

City of West Lafayette, Indiana
Board of Public Works and Safety
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2011
8:30 a.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

Members present were Sana G. Booker, Bradley W. Marley, Jonathan C. Speaker, and Mayor John R. Dennis, who presided. Member Elizabeth M. Stull was absent.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. January 31, 2011, Meeting

Ms. Booker moved to accept the minutes of the January 31, 2011, Board of Works meeting. Mr. Speaker seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Proclamation of Ronald Reagan Day in Celebration of His 100th Birthday – Mayor Dennis

Mayor Dennis read a proclamation from Governor Daniels, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Ronald Reagan.

b. Request for Wal-Mart Maintenance Bond Release – Engineering

City Engineer Buck requested Board approval for the release of the maintenance bond from Wal-Mart, which was needed when Wal-Mart expanded their facility to include the grocery. Some of the City's wastewater facilities, including a lift station and force main, had to be relocated. Wal-Mart reimbursed the City for some of the work that had to be done as a result.

Mr. Speaker moved that the request be approved. Mr. Marley seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

c. New Hire: Jeff Ray – Code Enforcement Officer – Police

Police Chief Dombkowski requested that recently-retired Detective Jeff Ray be hired as a Code Enforcement Officer. He replaces Curt Cunningham who retired in 2010. Mr. Ray's first day would be February 22, fulfilling the pension law requirement of a 30-day separation. His biweekly rate would be \$1,677.88.

Mr. Speaker moved that the request be approved. Ms. Booker seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

d. Fire Protection Contracts: Chemtura and River Bend Hospital – Fire

Fire Chief Drew presented the annual fire protection contracts with Chemtura and with River Bend Hospital for Board approval. River Bend Hospital was formerly known as Wabash Valley Hospital. The Chemtura contract includes provision for the company to supply 100 gallons of foam and reimburse the City if more than 100 gallons of foam would be needed. The amounts reflect a 2% increase over 2010 in each contract.

Mr. Marley moved that the request be approved. Mr. Speaker seconded the motion.

Mayor Dennis asked if City Attorney Burns had reviewed the contracts. Mr. Burns acknowledged that he had reviewed them, and they are fine.

The motion was adopted.

e. Claims

- i. AP Docket \$302,960.70
- ii. AP Docket 12,161.14
- iii. PR Docket 105,757.04

Mr. Speaker moved that the claims be approved. Mr. Marley seconded the motion.

Questions raised about individual claims by the Board were answered by department heads and Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes.

The motion was adopted.

f. Informational Items

i. WWTU Project Payment Listing

There were no comments or questions on the listing.

g. Other Items

i. Street Superintendent Downey reported that, by the end of this week, he would have purchased 80% of the salt supply. Of the 80%, they have about 10% on hand. The City can purchase an additional 400 tons to get to 100% of the contract, which is 1800 tons, if approximately \$25,000 is transferred. Only \$96,000, or 80% of the contract was budgeted. Mr. Downey reported that the supply of calcium chloride is at about 1200 gallons, which costs \$0.25 per gallon. While the usual cost of calcium chloride is \$0.85 per gallon, Mr. Downey has been buying it from Ice Cream Specialties Company on Concord Road in Lafayette. The calcium chloride is recycled and has a little dye in it, but it does not affect the use on streets.

ii. Police Chief Dombkowski thanked the citizens who have cleared their sidewalks. Last week the Code Enforcement Officers issued about 200 door hangers, reminding people of the City ordinance regarding sidewalk clearing after snows. He reported that he had driven the City today and noted that most walks had been cleared. Code Enforcement will be targeting the problem areas today, offering resources to those who are unable to clear their walks. The goal is not to issue tickets, but to enforce compliance, especially near schools and the University. He said he hopes that there is no more snow in the next few days.

Mayor Dennis said that the snowstorm last week has been one of historic proportions. Street Superintendent Downey has acknowledged that the recent snows have been a challenge, compared to snows in the past. In neighborhoods all over the City, it is incredible, the Mayor said, to see how the community has come together, neighbors helping neighbors clear sidewalks and drives. One of the things that makes West Lafayette such a great community is the cooperation. He said that he is very proud of the City. He expressed hope that the worst snows are over for the season. The weather will turn very cold this week, which will make snow removal even more challenging. The Neighborhood Resource Team (NRT) is encouraging compliance

with sidewalk clearing regulation by knocking on doors and reminding people of their obligations, as well as applying resources to the problem. NRT Supervisor Rick Walker and his team have done an amazing job of making certain the job is done. Thank you to them and to the citizens who take care of themselves and their neighbors.

iii. Mayor Dennis asked Street Superintendent Downey to come to the podium, where the Mayor thanked Mr. Downey and his staff for being so conscientious in the way they plow the snow. They do not remove snow, they move snow. With the volume of snow and ice, it is difficult to move it where it will not inhibit the flow of something else. The plow drivers are patient and dedicated, and second to none.

Mr. Downey reported that the 9-inch snow on Wednesday created a busy time, and Thursday and Friday were spent clearing parking spaces in the south end of the City. Saturday, Sunday, and today will focus on clearing parking spaces. Thus far this season, there are about 800 hours of snow plowing and 350 hours of overtime. Mayor Dennis asked how many people were involved in plowing. Mr. Downey replied that there are six Street Department employees and two Wastewater employees who are usually assigned to take care of sewers.

City Engineer Buck asked what the number of snowfalls is so far this season. Mr. Downey answered that there had been 12 of one inch or more. There have been 28 snows.

iv. Fire Chief Drew said that the discussion of citizen cooperation reminded him of the storms last summer, when people helped each other deal with downed trees. Many communities do not show that level of commitment.

v. Mayor Dennis thanked Parks Superintendent Payne and his staff, who have done a good job of keeping the parks and parking lots clear, as well as keeping the trails open.

vi. Councilor Hunt announced that the Council would meet at 6:30 p.m., which includes the State of the City address and volunteer recognition.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Marley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mayor Dennis adjourned the meeting.