

MINUTES
Regular Called City Council Meeting
November 13, 2023

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on November 13, 2023, with the following members present to wit:

Anderson M. Land, Jr.....	Mayor
Marcus Barber.....	Council Member Dist. 1
Ronald Sample.....	Council Member Dist. 2
DeMarcus Holmes.....	Council Member Dist. 3
David Shultz.....	Council Member Dist. 4
Rashad Lewis.....	Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Member At-Large Dist. 5
Denise Kelley.....	City Manager / Finance Director
Karen Pumphrey.....	City Secretary

Mayor Anderson Land called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Eddie Hopkins gave the opening prayer. All Council Members were present to wit.

Mayor Land asked for questions or comments regarding departmental reports. Public Works Director Greg Kelley gave an update on the status of the streets project.

Mayor Land asked for Public Comments. The following (3) were made –

1. Mr. Bill Grant addressed the council regarding the water rates for customers inside and outside of the city limits. Mr. Grant alleged the city is charging customers outside the city limits under 10% by having them pay more for water than those who live inside the city limits. Mr. Grant also stated a petition is being started regarding this matter.
2. Mr. Lennard Johnson of Golden Drive, Jasper Tx addressed the council regarding fire mains being a legal distance in areas of the city and not in others. He also stressed his concerns regarding citizens deserving better protection.
3. Mrs. Angel McCroskey addressed the council regarding their past decisions and poverty in the Jasper area, including the use of SRMPA funds.

Motion by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes approving the following (3) sets of minutes – Annual Budget Hearing and Regular Called City Council Meeting September 5, 2023, Regular Called City Council Meeting October 10, 2023, and City Council Workshop October 30, 2023. Second by Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Rashad Lewis to approve appointing Mayor Land to the SRMPA Board of Directors. Second by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member David Shultz to approve the City's 3rd Quarter Investment Report. Second by Council Member Marcus Barber. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member David Shultz to approve up to \$120,000.00 to be used by the Jasper Fire Department for new firefighter gear for new members and to replace old firefighting gear used by current members, and to be funded with the use of Cambridge funds. Second by Council Member Rashad Lewis. Discussion. Fire Chief Brandon Duckworth explained the need for the equipment and stated they have seven new members who recently joined, and we have others showing interest in joining as well. Council voted. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Rashad Lewis to approve the 2024 calendar for the regular council meetings and the 2024 city holiday calendar. Second by Council Member David Shultz. Motion carried unanimously.


Agenda Item No. 6 was scratched from the agenda regarding a council sponsored turkey giveaway.

CLOSED AND OPEN SESSIONS:

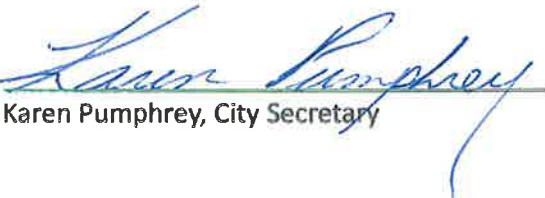
CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION (Time being 6:18 p.m.) – Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551 Section 551.071 Consultation with attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation and Section 551.086 Certain Public Power Utilities: Competitive Matters.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION (Time being 6:38 p.m.) – Motion by Council Member David Shultz to approve engaging with Schneider Engineering for a 6-month study regarding the power utilities issue with an expense cap at \$60,000.00 to be funded with SRMPA funds. Second by Council Member Marcus Barber. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Land adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.


Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:


Karen Pumphrey, City Secretary