

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
August 28, 2024

The Board of Public Works and Safety met for a regular session at City Hall on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. CST with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder, and Board Member Steve Dodge, Jim Collins and City Attorney Justin Schramm.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING 7/24/24

Minutes of the previous regular meeting were mailed to the Board Members prior to the meeting for their review. Steve Dodge made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Estok asked for a motion to approve the hiring of Joe West as a new Patrol Officer. A motion was made by Steve Dodge to approve hiring Joe West. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: SUPERINTENDENTS REPORTS

Sewer Superintendent Jason Clemons informed the Board that Culy Construction stopped a major water leak in a manhole in the Knox Chevy parking lot. Superintendent Clemons had HP Thompson work on some problems with the UV System, also working with Trojan Tech to get warranty replacement bulbs. The new sewer hookup at 1247 S Roosevelt Road was inspected and found the owner hit a force main so it was repaired. Keith and Justin installed a new pump base for #2. New guide rails and brackets were installed at Pacific Lift Station. A new sensor was installed in the north aeration tank and a new water heater in the lab. A 20-yard dumpster was rented from Republic for cleaning reed beds and lift stations. Superintendent Clemons asked the Board for their approval to spend \$25,000.00 to have more manholes relined. Jim Collins made a motion approving the \$25,000.00 for manhole relining. The motion was seconded by Steve Dodge and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays. Superintendent Clemons also asked the board for their approval to purchase and finance a new Vac/Jet Truck. The Indiana Bond Bank will be helping finance this purchase plus a down payment from the ARP Fund. Mayor Estok made a motion to approve the purchase, down payment and finance of a Vac/Jet Truck for the Sewer Department. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

Water Superintendent Tim Lindewald informed the Board that the Water Department has been working on the Short Drive expansion by installed 300' of 8" Main, 3 valves, fire hydrant and 3 taps. Repaired a service line at 407 Henry Drive that was hit by Brightspeed. The guys moved and weedeated at the plant and both towers. They have also completed locates, work orders, change 18 meters and painted more fire hydrants.

Street Superintendent Jeff Borg informed the Board that the Street Department's compost facility is up for renewal, he has completed all paperwork, turned it in and is waiting for an approval. The street crew has been doing cold crack sealing and roadside mowing.

Also, some trash, wiring, and old equipment was left in the front yard of the William Street Garden Court Apartments by Arbor Metrics. They are part of NIPSCO, after several phone calls and transfers, NIPSCO will come and clean it all up.

Chief of Police Chad Dulin informed the Board that in the last month they have done 566 calls, 146 traffic stops, 41 business checks, 11 domestics, 11 vehicle accidents and 2 hit and runs. The department has had 3 vehicles in the shop for repairs totaling \$1,234.16 and they purchased a replacement window A/C unit for \$350.00.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – 401 E LAKE – ORDER TO VACATE

Mayor Estok opened the Public Hearing. There were no property owners in attendance. Building and Code Compliance Director Lonnie Boley informed the Board that an Order to Vacate was issued on July 29, 2024. On August 6 the Judge granted an inspection warrant for the property. Director Boley took 122 pictures and noted several additional violations. The Property has no utilities and NIPSCO was informed to remove the meter due to several fire hazards. Director Boley asked for approval to have the Order to Vacate moved forward to Starke County Court. Steve Dodge made a motion to move forward with filing a suit with the property owners. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED – 202 FISHER- ORDER TO DEMOLISH

Mayor Estok opened the Public Hearing. There were no parties of interest in attendance. The property owner is deceased and there has not been any estate or trust arranged. Director Boley informed the Board that the Order to Demolish was issued June 24, 2024. Nothing has been done to the property and there has been no contact. Per Director Boley the next step is a special assessment of \$2,500.00. City Attorney Schramm informed the Board that a civil action can be taken against the estate of the deceased owner to move forward with the process of the Order to Demolish. Steve Dodge made a motion to impose the civil penalty of \$2,500.00 against the estate of the owner and proceed with a lawsuit against the estate. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

RE: 553 E LAKE – REVIEW

Director Boley gave a history of the property. Currently the foundation is completed and siding about 10% finished. Owner John Brooke's plan is to finish the siding and the rest of the exterior. The Board is fine with the progress and just wants the exterior to be completed, then the interior can be completed at his own pace.

RE: APPROVAL OF POLICE DEPARTMENT SOP#25 – UNIFORM STATEWIDE DEFENCE TACTICS TRAINING PROGRAM

Steve Dodge made a motion approving SOP#25. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: APPROVAL OF POLICE DEPARTMENT SOP#26 – STATEWIDE USE OF DEADLY FORCE POLICY

Steve Dodge made a motion approving SOP#26. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM WELL FIELD EXPANSION –
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

By statute we must declare the new well as an Emergency, to move forward quickly and go with the Peerless proposal. Mayor Estok made a motion to declare the new well as an emergency need for the city and to accept the proposal bid from Peerless. The motion was seconded by Jim Collins and passed by a vote of Three (3) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: PIT STOP – CARL AND TIFFANY BALASZEK

Mrs. Balaszek, on behalf of the Pit Stop, addressed the Board regarding their concerns about towing and their desire to be added to the towing rotation. Mayor Estok let Mrs. Balaszek know that the Board will take all her concerns into consideration and have the City Attorney review them and the towing contract.

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

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer