



BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Thursday, December 5, 2024

4:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Jim Reynolds, Todd Titus **Absent:** Mayor Scott Long
Also Present: City Attorney Doug Lehman, Clerk-Treasurer Melanie Givens Penn, Mayor's Assistant Shelley Hipkind

Department Heads Present: Police Chief Jason Mooney, Park Superintendent Adam Hall, Wastewater Superintendent Bob Gray; **Also Present:** Assistant Fire Chief Scott Kirtlan, Street Foreman Justin Adams

MINUTES

Jim Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024 meeting. Todd Titus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CITY CLAIMS & SEWAGE CLAIMS

Titus motioned to approve the City Claims and Sewage Claims. Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Wastewater write-offs

Rachel Smithberger of the City Sewage Billing Department requested approval to write off five Sewage claims totaling \$1,002.76. Reynolds motioned to approve all five write-offs. Titus seconded. Motion carried.

2. Agreement between City of Wabash, Indiana and Wabash County Animal Shelter, Inc.

Doug Lehman explained that he prepared the agreement following input by the Animal Shelter Board. The approved City budget includes the money discussed in the contract. The current Shelter Board has agreed to do better than the previous board in terms of meeting the needs of the City. The changes they had requested to the originally-presented agreement primarily regarded the timing of open hours and the scheduled payments. Mike and Keeley Abbott asked about the details of the agreement concerning the increased budget and the gains for the City based on the

increase, as well as a breakdown of the concerns of the City and how they were addressed. Mr. Lehman explained that the benefits will be to provide animal control, rescue and anti-cruelty services, and provide competent call response and pick-up services within the City boundaries rather than the number of spays and neuters as the current agreement covers. The contract also discusses wild animal calls and other items that will be handled. The Abbotts also asked about the lack of space at the current shelter. Mr. Lehman replied that the Shelter has stated that they have been underfunded as other sources have cut funding to the shelter; however it would be the Shelter's responsibility to find more space if needed. Titus also stated that this is only a one-year contract and results can be monitored to see if the agreement should be continued after 2025. Mr. Abbott stated his disappointment that metrics weren't in place prior to the \$100,000 funding to measure those results. Reynolds motioned to approve the Agreement between the City and the Wabash County Animal Shelter. Titus seconded. Motion carried.

3. Lease Agreement with Paperworks

This lease agreement is for two acres adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant and is for the purpose of installing a solar field to reduce or eliminate the dependence of the treatment plant on Duke Energy for their electricity. A survey and legal description still need to be provided, as the specific acres involved have not been chosen, although the price and acreage amount are firm. The lease expires in 2049. Reynolds motioned to approve the lease agreement with Paperworks with the understanding that the mayor will approve added content and language. Titus seconded. Motion carried.

The following item was added to the Board of Works Agenda after publication:

4. Purchase Agreement with the Geneva Jennings Estate

This purchase agreement is for the property west of the northside fire station for the purpose of a possible location for a future fire station. The property is being offered at less than the average of two appraisals and there is money in the fire department budget meant for this purpose. Titus motioned to approve the agreement. Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Kirtlan expressed the department's appreciation of the support of the community following the house fire this week.

