

**MINUTES
REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas, met on April 14, 2025, with the following members present to wit:

Mayor Anderson M. Land, Jr

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes/Absent

Council Member Ronald Sample

Council Member Angel McCroskey

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand

City Manager Greg Kelley

City Secretary Liz Jarrell

Mayor Anderson Land called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and Mr. Ben Hancock opened it with prayer. All council members were present except Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Mayor Land informed the council about the SRMPA and SETRPC information in their packets. City Manager Greg Kelley introduced the new City Library Director, Lindsey Cox. Chief Garrett Foster introduced a new patrol officer Daniel Coons. There were no public comments.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Called City Council Meeting on March 10, 2025. Council Member Angel McCroskey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve the first quarter investment report. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jared Taylor informed the council that the existing meter needs replacement and is looking at proposals to update the system and replace the meters. The advantages are that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) requests more reporting, restoration monitoring, and disconnects. The project will cost around \$2.5 million. Electric Superintendent Lee Wellman explained that we have trouble getting monthly readings. Our software is aging, and we can no longer get parts for it. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the replacement of the electric meter system with Tantalus. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jared Taylor with Delta Consulting informed the council and explained the importance of replacing the circuit and transmission switchers for the Jason Substation. Mr. Taylor explained that this was an emergency because we did not have a backup for the Jason Substation, and it would take approximately 18 months to receive a new one. Council Member Angel McCroskey verified that this will help employees and citizens know where the outages are. Much discussion was made on this matter. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the bid from KBS to replace the circuit and transmission switchers for the Jason Substation. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Garrett Foster explained that the San Jacinto Sheriff's Office advised the Jasper Police Department that they needed assistance due to their server being struck by lightning. Chief Foster recommended that the council approve the agreement to loan the server to the San Jacinto Sheriff's office, which we no longer use. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the San Jacinto Sheriff's Department and the City of Jasper Police Department regarding a WatchGuard server. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Greg Kelley informed the council that we did not receive any bids from the first time we ran 210 Premier Dr. in the newspaper at the appraised value of \$955,000. Much discussion was made. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to advertise a second time in the newspaper to seek sealed bids for 210 Premier Dr. with a preferred minimum bid starting at \$725,000. Council Member Ronald Sample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Greg Kelley explained that the best bid for the waterline improvement project did not submit everything required. The engineer suggested we approve the second bid, ALLCO, LLC. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the recommended bid from ALLCO, LLC. for the waterline improvement project. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Greg Kelley explained that giving Scott Street to the Scott family was voted on in August 2024. The previous city attorney became sick, and we hired a new city attorney who worked to get this completed. Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve the ordinance providing for the abandonment, vacation, and closure of the following street segment to wit: Scott Street. Council Member Ronald Sample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Inspector Jeremy Chesnutt recommended that the council approve the variance request to build a carport at 965 Burch Street. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the variance request for 965 Burch Street. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Inspector Jeremy Chesnutt recommended that the council approve the variance request at 1677 Suncrest Circle because the movers inadequately placed the structure on that property. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the variance request for 1677 Suncrest Circle. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve UHY Audit Firm out of the bids received for the forensic audit for a 5-year audit from October 2018 through September 2023 for \$99,680. Council Member Ronald Sample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Garrett Foster explained that approval must first be obtained from TxDOT to approve a parade permit to shut down Houston Street. Chief Foster explained that this is the first time we have brought it to the council for approval under TxDOT's guidelines. Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve the agreement for the temporary closure of the state right-of-way for the Jasper County Cowboy Church rodeo parade, and the resolution authorizing the agreement

between the City of Jasper and TxDOT for the Jasper County Cowboy Church rodeo parade. Council Member Ronald Sample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Garrett Foster explained Cody Christopher left the police department, so the resolution for the Catalytic Converter program grant needed to be updated. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve the resolution for the catalytic converter program grant. Council Member Ronald Sample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to postpone waiving the attorney/client communication to make the memorandum public by Frank J. Garza, Trolio, Ream & Garza, PC. Council Member Ronald Sample seconded. The motion passed 2-1, with Council Members Angel McCroskey and Ronald Sample voting in favor and Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand voting against. City Attorney Billy Morian stated that the council needs to convene in an executive session to discuss Frank Garza's opinion before making any decisions. Mr. Morian stated that once the council can discuss the memorandum together, a vote can be made in the open session.

The council did not convene into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551 Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney because there were no questions for Mr. Frank Garza.

During the council time discussion, Council Member Angel McCroskey requested a special called city council meeting to be held on April 21, 2025, to discuss matters with the City Attorney concerning JEDCO.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm with no further business to discuss.


Clark McLane, Mayor

Attest:



Liz Jarrell, City Secretary