

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

April 10, 2012
8:30 a.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

Members present were Sana G. Booker, Bradley W. Marley, Jonathan C. Speaker, and Elizabeth Stull. Mayor Dennis presided.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. April 10, 2012, Meeting

Ms. Stull moved to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2012, Board of Works meeting. Mr. Speaker seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Quote Opening: Street Paint – Street

Street Commissioner Downey explained that the quotes were for the annual quantity of white and yellow traffic paint needed to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

Company	Paint (5 gallon buckets)	Amount Per Gallon	Total Amount
J D Kem's	600 gallons white	\$8.840	\$5,304.00
	1400 gallons yellow	\$8.870	\$12,418.00
Ennis Traffic Safety Solutions	600 gallons white	\$10.605	\$6,363.00
	1400 gallons yellow	\$10.567	\$14,793.80
Sherwin Williams	600 gallons white	\$9.750	\$5,850.00
	1400 gallons yellow	\$9.950	\$13,930.00

Mayor Dennis asked if quotes were timely and sealed. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes confirmed they were.

Mr. Marley moved that the quotes be taken under advisement. Ms. Stull seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

b. 2012 Take Home Vehicle List – Clerk-Treasurer

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes explained that the City Code requires that the Take Home Vehicle List be approved annually. The timing of approval for the list depends upon when the department with the biggest number of vehicles, the Police Department, has finished their annual fleet rotation of vehicles. This year there is one less vehicle on the

list as there is a current vacancy in the West Lafayette Fire Department, and the Police Department has added one vehicle to the list for Captain Marvin.

Mr. Speaker moved that the Take-Home Vehicle List be approved. Mr. Marley seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

c. Approval of New Hire: Lisa Sinha, School Crossing Guard – Police

Police Chief Dombkowski requested approval of Lisa Sinha, as School Crossing Guard, effective April 10, 2012, at a pay rate of \$31.45 /day. Chief Dombkowski explained that there had been a mid-year change in crossing guards near the intersection of Cumberland Avenue and Barlow Street. This is a newer position created by the re-aligning of school zones. Through federal dollars and grants there were some additional crossings added. Dottie Rousch has served at that location since they first instituted a crossing guard at Barlow Street, and she left the position for other employment. Lisa Sinha is a local resident with children in the West Lafayette Community School Corporation and is a good fit for the position.

Mr. Marley moved that the new hire be approved. Ms. Booker seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

d. Street Closing: Cumberland Ave. (Salisbury to Soldiers Home Road) - Police

Sergeant Jason Philhower requested approval of the closing of Cumberland Avenue from Salisbury Street to Soldiers Home Road on May 11, 2012, with rain date of May 18, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This closing is for the annual Taulman Mile Run, which Cumberland Elementary students, faculty, and families participate in.

Mayor Dennis inquired as to whether Mr. Marley or Attorney Burns still had children running in the race. He replied he did not. Mr. Speaker said his son will be running in the race.

Mayor Dennis observed that Mr. Taulman, for whom the race is named, was his P.E. teacher when he was in elementary school.

Ms. Stull moved that the street closing be approved. Mr. Speaker seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

e. Request: Sand Volleyball Court – Alpha Kappa Lambda Fraternity

Sergeant Jason Philhower requested approval of the sand volleyball court at 417 Waldron Street, from Monday, April 16th through Monday, April 23rd, to be removed by 10:00 a.m. This is an annual event created by Alpha Kappa Lambda Fraternity during the Grand Prix Week festivities at Purdue University. The fraternity has 50 tons of sand brought in to create a sand volleyball court in their parking lot. The fraternity will set up a surety bond with the Clerk-Treasurer's office by Friday. They have also been in touch with the City Engineer to make sure suitable measures have been taken to ensure compliance with issues such as water run-off. The fraternity has been compliant in the past.

Mr. Speaker asked how the sand would be cleaned up after the event. A representative from the fraternity, Gus Pasquale, responded that in former years they have donated the sand to the Co-Rec at Purdue University, but because that facility is undergoing major renovations, they do not want the sand. Last year they had Jerry Beck and his moving company come and pick it up, and will do the same this year.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes confirmed that the amount of the surety bond would be \$500 and must be money order or cashier's check. It will be returned to the fraternity after confirmation of compliance from the Police Department after the event has ended.

Mr. Marley moved that the sand volleyball court be approved. Ms. Stull seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

f. Evaluation of Bids: Aeration Tank Addition – WWTU

Mayor Dennis expressed his thanks to Wessler Engineering associates for giving the City some immediate guidance on the project, and for Thieneman Corporation for its letter. He explained that the City had some concerns originally, and Thieneman Corporation addressed those concerns. Mayor Dennis said he felt comfortable accepting Thieneman Corporation as the lower bidder after assurances from them as to how the situations of concern can be rectified. He also confirmed that all projects for the City are under the guidance of the various department heads, sometimes Wessler and Associates, and are always tempered with the goal of not just spending money but spending it wisely.

Wastewater Utility Director Henderson requested that the Board approved the Notice to Award to Thieneman Construction in the amount of \$1,257,000 for the Aeration Tank Addition project.

Mayor Dennis asked Director Henderson to confirm Thieneman Construction as the low bidder. He confirmed them as low bidder.

Ms. Booker complimented Mr. Thieneman on a well written letter, which addressed all the concerns regarding their company's past performance on other projects. She asked Mr. Thieneman if he was aware of Wessler's concerns prior to the Board and City being made aware of them.

Mr. Thieneman confirmed that there was an ongoing project in Frankfort, for which there have been many meetings with Wessler Engineering. He stated that there was no lack of understanding on Thieneman Construction's part that there were issues that needed to be addressed in regard to that project. However, he was not made aware of concerns passed on by Wessler Engineering to the Board of Works members until the previous day at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Thieneman further observed that the Aeration Project for the City of West Lafayette is a fairly standard project. On a scale of one to ten he would rank it at a one and a half. He relayed that his company has installed more aeration than any other company in the State of Indiana in the last three years. He went on to explain that of the four projects his company was involved in which had issues, three of the four involved a manager who is no longer with Thieneman Construction. He has made changes which involve meeting with owners, his foremen and superintendent, and engineers on a monthly basis. When the same concerns were brought up to the City of Tipton, for the

Tipton Water Plant, Mr. Thieneman made a commitment to that Board that the job will be accommodated appropriately, and he believes it was.

Ms. Booker said she believed that anything with your name on it deserves the opportunity of a voice. She wanted to give him that opportunity to speak and said she had a very long memory and will remember everything he said.

Ms. Stull moved that the bid be approved. Ms. Booker seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

g. Acceptance of Bid and Contract: 2012 Street Resurfacing - Engineering

Public Works Director Buck requested that the Board approve the low bid and the contract for this project with Rieth-Reily Construction for \$636,408.00. There were no irregularities found with either bid. Director Buck clarified that the project is partially being funded from the Levee/Village TIF District and the information will be presented at next week's Redevelopment Commission meeting.

Mr. Marley moved that the bid and contract be approved. Ms. Stull seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

h. Acceptance of Quote: Northwestern Gateway Landscaping Project - Engineering

Public Works Director Buck reported that one quote was received for this project from GardenArt in the amount of \$52,384.00, and requested approval of the quote and contract. There were no irregularities found in the quote.

Mr. Speaker moved that the quote be approved. Ms. Stull seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

i. Acceptance of Quote: KCB Water Quality, Phase 2 - Engineering

Public Works Director Buck requested approval of the low quote and contract from Roudebush Grading, Inc of \$49,167.25 for KCB Water Quality, Phase 2, Pond Plantings. Three quotes were received and no irregularities were found in the low quote. Both of the projects are on a very quick timeline and need to be installed and completed in May.

Ms. Booker moved that the quote be approved. Ms. Stull seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

j. Claims

i.	AP Docket	\$85,244.21
ii.	AP Docket	\$101,861.40
iii.	AP Docket	\$33.00
v.	PR Docket	\$353,643.31

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

Ms. Stull moved that the claims be approved. Mr. Marley seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

k. Informational Items

ii. Legal Budget & Expense – Clerk-Treasurer

There were no comments.

l. Other Items

i. Mayor Dennis said he and several other staff members had been receiving a lot of phone calls regarding low water levels at the Celery Bog. There is concern over whether the bridge and drainage projects had negatively affected the Bog water levels. Mayor Dennis invited Parks Superintendent Payne to address the water level issues and noted that TV 18 had been very quick to respond to inquiries regarding how weather conditions impact water levels and pass the data on to the City of West Lafayette.

Superintendent Payne explained that there has not been a day since January 17th, 2012 in which we received one inch of rainfall. There have been only three rainfall events adding up to ½ inch of rainfall since January 17th. The heaviest rainfall in February was less than ⅓ inch and the heaviest in March was just over ½ inch of rainfall. January rainfall was above normal, although there was little snow. February and March rainfall was far below normal. In addition, there were 40 mph wind gusts on 42% of the days since January 1st. March average temperature was 57 degrees, officially the warmest on record. Normal average temperature for April is 49.7 degrees, well below March temperatures this year. We had the longest stretch of 70 and 80 degree days on record in March. Between the lack of rainfall, high temperatures and the wind it is easy to see that water evaporation has been responsible for the low water levels in the Celery Bog and the Wabash River. The Celery Bog is both a detention and retention area, but nothing is flowing out, because it is all evaporating.

ii. Police Chief Dombkowski reported that the West Lafayette Police Department is in full preparation for Grand Prix week at Purdue University in May.

Ms. Booker thanked the Chief for her wonderful experience doing a “Ride Along” with Officer Nathaniel E. Biddle. Ms. Booker also said she had a chance to visit the West Lafayette Fire Department and was treated very well there as well.

iii. Wastewater Utility Director Henderson reminded everyone that on Friday, April 12, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wabash River Enhancement Corporation will be holding their annual sampling blitz. He invited everyone to participate and volunteer. He reported that two teams from West Lafayette Wastewater Utility will be joining in the efforts to gather water samples.

iv. Director of Development Poole reported that on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. ground-breaking ceremonies will take place for the new Farmers and Merchants Bank at Wabash Commons.

Director Poole also reminded everyone of the Boilermaker Half Marathon on October 20, 2012. Mayor Dennis and Mr. Marley both said they plan to participate in the event.

v. Public Works Director Buck made a special request for the Board to approve the hiring of Kristi Smith at a bi-weekly pay of \$1,461.54, effective April 11, 2012, for the position of Administrative Assistant in the Engineering Department. She replaces his former Administrative Assistant, Michelle DeBord. While the item was not on the agenda, he asked the Board to consider acting in advance of the planned start date with a memorandum to follow later in the day.

Ms. Booker moved that the hire of Kristi Smith for the position of Administrative Assistant be approved as of April 4, 2012 at the salary of \$1,461.54 bi-weekly. Ms. Stull seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

Director Buck reminded everyone of the construction projects taking place all over town, and reported he will be preparing a construction map of City, INDOT and WWTU projects. He asked everyone to exercise caution in those areas.

Mayor Dennis asked Director Buck to address community concerns regarding trees that were eradicated in the construction project on Cumberland Avenue. Some people were concerned that they were removed due to disease or removed unnecessarily. Director Buck responded that they are doing a very similar project in scope to what was completed in Phase I. He reminded everyone that Duke Energy owns and maintains a transmission line that requires a 100 foot easement. Duke Energy is very particular about what trees and landscaping are allowed underneath and on the sides of those power lines. In addition, the redesign of the project involves installation of two roundabouts, having a two-way street on each end of the project, and the median will change shape. The median will involve a water quality feature that filters the storm water, has a rain garden within it, and is a point of collection for rain water not only from Cumberland Avenue but from some outlying areas including private property. This will allow the water to be cleaned before it is sent to the new pond that was constructed in Phase I. There will be new trees planted that meet Duke's requirements. There will be a lot more trees than there were before the project started. Some of the trees that were removed were old and damaged.

Parks Superintendent Payne pointed out that some of the dogwoods and other trees are being salvaged and relocated to parks.

vi. Mayor Dennis commended Fire Chief Heath on the wonderful job he and his firefighters did the night before at the Copper Beach Apartment Complex fire. Fire Chief Heath further explained that the West Lafayette Fire Department got a call to assist Wabash Township firefighters at 4:30 p.m. He reported that firefighters from both departments did an amazing job in putting out the fire. West Lafayette firefighters provided most of the support from the air with the aerial truck. He noted that West Lafayette firefighters were an aggressive, well-trained fire department and served well the previous night.

Chief Heath made note of a safety tip for everyone to be cautious putting down mulch near homes due to the danger of fire, due to the extremely dry weather.

Chief Heath reported that the department had received notice earlier in the week that Firehouse Subs in Lafayette had given them a grant for \$19,407.00 to buy a new

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Polaris 800 Ranger 4-Wheeler. The department will use this vehicle to put out mulch fires. It has a fire-suppression unit in the back end and a cab which holds 4 passengers. It will allow the department to get to mulch and small brush fires in the trail areas and also do medical relief on the trails. Mayor Dennis also noted that mile markers will be installed on the trails so that it will be easier to report, locate and assist in medical emergencies.

Chief Heath also reported that they have interviewed for the Deputy Fire Chief/ Inspector and Investigator position and will be bringing a new hire before the Board for approval next week.

vii. Police Chief Dombkowski reported that there will be a D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony tonight at Happy Hollow School at 7:00 p.m. He noted it was always a big event and the kids are always excited about the ceremony. He invited the public and media to attend. Mayor Dennis said he would be there.

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.