

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY  
AUGUST 26, 2015

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session at the Knox City Hall at 9:30 AM CST on Wednesday August 26, 2015 with the following members present: Mayor, Rick Chambers; Clerk-Treasurer, Jeff Houston; Boardmembers, Ed Blue and Jim Collins. City Attorney, Dave Matsey was absent.

RE: AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Ed Blue made a motion to add "Moving Starke County Forward" and "Bob Aloï from Territorial Engineering" to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Jim Collins and Passed with Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the Boardmembers prior to the meeting for their review. Jim Collins made a motion, seconded by Ed Blue to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed with Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: MOVING STARKE COUNTY FORWARD

Mary Bendt of Moving Starke County Forward passed out a final schedule and map of events for the upcoming Wood Starke event at the Wythogan Park. The main stage will go up Friday and come down Sunday. Extra police coverage will be needed also, the pipe and drum corps will march in at 10:00 AM Saturday so traffic will be blocked temporarily. She thanked the City for their support for the event to be held this Saturday August 29.

RE: BOB ALOI FROM TERRITORIAL ENGINEERING

Mayor Chambers stated that there is a lot on the South West corner of 250 East that is being developed by Traffic control Specialists. This will result in about 22 new jobs.

New water and sewer lines will need to be extended to the area. Mr. Aloï passed out preliminary plans of what could be needed and a rough estimate of the cost. It is estimated to come to about \$85,000.00 of which about 1/3 would be water portion. The sewer line would need a grinder/lift station. Different options were discussed including elimination of an additional hydrant. Since the expense would be paid for from Edit Funds the Mayor said he would bring the issue before the Council on September 8.

RE: SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Mayor Chambers noted that Water Superintendent, Todd Gardner and Sewer Department Superintendent Kelly Clemons were in Fort Wayne at a conference. Jeff Borg, MVH Superintendent was at a conference in Indianapolis.

Mayor Chambers said the Water Department is done moving 5 pits on East Street. A new 6 inch line will also run down East. Two new outside water pits were added. A hydrant that didn't work has been replaced on East and Lake Street. Water has been disconnected at 354 East Water in preparation for demolition. JP Callison had a 10 inch water tap replaced.

The Street Department reported that the new truck is in. A radio was installed along with side boards and instrument holders. Reith Riley is coming in on Monday August 31 to begin paving. The department has also been busy trimming trees.

Police Chief Clint Norem reported that officer Vanderheof has graduated. The building and equipment are good. One of the road officers has now been moved into the investigation division, primarily narcotics. There have recently been two major drug busts resulting in about 10 arrests. It was noted that there have been some issues with who is responsible to maintain the records management system. There is going to be a new IT person. There may need to be an agreement between the City and the County.

The Mayor said the Nipsco rental space at the City Annex is being vacated. The office will need to remain heated during the winter. The police department may want to use the space for Drug and Tobacco Free Starke County. A decision will be made at a later date.

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RE: WATER OPERATING FUND

Clerk-Treasurer Houston told the board that the water operating fund had fallen into the red by \$19,000.00. Payroll of about \$8,000.00 will come out yet this month and collections deposited of about \$28,800.00 leaving a balance of only \$1,100.00. He noted that sewer operation is also running very tight. Clerk-Treasurer Houston told the board that either more revenue needs to come in or less money spent or some combination of that. He notified the council at the last meeting to prepare for a presentation of the rate study on the utilities from John Julian of Umbaugh.

RE: BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT

Local Citizen Steve Dodge asked the Mayor to give an update on the Blight Elimination Grant. Mayor Chambers said he is meeting with a lady to make an offer of sale on two houses in Parkview. Demolition specifications have been presented recently and the process is moving slowly. Inspectors also need to be scheduled. Three of the properties are already the City's and six more need to be purchased. The Council will have to OK additional up front money also

There being no further business to come before the board at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Chambers, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Jeffery J. Houston, Clerk-Treasurer