

**MINUTES
REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 12, 2024**

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on November 12, 2024, with the following members present to wit:

Mayor Anderson M. Land, Jr
Council Member Marcus Barber
Council Member Ronald Sample

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes
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 Pastor Gary Marshall opened it with prayer. All council members were present. Mayor Land had the council review the SRMPA, SETRPC, and SETEDD information. Mayor Land then asked for departmental reports, and there were none. Mayor Land asked for public comments, and there were none.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand voiced his concerns about conduct at city council meetings.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve four sets of minutes, including October 2, 2024, October 15, 2024, October 21, 2024, and October 29, 2024. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes Seconded the motion. Council Member Angel McCroskey mentioned all statements made in the council time discussion to be included in the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Land went on to item number two on the agenda and moved item number eleven to be discussed after item number two. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve item number two on the agenda: Resolution of the City Council authorizing the submission of a TxCDBG program application and commitment of match funds. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes seconded it. Mrs. Susan Stover with Waxman Inc. stated that this resolution is the first step to applying for grant funds, which were raised from \$500,000.00 to \$750,000.00. The City of Jasper will have a 10% match of \$75,000.00. Mayor Land asked if we could make the match for \$75,000.00. City Manager Greg Kelley said we can since it will not have to be matched until the following budget year. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve item number eleven on the agenda: reject all bids on the Sandy Creek Rehabilitation Project. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Mrs. Susan Stover stated that the 2 bids received were well over the amount. Mrs. Stover also said we could go back and make a material-only bid for the rock. The city can put the rock out within the time frame left on the grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to Re-Appoint City Manager Greg Kelley to the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. The motion passed unanimously.

James Guest of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, presented on delinquent property tax collection.

Keith Treadway of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen P.C., presented on delinquent property tax collection.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve (A) on the agenda, a resolution to approve the contract for the collection of delinquent property taxes and legal representation between the City of Jasper and McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Two voting in favor were Council Members Ronald Sample and Lequin Hilderbrand. Three voting against were Council Members Marcus Barber, DeMarcus Holmes, and Angel McCroskey. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes then made a motion to approve (B) on the agenda: an agreement with the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to collect delinquent property taxes and authorizing the execution of such agreement, as set out in the Notice of Public Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Three voted in favor were Council Members DeMarcus Holmes, Angel McCroskey, and Marcus Barber. Two voted against were Council Members Ronald Sample and Lequin Hilderbrand. Motion passed 3-2.

City Secretary Liz Jarrell explained the Ordinance update to increase the compensation for election workers from \$9.00 an hour to \$15.00 an hour. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 11-12-24 Update and Amend Chapter 8 Election Section 8-7(C). Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve no fishing in the pond during the week of January 13-17th for the annual Trout Derby on January 18, 2025. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to approve the 2024 Tax Roll Resolution. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to approve the authorization of the scope of work items in search of bids regarding the previously approved forensic audit. The scope of work will be submitted exclusively to the four firms who have answered the RFP published by the City of Jasper and received by the City Council on October 29, 2024. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member McCroskey asked about this matter. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand stated that the council should submit the scope of work for bids from the four firms that submitted RFPs once approved. Council Member McCroskey believes the council should have a meeting to discuss the items and the scope of work they are looking for. Mayor Land advised her to submit for a special called meeting if she would like to do so.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve the resolution for the FY 25 SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant Program. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Sergeant Cody Christopher informed the council about a grant paying 80% of the total cost. The City of

Jasper will be responsible for the remaining 20%. JEDCO previously stated they would help pay for the cost of the license plate reader program. The motion passed unanimously.

The council then went into executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel matters concerning police chief candidates pursuant to Texas Government Code 551 Section 551.074 and Consult with the Attorney to discuss City Council and JEDCO matters pursuant to Texas Government Code 551 Section 551.071. The council reconvened at 8:11 p.m. without Council Member Marcus Barber, who left the meeting during the executive session. Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to hire Garrett Foster as Police Chief. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. All voted in favor except Council Member Marcus Barber, who left the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm with no further business to discuss.


Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:



Liz Jarrell, City Secretary