



BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Thursday, October 2, 2025

4:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Jim Reynolds, Mayor Scott Long, Attorney Doug Lehman; Todd Titus was absent

Also Present: Deputy Jenna Drook for Clerk-Treasurer Melanie Givens Penn, Mayor's Assistant Shelley Hipskind

Department Heads Present: Police Chief Jason Mooney, Fire Chief Andy Oswalt, Silas Zartman for Building Commissioner Jeff Knee, Street Superintendent Scott Richardson, Park Superintendent Adam Hall, Wastewater Superintendent Bob Gray.

MINUTES

Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2025 meeting. Mayor Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CITY CLAIMS & SEWAGE CLAIMS

Mayor Long motioned to approve the City claims and Sewage claims. Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Unsafe Building Update:

1. 626 Columbus – Code Enforcement Officer Silas Zartman reported that three bids were received for demolition of the property. All meet the requirements of the request. The bid from Earthworks was the lowest bid presented. Reynolds made a motion to accept the \$15,500 Earthworks bid; Mayor Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Event Application – Downtown Costume Contest. Steve Downs was present to answer questions. Reynolds made a motion to approve the application; Mayor Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Public Schools Donation Fund Agreement – This agreement is for the Community Foundation of Wabash County to administer a charitable fund for public safety in schools, very similar to the one recently approved for the City Fire Department. SRO Sam Hipskind was present to answer questions. One sentence stating that the Community Foundation has the final authority to approve or deny funding will need to be changed. Attorney Lehman stated that the Board could approve the agreement with that change. Made a motion to approve the agreement with the stated change made and authorize the mayor and the SRO

to sign it. Mayor Long made such a motion; Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Dennis Gouvan of Gladstone Drive stated that his sewage bill was unfair because of the months covered with the sprinkling reduction in rate. He has been watering his lawn and gets “exorbitant” sewage bills, which are difficult for him to pay. The reduced rate months had been extended from three months to five months, with September being the last month. Mr. Gouvan would like to see some sort of relief or extension from the charge. Mayor Long explained that the sewage bills lag the water bills by two months and stated that he will have a discussion with the department involved and see about some sort of resolution. He will call Mr. Gouvan and let him know the outcome of this discussion.

Mr. Gouvan also stated his issue with the parent pick up and drop off of students at Neighbours Elementary, which he finds very inconvenient. SRO Hipkind reported that they have timed the traffic issues and they last ten minutes at the most. The school and Resource Officers are looking into other solutions.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

There were no reports from department heads.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Works meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Wabash Board of Works meeting.

A video recording of this meeting can be found for at least 90 days following the meeting date at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVpkIy8puI0>

Mayor Scott A. Long	Member
---------------------	--------

Todd Titus	Member
------------	--------

Jim Reynolds	Member
--------------	--------