

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

OCTOBER 9, 2012
8:30 a.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. October 2, 2012, Meeting

Ms. Stull moved to accept the minutes of the October 2, 2012, Board of Works meeting. Mr. Marley seconded the motion.

Ms Booker noted that she was incorrectly listed as being present when she was absent.

Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes said that the correction would be made.

The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was adopted.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Proclamation: Fire Prevention and Firefighters Appreciation Week – Mayor
Fire Chief Heath began reading the proclamation for Fire Prevention and Firefighters Appreciation Week, with Mayor Dennis finishing the final two paragraphs, as follows:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the city of West Lafayette is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our city; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed more than 2,600 people in the United States in 2010, according to the latest research from the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to more than 369,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan, and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, less than half have actually practiced it, and

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WHEREAS, one-third of Americans households who made one and estimate they thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less, and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, West Lafayette's first responders and firefighters and other officials are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, West Lafayette's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Fire Prevention and Firefighters Appreciation Week theme, "Have Two Ways Out!" effectively serves to remind us to develop and practice a home fire escape plans during Fire Prevention and Firefighters Appreciation Week and year-round.

THEREFORE, I, John Dennis, Mayor of the city of West Lafayette, do hereby proclaim October 7-13, 2012, as **Fire Prevention and Firefighters Appreciation Week** throughout this city, and I urge all the people of our community to practice their home fire escape and respect the work done by all Public Safety professionals during Fire Prevention and Fire Fighters Appreciation Week 2012, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of fire and emergency services.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the great seal of the City of West Lafayette, this 9th day of October 2012.

Fire Chief Heath, in response to an inquiry from Mayor Dennis about planned events, said that tomorrow the Department will be dedicating their new Rough Terrain Vehicle (RTV), which was bought with a grant from Firehouse Subs. People from the restaurant's corporate office will be in attendance and there will be fire prevention events at Fire Station No. 1 at 3:30 p.m. Fire Chief Heath also announced that there are smoke detectors available in the Mayor's office for those who need one

Mayor Dennis noted that there are still breast cancer awareness events for the month of October. He commented that he saw Lieutenant Neal wearing a pink shirt this morning.

b. New Hire: Probationary Patrol Dispatcher – Nathaniel J. Foster - Police

Police Chief Dombkowski requested approval for the hire of Nathaniel J. Foster as a Probationary Patrol Dispatcher effective October 10, 2012, with a bi-weekly salary of \$1,280.49. He stated that this fills one of two open dispatcher positions.

Mr. Marley moved that the new hire of Probationary Patrol Dispatcher Foster be approved. Mr. Speaker seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

c. Street Closing: North Chauncey Avenue – Police

Sergeant Philhower requested approval for the closure of North Chauncey Avenue between Stadium Avenue and Smiley Street, on October 13 between 3:00 p.m. and

10:00 p.m. This closure is for a neighborhood block party. In response to an inquiry from Mayor Dennis, Sergeant Philhower stated that the Police and Fire Departments do not have any exceptions other than the fact that there will be outbound football traffic that afternoon, which may be a problem if there is an unforeseen emergency situation which may require that the street be opened back up. The New Chauncey Neighbors organization is aware of this stipulation.

Mr. Speaker moved that the request to close North Chauncey Avenue at the aforementioned date be approved. Mr. Marley seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

d. Claims

i.	AP Docket	\$172,607.51
ii.	AP Docket	\$159,575.37
iii.	AP Docket	\$875.00
iv.	PR Docket	\$176.00
v.	PR Docket	\$330,806.77

Questions raised about individual claims by the Board were answered by department heads and Mayor Dennis.

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

The motion was adopted.

e. Informational Items

- i. Project Payment List – WWTU
There were no questions or comments about the listing.
- ii. Legal Budget and Expense – Clerk Treasurer
There were no questions or comments about the listing.

f. Other Items

► Parks Superintendent Payne announced that there will be a landscaping project beginning October 15 at the corner of State Roads 43 and 443, with the work to be done by an Indiana American Water contractor. The work will be along the wall built by the trail, so the trail will be posted during the day to try to keep people from getting there. The work will involve a stone shooter machine on the trail. In response to an inquiry from Mayor Dennis, Parks Superintendent Payne explained that a stone shooter is a machine that puts creek stone on top of the wall instead of being done shovel-by-shovel.

► Police Chief Dombkowski reported that there was a football game this past weekend, which had few problems, with arrests only in the single digits. He noted that a lot of students were gone for fall break, but the game was still well-attended. He also stated that the smaller attendance at the Breakfast Club allowed people to ask and learn some things that they do not generally get to learn when Breakfast Club is completely packed. Police Chief Dombkowski announced that this weekend is Homecoming weekend, and there will be a Homecoming parade that will cause some street closures on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. The closures will be on State Street between Salisbury and Chauncey Avenue, and Northwestern at Columbia, as the

Purdue Homecoming parade moves through the Village for the second year. He also noted that the Department will also be at the big football game on the north end with Lafayette Central Catholic.

► Police Chief Heath reiterated that that Firehouse Subs will be in town to dedicate the Department's new RTV.

► Debbie Kervin, Administrative Assistant to Director of Development Poole, reported that Director of Development Poole and Housing Program Coordinator Dixon are in Iowa City for a meeting regarding a rental program. She also reported that Marketing and Grants Administrator Shaw is busy setting up the dedication for the Chauncey Walkway art, the *Delight of Accomplishment*, to be dedicated today at 10:30 a.m.

► Public Works Director Buck thanked all of the emergency service people and the people from Frontier Communications, as well as everyone for their patience regarding the cables that were severed in a construction accident causing loss of Internet and phone services. He stated that accidents unfortunately do happen and we are looking into the cause as to why this would happen, but he knows that it was on the plans and it was called for locate. He stated that the City is working with Frontier Communications to give them every opportunity to get the lines repaired and get them back in service. He noted that it is being erroneously reported that this happened as part of the roundabout project, but actually happened approximately 800 feet away from the roundabout. Public Works Director Buck stated that construction is continuing on other parts of Cumberland Avenue and at the roundabout. He stated that there a lot of other utilities in the area, and that the public may or may not be aware that utilities, by State law, use the public right-of-way to locate their facilities, so they must be worked around, and we try our best not to damage them. He stated that we have taken away an obvious lesson that these utilities may be more important than a simple single service to a facility, residence, or property. In this case the cables feed the main office for Frontier Communications on Cumberland Avenue, which feeds a large part of the City, with their entire network being in one spot, going through the right-of-way, which is unfortunately where they got hit. The crew doing the tilling, mixing the lime in with the dirt, got on top of the lines. It did not take long for all of that to coil onto the large piece of equipment, which basically unplugged the lines from inside the building and pulled them right through the conduits. In response to a comment from Mayor Dennis, Public Works Director Buck likened the equipment to a huge garden tiller, and stated that these are not small toys they are playing with.

Mayor Dennis stated that he believes there is an assumption that utilities, when put into a road, whether done today or done 50 years ago, are done in such a way that they are methodical and linear and identified in a way that everyone knows about it. However, often times, because of how technology changes, and the different services provided, the utilities actually get piled on top of one another. In some cases, instead of looking like a nice linear ball of string being unwound from point A to point B, it is like a bowl of spaghetti. This means going from doing a project that is physical in nature – you dig it, you replace it, you put it back on top – to doing surgery. Sometimes you have to weave some of these utilities, or do some of the construction work, with the understanding that one depth does not cover the entire project. Even when the utilities are mounted in a linear fashion, we do not always know how deep they go or how close to the surface they get, because soil, especially clay, has a mind of its own, and settles the way it wants to, which can adversely impact where the particular lines are. He

stated that on that particular day, from Cumberland Avenue, from Yeager Road, to Salisbury, we have telephone lines, we have fiber, but we also have a high pressure gas line, and that would have been something that would have made us national news if it had been hit. So, we can touch wood that it was just communications. It is unfortunate, it is inconvenient, but it is being repaired and should be repaired by the end of the week. He stated that the workers doing the repairs are doing incredible work, stating that the job is similar to cutting an argyle sweater in half and someone having to put the pieces of yarn back together. They have to check each line for connectivity as they plug it in, connecting approximately 600 lines per day.

Public Works Director Buck stated that it is a little easier working on the commercial lines, as when they work on resident lines they will need to get into homes. He gave a "big hats off" to Frontier Communications for their effort in getting this put back together.

Mayor Dennis noted that Frontier Communications General Manager Dave Sorg has had crews at the site all weekend. He also stated that he has had complaints wondering why there is not a larger crew working to get the lines fixed. His response is that the work involves a manhole, which only one person can fit into. Mayor Dennis commended Public Works Director Buck and his staff, saying the crew that is trying to get the lines back up is doing an excellent job. Mayor Dennis asks, as we always ask on a major construction job, be patient.

Public Works Director Buck also gave an update on crack sealing around the south end of town, including Salisbury Street and Columbia Street, trying to wrap up the area near Purdue while students are on fall break. He stated that there are also curb and sidewalk repairs on Lawn and Garden.

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.