

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA  
May 17, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, May 17, 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.

**Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes from Regular Council Meeting April 19, 2023, were distributed to and examined by the Council. A motion was made by Council member Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to approve the minutes from April 19, 2023, without corrections. Motion carried 7-0.

**Jasper Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council.** Members of Jasper Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council; Isabella Harmon, Caroline Buechlein, and Ava Bower introduced themselves and explained what the Youth Leadership Council does and presented their project for this year. The Youth Leadership Council wanted a project that would be youth oriented, so, they reached out to Tom Moorman, Park and Recreation Director and identified the two bridges on the upcoming Jasper Disc Golf Course that need to be replaced. One of the issues with the course when it was Ruxer Golf Course was flooding. With that flooding, the two bridges became eroded and worn down and were no longer accessible to the public or the park department for maintenance. With the City taking the lead on turning the golf course into a disc golf course, the Mayor’s Youth Council decided to take on the restoration of the bridges including all the construction which the council is doing themselves along with volunteers from the Dubois County Disc Golf Club. Construction on the bridges has begun. The old planks have been taken up and they are working to clear them off. The Youth Leadership Council will re-weld cracks in the metal work and will replace the wood with treks to prevent rotting. Then they will paint the bridges and add lights. The total estimate to repair both bridges is between \$7,000 and \$10,000.00. They received project approval from the Park Board and plan to reach out to businesses for donations. They held their main fundraiser, which was a fun run at the course, Run Crazy in the 80s, as a kick-off and plan to continue to raise money by offering hole sponsorship. Businesses in the community can pay \$1,000 for any of the eighteen holes and their name will go on a placard placed at that hole. This is a terrific way not only to support the youth and the community but to advertise as well. The Youth Leadership Council is looking to include a piece of art, a stone with JMYLC carved in it, at the course. Additionally, they will create an endowment with any remaining funds to help with

additional costs and maintenance. A ribbon cutting will be planned for when the project is completed.

**Street Department Presentation.** Street Commissioner Jeff Theising gave a presentation on the Street Department. Theising provided several handouts to the Council prior to the meeting. The first handout was an estimate for the Street Department's paving costs for the year. The MVH paving material is noted along with the planned paving projects and planned preservation projects. These projects are estimated on square footage. Dewey Street recon was approved this spring as a Community Crossing matching grant. The Street Department's portion of the Downtown Square project is noted as well as HRJ Lane/Power Drive project which is about to kick off. The second handout shows the streets that have been chosen for pavement resurfacing and lists the liquid road rejuvenating and micro surfacing projects that have been chosen for the year. The final handout shows the streets that need attention. In March of every year the Street Department physically drives every street in the city and rates them. The ones that are graded the worst are the ones that get paved. Unfortunately, the budget does not go far enough to complete all the paving that is needed. Because the Street Department is participating in many larger projects, such as Community Crossings grants to make the most of their budget dollars, funds are being taken from other projects and some places are beginning to suffer. The Street Department plans to apply for Community Crossing matching funds in the fall for streets rather than for some of the larger projects. This is something that has been done in other municipalities and towns and something the city has done before. This plan should help get the paving number back down. However, the Street Department will need to coordinate with local contractors to ensure they have the availability to do these projects. Theising then gave a progress report on a few of the projects underway throughout the city: Northside sidewalk on Newton Street between 30<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> underway; replaced storm sewer on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue behind St Vincent DePauw; West 33<sup>rd</sup> St tile work almost complete. Also, the Street Department has upgraded equipment for the year including a new magazine van, a new cardboard recycling truck, one ton truck and salt spreader, a new Assistant Street Commissioner truck, and a new asphalt hot box. Finally, as far as staffing goes, the Street Department is in the process of hiring an Administrative Assistant.

**JASPER PATOKA RIVERFRONT DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOL PERMIT**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Kevin Manley to give a favorable recommendation for Applicant, George Banks and Property Owner, Eugene B. Hostetter's Jasper Patoka Riverfront District Application for Alcohol permit at TreViones Restaurant located at 102 Third Avenue, Jasper. Motion carried 7-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF CAMP CARNES PROPERTY TO LITTLE SPRUCE NATURE SCHOOL**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to consider Resolution No. 2023-4 for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to have Resolution No. 2023-4 read by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Resolution No. 2023-4 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Dave Hurst to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2023-4. Motion carried 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-12**

**AN ORDINANCE AFFIXING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE UTILITY EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2023**

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Paul Lorey to consider Ordinance No. 2023-12 for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Dave Hurst to have Ordinance No. 2023-12 read by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read ordinance No. 2023-12 by title only.

A motion was made by Nancy Eckerle and seconded by Paul Lorey to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-12. Motion carried 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-13**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR RENTAL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS OF THE JASPER ARTS CENTER AND FEES FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN JASPER ARTS CENTER PROGRAMS**

A motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Paul Lorey to consider Ordinance No. 2023-13 for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Chad Lueken and seconded by Kevin Manley to have Ordinance No. 2023-13 read by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-13 by title only.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by John Schroeder to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-13. Motion carried 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-14**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A LOAN OF FUNDS BETWEEN THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT AND THE WATER DEPARTMENT WITHIN JASPER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH**

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Chad Lueken to consider Ordinance No. 2023-14 for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Paul Lorey and seconded by Nancy Eckerle to have Ordinance No. 2023-14 ready by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick so read Ordinance No. 2023-14 by title only.

A motion was made by Kevin Manley and seconded by Phil Mundy to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2023-14. Motion carried 7-0.

**Updates From the Mayor.** Mayor Vonderheide shared several key points. 5,282 AMI end points have been installed, that is a little under one-third of the way through. The Downtown Project is currently progressing. Work is being done on the southwest quadrant and a lot of progress is being made coming around that quadrant. The city was awarded the Community Crossing grant for the Dewey Street Project. Sultan's run is hosting the LPGA Senior tournament at the end of June. This is a fantastic opportunity for our community to shine. They estimate 10,000 guests. Chalk Walk is this weekend and Jasper days with Strawberry festival on Sunday. There will be a lot of activities all coming together this weekend, the Chamber has been heavily involved. Work will begin on the gas line this week in Grassland Hills where gas service was impacted during the cold snap this winter. This work is being done internally and the engineering work is complete. Hydrant flushing will be done this week. SBOA Audit closing is scheduled for May 25 at 11:15 am. Chief Hochgesang reported that they have spec'd out a new tower truck that will cost approximately two million dollars. The city is working on a USDA loan for the fire truck. The city anticipates the disc golf course to be done in July. This weekend is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ROJAC and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chalk Walk.

**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 6:41 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_\_ with ✓ without corrections or clarification this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2023.

  
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**Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Presiding Officer**

**Attest:**   
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**Kiersten Knies, Clerk-Treasurer**