

**Board of Public Works and Safety
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Franklin, Indiana, was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Steve Barnett presiding. Board members Ken Austin & Tina Jobe answered roll call.

Chief of Police Kirby Cochran, Fire Chief Joshua Snyder, Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner, Sewer Billing Office Manager Sherry Phillips, DPW Superintendent Sally Brown, IT Director Rick Littleton, Community Development Director Krista Linke, Planning Director Joanna Tennell, Street Commissioner/Fleet Manager Brett Jones, Clerk Treasurer Jan Jones, City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also in attendance.

Mayor Barnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Public Comments

Resident Ron Hardin complimented the City on their recent Greenlawn Cemetery Restoration Project.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

1. Approval of Minutes from meeting held June 16, 2025
2. Board of Works Claims.
 - #071025 Clothing Allowance in the amount of \$46,750.00
 - #061625 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$2,443,230.46
 - #061725 Sewer Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$124,012.47
 - #062025 RDC-TIF Contracts in the amount of \$812,756.47
 - #062125 BOW Elan in the amount of \$25,128.05
 - #062325 Sewer Elan in the amount of \$1,564.63
 - #062425 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$41,275.47
 - #062525 Sewer Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$7,910.00
 - #062725 RDC-TIF Contracts in the amount of \$63,561.60
 - Pension Payroll in the amount of \$50,395.85
 - Payroll, Monthly, Quarterly in the amount of \$612,547.48
 - Pool Rental Payroll in the amount of \$2,755.00
 - #070525 BOW General Obligations in the amount of \$171,769.89
 - #070625 Sewer General Obligations in the amount of \$72,026.14
 - #063025 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$82,420.88
 - #070125 Sewer Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$39,650.44

Mr. Austin made a motion to approve the consent agenda and claims as presented, seconded by Ms. Jobe. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Request approval to block off alley on the south side of 150 N Main Street for a band, food truck and beverage truck – Representing The Criminal Defense Team, Andy Baldwin, requested to block off the alley from 4:00 PM-11:00 PM for a party. Mr. Baldwin will talk with Main & Madison and other neighbors. Ms. Jobe made a motion to approve blocking the alley on the south side of the alley on August 1, 2025, from 4:00 PM-11:00 PM, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of annual preventive maintenance agreement with ERS Wireless for warning sirens - Director of Technology Rick Littleton stated this agreement has already been vetted by Ms. Gray. Ms. Jobe motioned to approve the annual preventive maintenance agreement with ERS Wireless for warning sirens and approval for Mayor Barnett to sign on behalf of the Board, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Forms for Clients F-G for the Franklin Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) and approval of Contract for Grant Administration Services - Administration Resources Association (ARA) Whitney Koelling explained the request for approval of the qualified homeowners and the contract. Ms. Jobe asked for clarification on the liens and the grant program. Ms. Jobe motioned to approve the forms for Clients F-G for the Franklin Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) and approve the Contract for Grant Administration Services as presented, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of additional Opioid Settlement and authorize Mayor to execute Participation Form - City Attorney Lynn Gray shared that the distribution of these Sandoz Settlement funds (totaling \$99,500,000.00 for all entities filing claims) is overseen by a federal judge. The City of Franklin is expected to receive \$14,000.00 of this money that is restricted for opioid remediation use. Ms. Jobe motioned to approve the additional Opioid Settlement and authorize the Mayor to execute the Participation Form, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request the following Subdivision Performance Bond be accepted for Kingsbridge, Sec. 3 #5870101: Erosion Control \$61,891.20 - City Engineer Matt McElroy stated this is on behalf of Platinum Properties Management Company, LLC. Ms. Jobe motioned to approve the Subdivision Performance Bond for Kingsbridge, Sec. 3 #5870101, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval and acceptance of Secondary Plat for the Replat of Block A of Thompson

Commercial Subdivision - Planning Director Joanna Tennell stated this is ready for acceptance and execution. It is for a multi-family unit with closing anticipated in August. Ms. Jobe motioned to approve and accept the Secondary Plat for the Replat of Block A of Thompson Commercial Subdivision, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

Request to file liens on unkempt property -

4143 Beechwood Ct	41-05-28-042-015.000-029
2401 N Morton St	41-08-10-011-019.000-009
870 Mallory Pkwy	41-08-15-014-001.021-009
940 Hurricane St.	41-08-14-011-023.001.009
449 Hurricane St.	41-08-14-041-066.000-009
0 Hurricane St.	41-08-14-041-057.000-009
4122 Jason Ave.	41-05-28-044-096.000-029
1089 Torino Ln	41-08-10-042-078.000-009
1103 Branifield Ct	41-08-03-024-050.000-009

Mayor Barnett motioned to file liens on properties as presented, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request Disposal of Salvage Equipment - Director of Technology Rick Littleton presented a list of surplus electronic equipment ready for recycling. Ms. Gray confirmed that this particular list cannot be resold and will be safely disposed of. Ms. Jobe motioned to approve the Disposal of Salvage Equipment inventory listing as presented, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Department Reports / Staff Reports

DPW Superintendent Sally Brown stated that the pre-bid meeting for the WWTP construction took place last Wednesday. The meeting was well attended, and afterwards, many contractors took a tour of the current WWTP. A line of trees has been planted between the WWTP and the adjacent residential property line.

Planning Director Joanna Tennell shared that Hurricane Road in front of Winterfield Subdivision should be open by the end of this week. Ms. Tennell also presented information filed by resident Nathaniel Spears' legal counsel. Mr. Spears lives in Kingsbridge on the corner of Sunset Ridge Drive and Covington Boulevard, which is the main thoroughfare from US 31 throughout the development. Mr. Spears requests installation of a stop sign at that T-intersection due to 50-70+ mph speeding on that street and disregard for stop arms and stop signs on school buses. Multiple departments worked with Mr. Spears prior to his filing legal paperwork. In the Board's information packet are reports and documentation from the Planning Department, Police Department, Street Department, Fire Department, and Engineering. In the request form on pages 2-3, there is an analysis of his request by each of the departments. Planning & Engineering noted that the request is for a stop sign at a T-intersection. In accordance with federal and Indiana manuals on uniform traffic control devices, yield or stop signs are not to be used for speed

control. Therefore, the recommendation of Planning & Engineering is that a stop sign is not warranted at that location. Street Department concurred that a stop sign should not be used to control speed and in 2013 when we [the City] upgraded all stop signs in the city of Franklin, there were several stop signs removed at the recommendation of our consultant and the engineer at that time, because they were being used for speed control. Oftentimes, this results in people speeding between stop signs, trying to make up for lost time. The Fire Department also submitted a review. Chief Snyder, visited the location over three days and did not witness any reasons that would warrant a stop sign. Ms. Tennell noted that Page 3 outlines when the Police Department began information gathering in April 2025. They installed a traffic analyzer from April 24th - 29th, which included both weekday and weekend traffic. Ms. Tennell explained that a traffic analyzer is a device containing a radar unit and a small computer; the radar registers the vehicles' speeds and the computer records that data. Over those 5 days, it indicated the top speed was 38 mph (posted speed is currently 25 mph), 98% of vehicles were under 35 mph, and more than 50% were under the actual speed limit. The Police Department deployed an analyzer again due to continued conversations with Mr. Spears, and that additional data is included in the packet. The Police Department also stationed three weeks of directed patrols in the area, targeting times of bus pick up/drop off. Three of those patrols were conducted by Captain Mears, who indicated that the complaint of vehicle speed and frequency is not supported. Based on cumulative department information, the recommendation is that a stop sign not be installed at the intersection of Sunset Ridge and Covington Boulevard. Ms. Gray added that Mr. Spears repeatedly reached out to us [City of Franklin departments] demanding that a stop sign be installed in this area, and there was a piece on FOX 59 News. We have conducted significant research into this situation for appropriateness, given the standards we are called to apply. Ms. Gray reiterated information from the federal and state manuals on uniform traffic control devices, citing that both discourage and say stop signs "shall not" be used for speed control. That is the industry standard. Ms. Tennell provided additional information on the reasons it is discouraged from using stop signs for speed control, stating typically when too many stop signs are in a row, people will try to make up the time they had to stop. This causes speeding between stop signs or a rolling stop which is an accident hazard. Ms. Gray stated Mr. Spears' out-of-state attorney wanted to know what the formal process was for asking for a stop sign, even though Mr. Spears himself had asked. It was noted that the Board of Works ultimately decides where traffic signals go in areas that aren't federally governed. The packet of information was compiled for the Board's information and includes information provided by Mr. Spears' counsel, per Ms. Gray's request. Chief Cochran explained that when a [police] vehicle is present, it tends to slow traffic, hence the reason for the analyzer. Chief Cochran said, "The data doesn't lie." He stated that the closer you are to the vehicle or near the roadway, the faster the vehicle seems with the human eye. The Police Department used radar devices in cars, [the devices] are calibrated prior to usage each time, and traffic analyzers. Both are very consistent and accurate. Police Chief Cochran stated he has been in that area many times and the information gathered is the same. Although his vehicle is marked, it is hard to see, and on average, people are running below the speed limit. There's not a lot of distance there and often, if someone is speeding, it's when they are coming in off of US 31. But now with the way that the turn is, it has reduced that issue also. Chief Cochran stated that with the analyzer and number of officers who have patrolled that area in this time frame, this information is accurate. Installing a stop sign there will increase the speed between signs and encourage rolling stops. Mr. Austin brought up information from the packet stating peak speed of 72 mph, 85% over 44 mph, repeated stop arm violations, and safety

warrants; he inquired where this information came from. Ms. Gray said that paragraph was from Mr. Spears and was referencing the legal authority allowing us to put stop signs up, and no one has ever questioned that before. Mr. Austin wanted clarification that no one had a camera showing a car going 70 mph or 45 mph down the street. Chief Cochran stated that you would have to have two points to accurately measure speed from point A to point B. Ms. Gray stated that Mr. Spears indicates that he has a video of that speeding (which has been provided); however, the City's data has the required two reference points. Ms. Gray continued explaining that this is why we went to our engineering experts and our police and public safety experts, because not everyone is qualified to make the determination on whether a vehicle is speeding or not speeding. Mayor Barnett stated he believes the City has done its due diligence and shared he sees cars rolling through stop signs every day, having one [stop sign] on every corner of a subdivision would not change that. Mayor Barnett thanked everyone for their comment and thorough reports. Mayor Barnett has spent time at that location as well. He was there today and saw one person he thought might have been going a little bit fast, but not 70 mph. Ms. Jobe questioned the location of stop signs outlined on the information in the packet. Ms. Gray stated she would love to say that there would never be an accident anywhere, but all we can do is use our professional standards and the best data before us to make a determined, reasoned decision. That is the goal, to provide the Board with as much information as possible to make their decision and Ms. Gray will report it accordingly to Mr. Spears' attorney. Mayor Barnett asked Ms. Tennell if there had been any wrecks at that location; Ms. Tennell stated she did not pull accident reports but wasn't aware of any. Mayor Barnett agreed. Ms. Tennell shared that one of Mr. Spears' main concerns is vehicles disregarding the school bus stop arm and installing a stop sign wouldn't change that. Mayor Barnett confirmed that the school bus drivers report those incidents, and there have been no reports of that happening. Mr. Austin motioned to deny the request for a stop sign, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion to deny carried.

Community Development Director Krista Linke shared that the EDC and PAAC meetings have been canceled for this month. The FDC-renovated house on Overstreet has officially closed.

Sewer Billing Office Manager Sherry Phillips said that approximately 350 pre-lien notification letters went out today.

Fire Chief Josh Snyder stated that the new ladder was delivered to Martinsville to get the striping done.

Police Chief Kirby Cochran thanked the Fire and Street Departments for their collaboration after the collision on 31.

Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner shared that tonight at 7:00 PM is an Arts at the Amp Concert by the 38th Infantry Band of the Indiana National Guard. This Friday at 9:00 PM is a Girls Night Out Movie at the Amp featuring the movie *10 Things I Hate About You*. Next Thursday at 7:00 PM is another Arts at the Amp Concert by 905 South Main band. July is National Parks & Recreation Month, so there are activities every day during the month of July. Check out their Facebook page for details. Looking ahead, Saturday, August 2nd is a concert by 21 Gun Salute, an AC/DC tribute band. Mr. Orner also voiced thanks for all the help during the

Firecracker Festival. Events like this take a lot of planning behind the scenes, and it takes everyone to make it a success. The Aquatics Center had a slow start; however, with the heat over the past 2 weeks, residents had to be turned away or wait to enter because the facility was at capacity. It is on track to be another record-breaking year. Additional thanks to everyone who came to the AAC Ribbon Cutting. It was a great time for everyone. In three days, they sold about 60% of the memberships that they usually sell in a year! Also, Phase 3 of the Greenlawn Cemetery Restoration Project begins July 13th.

Board Member Ken Austin thanked the Police, Fire, and Street Departments for a job well done over the Fourth of July celebrations.

City Attorney Lynn Gray gave kudos to everyone who put the AAC Grand Opening together and all the volunteers who made it happen.

Mayor Barnett thanked everyone for a great Fourth of July Festival.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Works, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 07/14/25

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer