

# Jasper County Economic, INC.

## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, August 6th, 2019 at 1:15 P.M.**

**Jasper County Government Building**

**Broad Room**

*The meeting was moved from the Chamber Building due to carpets being cleaned*

Attending: Ron Heltsley, Larry Brooks, Scott Bierman, Amber Volk, Jason Warfel, Mark Bolander, Louis Ochs, Andy Johnson, Jack Thompson, Brett Lessley,

1. Call to order, Chairman Scott Bierman.
2. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made by Andy Johnson, second Larry Brooks, motion passed.
3. Motion to approve \$1,500 for the upcoming Corvette Funrun coming to Newton on September 19<sup>th</sup> made by Ron Heltsley, second by Louis Ochs , motion passed.
4. Monthly Updates
  - a. Amber Volk, Executive Director
    - i. Scott Bierman and I currently working on LOIS (Location One).
      - 1 An online site which presents large parcels or buildings available for companies to purchase.
    - ii. Dollar General predicts to be completed in September 2019 and possibly be open in October 2019. The project is implementing the Enterprise Zone but I am still waiting on additional information so the contractors are able to obtain their tax exemption certificates.
      - 1 Although the project is in the Tif, it was not able to be used because of the start before paperwork and approval.
  - b. Mark Bolander, Mayor of Newton
    - i. One new house is 2/3 built in Five Aprils Crossing and another this fall.
    - ii. 40 banners were ordered for the new street lamps and they are now in. **(picture of banner provided)**
    - iii. The logo that will be painted on Washington will be prepped and painted on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The section will be blocked off but the road will still be open.
    - iv. The Queen of Hearts is now on 35 weeks and is bringing money into Jasper County.
      - 1 Jack Thompson : People from Indiana are buying tickets from the Gas Station in Sainte Marie and we had a total of \$10,000 in ticket sales. While people are there, they are buying gas, drinks, etc.



- c. Ron Heltsley, Jasper County Board Chairman
    - i. Cruise Night had a really nice turn out. It was bigger than last year.
    - ii. The jail project is still on going and the next meeting is August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Andy Johnson, Superintendent of Jasper County Unit #1.
    - i. School starts back up next week.
    - ii. This will be the first year with the from scratch food service OPAA Food Management Inc. All current food staff will stay until they retire then OPAA will do local hiring.
      - 1 We are hoping for more participation from students.
      - 2 Neoga, Dieterich, Robinson, and Hudsonville are using the food service.
      - 3 The food will be better and an estimated \$50,000 will be saved per year.
    - iii. There were 17 personnel hired for replacement positions.
    - iv. 18-20% of our students are special needs. We have two fulltime counselors.
    - v. We are looking for volunteers for our mentor program. For any questions contact Andy Johnson.
5. Comments from those attending the meeting.
6. Motion to close meeting made by Louis Ochs, second by Jack Thompson, and motion passed.



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