

MINUTES
PROPERTY TAX HEARING, BUDGET HEARING, ELECTRIC RATE HEARING
REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas, met on September 3, 2025, with the following members present to wit:

Mayor Clark McLane
Council Member Mamie Horn
Council Member Bob Mayhar

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes
Council Member Angel McCroskey
Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand

City Manager Greg Kelley

City Secretary Liz Jarrell

Mayor Clark McLane called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and Council Member Angel McCroskey opened it with prayer. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes was absent for part of the hearings, and he showed up at 5:44 pm as the hearings continued.

Mayor McLane opened the Property Tax Hearing at 5:30 pm, and there were no comments. The property Tax Hearing closed at 5:45 pm. The 2025-2026 Budget public hearing was opened at 5:45 pm, and no comments were made. The public hearing for the Budget closed at 5:46 pm. The public hearing for the Electric Rate was opened at 5:46 pm, and no comments were made. The public hearing for the Electric Rate was closed at 5:47 pm. The Regular City Council Meeting continued at 5:47 pm.

Mayor McLane asked for departmental reports, and there were none. Mayor McLane presented Christus Jasper Memorial with a Proclamation declaring September 2025 as Sepsis Awareness Month. Mayor McLane asked for public comments, and there were none.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made to motion to approve the four sets of minutes including Special Called City Council Meeting July 28, 2025, Special Called City Council Meeting August 5, 2025, Regular Called City Council Meeting August 11, 2025, and Special Called City Council Meeting August 15, 2025. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve allocating \$1,000,000.00 to come from SRMPA Funds for eight months from December 2025 through July 2026 to electrical utility bills to reduce the cost to ratepayers. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes seconded the motion. Council Member Bob Mayhar asked if the allocation should be for eight months or if it would be better for twelve months. Council Members agreed that eight months would benefit the ratepayers more, considering it is during the hottest and coldest months of the year. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to allocate \$1,000,000.00 to the light and power budget fund from SRMPA funds rather than increase electric rates. This will be included in the budget with no employee raises nor electric rate increases, but it does include a property tax rate increase and a sanitation rate increase. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes seconded the motion. Much discussion was made. Council Members Mamie Horn, DeMarcus Holmes, Angel McCroskey, and Lequin Hilderbrand voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Bob Mayhar voted against the motion. The motion passed 4-1.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to remove \$61,500.00 from the 2025-2026 budget to the Chamber of Commerce and use the funds for the City of Jasper to hire an employee to create an office of tourism to be housed at the City of Jasper, and then housed at the Beaty Orton House once renovations are complete. This will be included in the budget with no employee raises nor electric rate increases, but it does include a property tax rate increase and a sanitation rate increase. Council Member Mamie Horn seconded the motion. Much discussion was made. Council Members Mamie Horn, DeMarcus Holmes, and Angel McCroskey voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Bob Mayhar and Lequin Hilderbrand voted against the motion. The motion passed 3-2.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 090325a 2025-2026 Property Tax Rate of \$0.285. Council Member Angel McCroskey seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, Council Members Mamie Horn, Bob Mayhar, DeMarcus Holmes, Angel McCroskey, and Lequin Hilderbrand voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor McLane went on to the next item, which was to amend and update ordinance chapter 24-Article II. Electricity – Division 2. Rates, Service Classifications, Etc. (Ordinance No. 090325b). This ordinance would raise the electric rate. No motion was made.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve amending and updating Ordinance Chapter 20 – Solid Waste – Article II. Municipal Collection Service Division 2. Rates and Charges (Ordinance No. 090325c). Council Member Bob Mayhar seconded the motion. This ordinance raises the sanitation rates. Much discussion was made. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 090325d setting and establishing the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Operating Budget, the second budget, which included no employee raises, no electric rate increase, but it did include a trash rate increase, a property tax rate increase, and \$1,000,000.00 from SRMPA funds to the Light and Power budget fund. Council Member Angel McCroskey seconded the motion. Council Members Mamie Horn, DeMarcus Holmes, Angel McCroskey, and Lequin Hilderbrand voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Bob Mayhar voted against the motion. The motion passed 4-1.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 090325e applying allocated adjustments, contingency reserves, and providing for amended budgets for the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget and plan, as well as Ordinance No. 090325f tax roll appraisal and tax levy. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Annual Budget, which included no pay raises for employees, no electric rate increase, but it did include a trash rate increase and a property tax rate increase. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to approve the variance request for 614 West Houston St. Council Member Bob Mayhar seconded the motion. Inspector Jeremy Chesnutt explained the variance request. The motion passed unanimously.

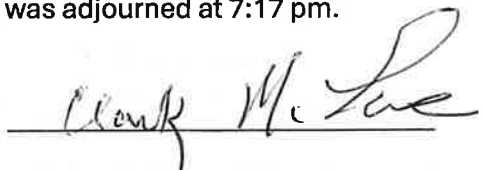
Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to approve the variance request for 885 Caldwell St. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand seconded the motion. Inspector Jeremy Chesnutt explained the variance request. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to approve upgrading the Jasper Police Department Records Management System. Council Member Angel McCroskey seconded the motion. Chief Garrett Foster recommended using Intellichoice, Inc., DBA EFORCE Software as the new RMS provider. Mr. Foster explained that the total cost is \$143,267.81, including two years of licensing and maintenance fees. The vendor has agreed to a payment plan of three equal installments of \$47,755.94. The first installment will be included in the department's current 2024-2025 budget. The yearly maintenance fee will be about \$16,000.00. Much discussion was made. The motion passed unanimously.

The council went into closed executive session at 6:42 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code 551 Section 551.074 Personnel Matters: City Attorney. The council reconvened at 7:13 p.m. No action was taken from the closed session.

During the council time discussion, Council Member Angel McCroskey requested that all department heads give a report for the month during the regular called city council meeting. Council Member Bob Mayhar informed everyone that many people are moving to Jasper, and thanked everyone for their support. Mayor Clark McLane requested that the Jasper Economic Development Corporation, JEDCO, also give a monthly report.

Council Member Angel McCroskey made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. All voted in favor to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.


Clark McLane, Mayor

Attest:



Liz Jarrell, City Secretary