

MINUTES  
PROPERTY TAX HEARING  
BUDGET HEARING  
REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 9, 2024

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on September 9, 2024, with the following members present to wit:

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson Land at 5:30pm and opened with prayer by Mr. Willie King. All members were present to wit except Council Member Marcus Barber.

Mayor Land announced the property tax hearing has started and asked for public comments. Marcia Anderson, Evelyn O'Neil, Angela Lee, and Marcos Adams shared their concerns and comments regarding the proposed increase in property tax rates. The tax hearing ended at 5:45pm.

Mayor Land then announced the Budget Hearing started at 5:45pm and asked for public comments. Mr. Chris Lanier voiced his concerns and opinions concerning the budget. The budget hearing ended at 5:53pm.

The regular called city council meeting began when the budget hearing ended at 5:53pm.

City Manager Greg Kelley informed everyone of a Scheduled City-Wide Power Outage conducted by Entergy on September 28, 2024, from Midnight until 6:00am. Lisa Kotz from Southeast Texas Food Bank spoke concerning the Southeast Texas Hunger Free Community Coalition (HFCC).

Mayor Land then asked for public comments and there were five. Wretha Thomas spoke concerning working together as a team. Marcos Adams spoke concerning the city and the vegetation that is covering the vision of public roadways on Hi-Truitt Road. Bob Ewing spoke concerning the electric rates. Bob Mahar spoke concerning the good things happening in Jasper. Marcia Anderson spoke concerning the increase in rates. With no further public comments Mayor Anderson Land moved on to the action items.

Motion was made by Council Member Ronald Sample to approve (5) sets of minutes including August 7, August 12, August 13, August 20, and August 28, 2024. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Anderson Land read item number two stating to allocate \$2,000,000.00 to come from the SRMPA/Cambridge funds to be deducted from the energy cost billed to the City of Jasper from SRMPA for 8 months at \$250,000.00 a month from December 2024 through July 2025 to reduce the cost to our ratepayers. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve \$1,000,000.00 to come from the SRMPA/Cambridge funds instead of the \$2,000,000.00 previously stated. Council Member Hilderbrand also stated for it to be used over 8 months at \$125,000.00 a month from December 2024 through July 2025. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Much discussion was made. Motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to have a structure demolished at 2079 Greer Street which was damaged by a fire. Fire Marshall Brandon Duckworth informed the council the appropriate steps were taken to have this structure demolished. Council Member DeMarcus Holmes made a motion to table this item for a week. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand suggested to Council Member Holmes to postpone this item instead or tabling the item. Council Member Holmes changed his motion to postpone the item. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Discussion was made regarding the property owner Dent Mays being sick. Motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to vote on a Texas Municipal League Region 16 Director. City Manager Greg Kelley stated he believes someone closer to Jasper would benefit the City of Jasper more. City Manager Kelley believes the Hemphill Director would be the better choice for the City of Jasper, being in East Texas. City Manager Kelley stated it was up to the council to vote on a director. Motion was made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to vote for Hemphill Mayor Stephen Crowell for the Texas Municipal League Region 16 Director. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Council Member Angel McCroskey to approve the 2024-2025 Budget. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Council Member Angel McCroskey to approve Ordinance No. 090924A setting electrical rates for 2024-2025. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Council Member Angel McCroskey clarified the electric rates were not being raised this year. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes to approve Ordinance No. 090924C applying allocated adjustments, contingency reserves, and providing for amended budgets for the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget and plan. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Three voting in favor being Council Members DeMarcus Holmes, Angel McCroskey, and Lequin Hilderbrand. One voting against the motion being Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion Passed.

Motion was made by Council Member Angel McCroskey to approve Ordinance No. 090924B setting and establishing the 2024-2025 fiscal year operating budget. Seconded by Council Member

DeMarcus Holmes. Three voting in favor being Council Members DeMarcus Holmes, Angel McCroskey, and Lequin Hilderbrand. One voting against the motion being Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion Passed.

The next item on the agenda was to appoint a City Charter Review Commission of five citizens from within the City of Jasper as provided by Article XI, General Provisions 11.12 Charter Review Commission. Motion was made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to postpone this item and item number 9 appointing a City Ordinance Review Commission of five or more citizens from within the City of Jasper as provided by Section 3.07(f) of Article III-The City Council. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Interim Chief Mike Poindexter explained the police department will be adopting the state model policy medical and psychological examinations instead of coming up with their own policy. Motion made by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes to approve Jasper Police Department Adoption of State Model Policy-Medical and Psychological Examinations. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Motion passed unanimously.

Interim Chief Poindexter explained the (MOU) Memorandum of Understanding would be to work together with Newton County, and the District Attorney for Newton already signed to approve this. The Jasper Police Department will benefit from this memorandum including any seizures carried out. Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Newton and Jasper. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Two voted for the motion being Council Members Lequin Hilderbrand and DeMarcus Holmes. Two voted against the motion, being Council Members Ronald Sample and Angel McCroskey. Interim Chief Poindexter explained if this is not approved, we will not be able to assist other agencies, and other agencies will not be able to assist Jasper Police Department. Interim Chief Poindexter explained in the most recent seizure about \$95,000.00 was recovered and Jasper Police Department will not receive any of the funds if this did not pass. The council decided to vote again. All voted in favor of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to approve Resolution No. 3014 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas, authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a multiple use agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) allowing the installing and operation of automated license plate recognition cameras in TxDOT right of ways. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Interim Chief Mike Poindexter and Detective Cody Christopher spoke concerning the cameras stating this is for a free 60-day trial. There will be no cost to the city unless after 60 days the city decides to keep the cameras. Council Member Angel McCroskey asked if the price after the free trial was included in the new budget. Interim Police Chief Poindexter stated it was not because he did not have an accurate price at the time. Interim Chief Poindexter stated JEDCO would be funding half of the cost. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand would like to see a generated report when available. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Ronald Sample to approve a special joint Jasper City Council/ Jasper Economic Development Corporation meeting to be held at City Hall scheduled by the City Secretary for the month of October 2024. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Council

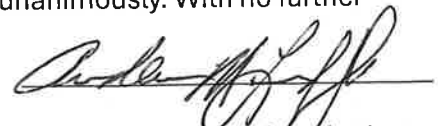
Member Lequin Hilderbrand asked what the goal of this meeting is. Council Member Angel McCroskey explained this would be great information wise for the community, and to show unity with the City of Jasper and JEDCO. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Ronald Sample to remove Mayor Anderson Land Jr. from the following: Jasper Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee, and Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency Board of Directors. Seconded by Council Member Angel McCroskey. Attorney Mike Ratcliff stated the mayor cannot be removed from Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, but the mayor can be removed from Jasper Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency Board of Directors. After much discussion, two voted in favor of removing Mayor Land from the boards, Council Members Ronald Sample and Angel McCroskey. Two voted against removing Mayor Land from the boards, being Council Members Lequin Hilderbrand and DeMarcus Holmes. Mayor Land broke the tie, and he voted no. Motion does not pass.

Motion made by Council Member Angel McCroskey to postpone the item to review and discuss the bylaws for Jasper Economic Development Type A Board. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Council Member Ronald Sample for a legal opinion by an outside attorney regarding Proposition A/Ordinance No. 5-10-22 that state the City of Jasper shall not charge more than ten percent above cost of any utility it provides to its customers. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand stated he believes this would be better suited under the forensic audit the council previously approved to move forward with. After discussion all voted against the motion. Motion does not pass.

Motion made by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand to approve Jasper Economic Development Corporation's 2024-2025 fiscal year operating budget. Seconded by Council Member DeMarcus Holmes. Jasper Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Eddie Hopkins spoke concerning the budget. Mr. Hopkins stated JEDCO used the worst month of sales tax revenue to come up with this budget. Mr. Hopkins stated JEDCO also reduced the budget by 5% since the City of Jasper did as well. Mr. Hopkins stated JEDCO receives leads from the governor's office to bring businesses to Jasper. After much discussion, the motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.



Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:



Liz Jarrell, City Secretary