

MINUTES  
REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 10, 2024

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on May 13, 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/Absent  
Lequin Hilderbrand..... Council Member  
  
Greg Kelley..... Interim City Manager  
Liz Jarrell..... City Secretary/Absent

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson Land at 6:00pm and opened with prayer by Pastor Donnie Wiltshire from First Baptist Church of Jasper. All members were present to wit except Council Member Angel McCroskey.

Mayor Land asked council members to review the information in their binders from SRMPA and SETRPC.

Mayor Land then asked for departmental reports, and none were made by employees. Council Member Sample then stated Verna Street was great like a highway.

Mayor Land then asked for public comments. The first to speak was Jesse Frazier on #7 of agenda item, but his concern was on the water rates. He wanted to know if we had someone setting water rates. Next person to speak was Michael Stevenson wanting to praise Kristine, Justin, and Derrick for doing a great job. Then he spoke about putting in a work order numerous times, and it took too long to be taken care of. He wants the city to be more personal with the citizens. He would like employees to speak to citizens putting in the work orders. Next to speak is Bowe Limbrick speaking about a lot of people walking around with fear now. He wants everyone to love their neighbors. If a problem is seen, come up with a solution. No further public comments.

Mayor Land went back to departmental reports and asked if anyone from A&L subdivision was present. No one was present.

Motion was made by Council Member Ronald Sample to approve (2) sets of minutes from May 7, 2024, and May 13, 2024. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. Motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Land went on to the next agenda item to authorize the procurement process for a grant administrator and appointing a rating committee for the Resilient Communities Program. Interim City Manager Greg Kelley explained code enforcement department found this grant to help with public service material, flood plain, tracking work orders, as well as other things. Council Member Ronald Sample asked how much money was involved. Greg Kelley then said up to \$300,000. The city does not have to match anything. The city will not pay anything. Motion was made by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Land went on to the next agenda item accepting two donations from Jasper County's Surplus Equipment of a hazmat truck and a swat van. Interim City Manager Greg Kelley stated they were purchased in 2004 with grant funds. The city has been maintaining them and using them. Motion made by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand asked if both pieces of equipment were functional. Greg Kelley said yes, they are functional. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Land went to the next agenda item Harbor Hospice Family Fun Night Carnival on October 19. Interim City Manager Greg Kelley explained this event is held every year. Due to the new ordinance being passed, it is required to come before the council to be approved. Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Council Member Hilderbrand questioned where in the park it will take place. Greg Kelley stated it will take place at Sandy Creek West in the big parking lot. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Land went to the next agenda item for a subdivision request on Bevil Loop Road by Todd McDonald. Building Official Jeremy Chesnutt spoke on the ordinance where a lot being sub divided must come before council to be approved. Jeremy Chesnutt explained everything in the packet that each council member had included field notes, easement, and survey. Mayor Land asked about addresses being assessed. Jeremy Chesnutt explained it will be reported and there will be an address for each. Council Member Sample asked about flooding in that area. Jeremy Chesnutt stated this is preliminary. The final plat will have the drainage plan. Motion made by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Seconded by Council

Member Ronald Sample. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand asked if this would be a recorded or unrecorded subdivision? From Council Member Hilderbrand's experience this is not typically what he sees. Council Member Hilderbrand wants to make sure when the final plat is done it will have everything needed. Council Member Hilderbrand made a comment that this is an approach he can embrace. Whether it is code or ordinance it seems things are holding customers back. Council Member Hilderbrand likes everything being a case-by-case basis to make things work. Motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Land went on to the next agenda item for a Variance Request to reduce the lot depth on Bevil Loop Road for new lots. Jeremy Chesnutt stated the lot width exceeds our minimum lot width. Increasing the width gives 3,000 more square feet per lot. Standard manufacture homes will not fit so to accommodate them they increased the lot width. Jeremy Chesnutt thinks it is something we can work with. Motion by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes to approve. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to continue the services of SEnergy-Schneider Engineering, LLC to perform an electrical rate analysis to present recommendations for setting electrical rates for the next fiscal year. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Land went to the next agenda item Bids for Vacuum Truck Receiving Stations. Interim City Manager Greg Kelley stated this was approved for us to go and get bids for back in October. Greg Kelley mentioned the state requires us to dump where animals cannot get into it. It will be a building that is screened in. Greg requested to go with the bid \$337,207. Motion by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Seconded by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Mayor Land asked if this money was already approved for this purchase. Greg Kelley stated it was approved back in October. Motion passes unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve moving forward with a Charter Review Commission at the next regular city council meeting. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Council Member Hilderbrand mentioned the charter has not been reviewed since 1964 and Council Member Hilderbrand believes that adjustments and amendments need to be made. Council Member Hilderbrand thinks some items can be left alone, but it needs to be updated. Mayor Land then stated he agrees with Council Member Hilderbrand because it has been too many years since updated and some parts of the charter are not in compliance with state law. Mayor Land asked the council to consider choosing one member from each district to research, review, and have ideas. Council Member Hilderbrand then asked if there was a way to have (5) members have discussion without going against open meeting act. Mayor Land advised a workshop can be done, but it must be posted. Mayor Land also stated an executive session can take place. Council Member Hilderbrand mentioned reasoning for a meeting in case he chooses someone and,

as an example, Council Member Holmes may not like his choice for whatever reason. Mayor Land stated it would be up to the council members in that district. Mayor Land stated he is leaving it up to the council members to choose someone from their district. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Land then read #11 agenda item Closed and Open Sessions: Closed Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session. Mayor Land stated this was an action item for litigation, but it is concerning the posting of personal matters. Finance Director Robbie Peek (City Secretary Liz Jarrell absent) notified Mayor Land he skipped agenda item number 10.

Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to move forward creating a Ordinance Review Commission at the next regular city council meeting. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Council Member Hilderbrand reemphasized his concern to consider this the same as the Charter Review Commission to take it seriously. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Land and read Closed Executive Session Pursuant to Texas Government concerning posting of City Manager Position and Police Chief Position. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand was concerned about going into closed session discussing the posting of jobs. Mayor Land stated that discussion will take place and then action can be taken if needed. Executive Session started at 6:37pm. Meeting resumed at 6:57pm. Council Member Hilderbrand made a motion to approve the posting of City Manager Position although it has already been posted to satisfy some concern. Council Member Hilderbrand also stated the approval of the posting of the police chief position with a timeline of 60 days for each posting City Manager and Police Chief Positions. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Mayor Land clarified to the media the discussion of personnel matters also took place is the reason for executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

No further action to discuss, meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

  
Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:



Liz Jarrell, City Secretary