present representing Jasper Chair. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by John Schroeder to find that Jasper Chair is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Personal Property for 2023 pay 2024 from Jasper Chair were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Jeff Barth was present representing Jasper Chair. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by John Schroeder to find that Jasper Chair is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for personal property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Braun Family Properties were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Jeff Braun was present representing Braun Family Properties. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to find that Braun Family Properties is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Personal Property (Cathy Lane) for 2023 pay 2024 from Meyer Distributing were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Jeff Braun was present representing Meyer Distributing. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to find that Meyer Distributing is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property (Cathy Lane). Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Personal Property (15<sup>th</sup> and Mill) for 2023 pay 2024 from Meyer Distributing were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Jeff Braun was present representing Meyer Distributing. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to find that Meyer Distributing is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for personal property (15<sup>th</sup> and Mill). Motion carried 7-0.

Copies of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form for Real Estate for 2023 pay 2024 from Transit Properties were previously submitted to the council members for their review. Jeff Braun was present representing Transit Properties. The council reviewed the information on the CF-1/PP that was submitted. A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Phil Mundy to find that Transit Properties is in substantial compliance with this statement of benefits for real property. Motion carried 7-0.

**Fire Department/Code Enforcement Presentation.** Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang gave a department presentation on the Fire Department. Every call that comes in goes through dispatch. Dispatch does an excellent job of sending the call to us and EMS and keeping us informed along the way. Today the Fire Department has 38 members, of which 34 are medically trained. Having a medically trained staff is a huge benefit to the community. The department has had several retirements over the course of the year and hired several new fire fighters. Though there are a few senior members left on the team, much of the team is young. Last year the team responded to one chimney fire, two vehicle fires, one dumpster fire and one special fire. Most of the calls the department gets are for medical emergencies, again stressing the importance of having a medically trained staff. Recently Memorial Hospital employed a second ambulance and has staff on duty 24 hours a day. This will cut down on the number of medical calls the fire department will receive and will alleviate some of the stress put on the team. Last year's wages for the team were just over \$185,000.00 for the year. The department had a new roof installed on the fire station, they purchased a new gear washer which has been a huge asset for the team, and they were able to purchase 4 thermal imaging cameras that will help locate people inside a burning building. Chief Hochgesang reviewed the status of each of the fire trucks pointing out that they are in fact aging. He advised that a new ladder truck will cost between \$1.8 -2 million and they are looking into a possible lease option with the USDA.

Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Kenny Hochgesang gave a department presentation on Code Enforcement. Last year the Code Enforcement department researched several software companies and decided to move forward with the purchase of GoGov for the City of Jasper's Code Enforcement Software. The department began using GoGov software effective January 1, 2023. Chief Hochgesang demonstrated the program and walked the council through a test case. He is pleased with how the software is working thus far.

**TIF Management Report.** Clerk Treasurer Kiersten Knies presented the April 15, 2023, TIF Management Report due to the council. The council acknowledged receipt of the report. No further action is necessary.

**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 Dave Hurst to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_\_ with X without corrections or clarification this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

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

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