

MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
July 15, 2024

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on July 15, 2024, with the following members present to wit:

Anderson M. Land, Jr..... Mayor  
Marcus Barber..... Council Member  
DeMarcus Holmes..... Council Member  
Ronald Sample..... Council Member  
Angel McCroskey..... Council Member  
Lequin Hilderbrand..... Council Member  
  
Greg Kelley..... Interim City Manager  
Liz Jarrell..... City Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson Land at 6:00pm and opened with prayer by Mr. Bob Mahar. All the members were present.

Interim Police Chief Mike Poindexter introduced two new police officers Frank Erimias and Kay Garton making the police department full staff.

Mayor Land asked for public comments, and we had one. Renee Harrington spoke concerning an email that she sent to council members and the mayor. Ms. Harrington went over some of the records she received. Ms. Harrington then spoke about a sewage problem that took place at her house.

Council Member Ronald Sample then spoke about a letter the council received, but it was not signed.

Mayor Land then read from Texas Municipal League regarding excessive talking.

Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to approve the regular called city council meeting minutes from June 10, 2024. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to reorganize the agenda to match the agenda from the previous agenda for the July 8, 2024, meeting. Much discussion was made regarding the order of the agenda items. Mayor Land then moved on to the next agenda item.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve the settlement agreement between the City of Jasper and the Citizens of Jasper for Fair and Equitable Rates. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Council Member Ronald Sample stated he believed the SRMPA Funds were to be frozen, but Interim City Manager Greg Kelley stated the funds were not frozen, but to be used in the electric department only. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to table the request of the Final Plat for the New Subdivision on Bevil Loop. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Four voting in favor of tabling the item including Council Members Hilderbrand, McCroskey, Holmes, Sample. Council Member Marcus Barber abstained from voting. Motion passed.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Investment Report. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to table the appointment of a Charter Review Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Demarcus Holmes. Four members voted in favor including Council Members Ronald Sample, Marcus Barber, Demarcus Holmes, and Angel McCroskey. One voting against the motion being Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Motion passed.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to table the appointment of an Ordinance Review Commission. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Three voting in favor including Council Members Angel McCroskey, Ronald Sample, and Demarcus Holmes. Two council members voting against the motion being Council Members Lequin Hilderbrand and Marcus Barber. Motion Passed.

Council Member Demarcus Holmes made a motion to approve allowing each council member the choice of using an Ipad in place of hard copies or continuing to use hard copies. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. Council Member Ronald Sample stated he wanted a paper copy. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve the 2024 Water Conservation Plan. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Some discussion was made regarding the Conservation Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve appointing a rating committee for the Resilient Communities Program Grant including the Interim City Manager, City Secretary, and one Council Member. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. Some discussion was made regarding the rating committee. Council Member Ronald Sample offered to be on the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Land stated he advised a workshop for the matter regarding discussing, reviewing, and amending the Council Meeting Rules and Procedures for the City of Jasper.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to eliminate "The Mayor will exercise his/her best judgement in determining if items received for placement on the agenda meet the criteria" and to replace it with "The net effect of any policy cannot be to preclude a council member from placing an item on the agenda for public discussion, Texas Attorney General Opinion DM-228 1993" from the City Council Meeting Rules and Procedures. Much discussion was then made regarding this item. Seconded by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve discussing, reviewing, and implementing Proposition A/Ordinance No 5-10-22. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Much discussion was made regarding Propostion A/Ordinance No 5-10-22. Finance Director Robbie Peek stated a rate analysis is being done by SEnergy which was voted for by the council, and the city is waiting for those results. More Discussion was made, then Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to table the item until the city receives the rate study back from SEnergy. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve the investigation by the City Council regarding City of Jasper financial records sent by email to all council members. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve the forensic audit to be performed on the City of Jasper finances by a qualified forensic auditing firm chosen by the city council. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Much discussion was made regarding the forensic audit. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve the solicitation of Legal Opinion from State Attorney General regarding the roles, rights, and authorities of the Mayor and each of the five City Council Members as defined in our current Council Meeting Rules and Procedures for the City of Jasper, Texas along with former AG opinions JM-63 (1983) and DM-228 (1993) as supporting documentation. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to approve the solicitation of minimal assistance from Texas Police Chief's Association in the review and grading of applications and/or resumes received during the current Chief of Police job posting period. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Much discussion was made regarding the assistance from the Texas Police Chief's Association. Three voting in favor including Council Members Lequin Hilderbrand, Ronald Sample, and Angel McCroskey. Two voting against including Council Members Marcus Barber, and DeMarcus Holmes. Motion passed. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.

  
Angel McCroskey, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest:

  
Liz Jarrett, City Secretary