

CITY OF FRANKLIN
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2007

Opening

Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews called the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Room.

Present

The roll was called and Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews, Board Member Joe Ault was present.

Also present were Police Chief John Borges, Deputy Fire Chief Greg Nelson, Sewer Billing Manager Brenda Poe, Street Commissioner Richard Hughes, City Engineer Mike Buening, WWTP Superintendent Rick Littleton, Planning Director Joseph Csikos, Cemetery Sexton Mark Webb, City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, and Clerk-Treasurer Assistant Dee Day. The news media was not present for this meeting.

Mr. Ault offered an invocation immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on any matter not listed on the agenda. Ms. Frances Lepper, resident at 145 Washington Street, appeared before the Board with concern of the height of the grass in the field located behind Wal-Mart. Ms. Lepper asked what could be done in order to get the field mowed more frequently. A discussion was held.

Consent Agenda

Approval and Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 14, 2007.

Accounts Payable Voucher Registers

#081507 in the amount of \$250.06

#081707 in the amount of \$34,587.52

#082207 in the amount of \$1,587,956.66

#082407 in the amount of \$743,686.17

Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as distributed. The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Request for “No Parking” Signage on Franklin Lakes Blvd. Near the Main Retention Pond

Mr. Tim Stewart was not present. Police Chief John Borges gave his report concerning Franklin Lakes Blvd. The Chief explained that the area has been the focus of many studies at the request of residents to lower the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Radar studies conducted indicate that there is not a speeding problem. He said that Franklin Lakes Blvd. is a “collector” street designed for the current posted speed limit. He also said that he observed that west bound

traffic does not have an obstructed view in the area of the retention pond. He also commented that eastbound traffic has a slightly obstructed view due to the down hill grade and trees planted along the north side of the road. He recommended that the City remove some of the lower limbs to provide a better view of westbound traffic. He also said that consideration should be given to placing an additional “no parking” sign in the area of the trees. City Engineer Mike Buening concurred with the Police Chief. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the recommendation of the City Engineer and Police Chief. The motion carried.

Police Chief John Borges also reported about his observations concerning traffic on Shoreline Drive. He said that the eastside of Shoreline Drive should become a “no parking” zone and signs should be placed along that side. Currently, parking is not regulated on this street. The City Engineer concurred. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

The Chief also made a recommendation concerning Young’s Creek Drive explaining that Youngs Creek Drive is currently posted “no parking” on the north side of the street. He recommended that one additional “no parking” sign be added in the vicinity of 980 to 994 Youngs Creek Drive. He said that due to the winding of the road, the existing signs cannot be seen on either end of the street if you are in the 900 block. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion carried.

The Chief also observed that Foxtail Drive is posted “no parking” on the north side of the street, which conflicts with the mailboxes. The street should be posted “no parking” on the south side, and additional signs added between Youngs Creek Drive and Foxtail Court. Planning Director Joseph Csikos said that the “no parking” signs have been moved recently. Street Commissioner Richard Hughes stated that the signs were moved after the homeowners association brought the situation to the attention of the Street Department. A discussion was held. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the location change of the street signs that has already occurred. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Resolution 07-07: A Board of Works and Safety Resolution Relative to the Financing Operations of the City’s Sewage Works

City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall asked the Board to strike this item from the agenda in order to work on it further. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to strike item A under new business. The motion carried and the item was stricken.

Request for a “Duck Crossing” Sign to be Placed on Eastview Drive North of the Traditions Apartments and at the Light on State Road 44

Ms. Audrey May was not present. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to strike item B under new business. The motion carried and the item was stricken.

Discussion of the Intersection at Arvin Road and Musicland Drive

Police Chief John Borges reported on the Intersection of Arvin Road and Musicland Drive. The Chief made the following observations:

- a.) Traffic proceeding north on Hurricane Street, through the intersection, has a mildly obstructed view of westbound traffic on Arvin Drive.
- b.) The intersection is poorly illuminated at night, making it very difficult to see the lack of stop signs for east and west bound traffic on Arvin Drive.
- c.) Traffic statistics show a total of 32 vehicle crashes at this intersection in the last three and a half years. The crashes appear to have increased by 50% after the speed limit was increased, however, they are down by 75% in the first half of 2007.
- d.) The increase of accidents may be related to the traffic flow adjusting to the new speed limit. The Board may want to table this issue until December (to compile all of 2007 statistics) to see what action needs to be taken, if any.
- e.) It is recommended that the speed limit be reduced back to 30 mph, if the intersection is changed to a four way stop.

City Engineer Mike Buening stated that he felt it would be safer as a four way stop. Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews concurred with Chief Borges about increasing the lighting at the intersection. A discussion was held. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve Chief Borges recommendations on more illumination. The motion carried.

Request for a Road Cut Permit for 781 Duane Street

Mr. Paul Jump, Geologist from American Environmental, appeared before the Board to request a road cut permit in order to install a monitoring well on Duane Street. Mr. Jump stated that this well is needed to monitor the plume extent on the old Kiel Brothers Bulk Plant property located at 285 Terre Haute Street. Mr. Jump provided the Board with a letter from IDEM, asking that the monitoring well be installed. A discussion was held. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion that the request for approval of the road cut permit be granted. The motion carried.

Request for a Handicapped Sign in Front of Residence

The petitioner, Ms. Jackie Garcia, was not present. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to table this request. The motion carried and the matter was tabled.

Request to Vacate Two Alley Ways

Dr. James Moseley, President of Franklin College, appeared before the Board to request the vacation of two (2) alleyways. Mr. Scott Perez, representative from Fulcrum Studios, provided the Board with a site plan for a proposed parking lot. Dr. Moseley stated that Franklin College would like to build an “L” shaped parking lot on the corner of Monroe and Edwards Streets, encircling the Habitat for Humanity House. A discussion was held. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to make a favorable recommendation to the City Council. The motion carried.

Mr. Moseley also requested that “no thru truck” signs be placed on Grizzly Street and Forsythe Street due to the large number of heavy trucks traveling through the area which is dangerous to

pedestrians. A discussion was held. The consensus of the Board was to bring this matter back to the Board at the next scheduled meeting to be held on September 11, 2007.

Request Approval of Change to the Franklin Fire Department Rules and Regulations

Deputy Fire Chief Greg Nelson appeared before the Board to request approval to have a Military Service Accommodation Pin added to the Fireman Dress Uniform. Deputy Chief Nelson stated that the pin signifies the wearer served in the military and received an honorable discharge. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the Assistant Chief's recommendation. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander stated that Nancy Long, A-1 Expeditors, had appeared before the Board in June asking for a reimbursement of duplicate payments made for sewer permits. Ms. Alexander requested that the Board rescind the former approval to reimburse the \$6,000.00 due to concluding that the "duplicate" permits had actually expired and the developer had to purchase them since the initial permits were no longer valid. A discussion was held. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to rescind the former approval for reimbursement. The motion carried. Ms. Alexander will contact A-1 Expeditors to inform them of the Board's decision.

Ms. Alexander also stated that at the last meeting the Board approved a 30 day short term disability request and an extension of 13 days for Joanna Myers, Zoning Administrator. The Clerk Treasurer said that after speaking with Ms. Myers the extension is not needed. Ms. Alexander requested that the Board rescind the 13 additional days. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to rescind the request for the extension. The motion carried.

REPORTS BY DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

Police Chief John Borges stated that he had received a request from residents from the Heritage Subdivision to look at road problems on Cedar Mill. Chief Borges advised that Ravine Road has a bend located in the same spot as the school bus stop. The Police Department had the radar out from Monday until today and clocked 821 cars, of which 39 were speeding 5 mph and above the posted limit. Chief Borges suggests creating a three way stop at Harbon and Cedar Mill to slow traffic before the bend. City Engineer Mike Buening concurred with Chief Borges. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the Chief's request for a three way stop sign at the aforementioned intersection. The motion carried. .

Fire Department

Deputy Fire Chief Greg Nelson had nothing to report.

Sewer Billing

Sewer Billing Manager Brenda Poe had nothing to report.

Greenlawn Cemetery

Greenlawn Cemetery Sexton Mark Webb had nothing to report.

Street Department

Street Commissioner Richard Hughes had nothing to report.

WWTP

WWTP Superintendent Rick Littleton had nothing to report.

Engineering Department

City Engineer Mike Buening provided the Board with a memorandum dated August 28, 2007. Mr. Buening reported on the following items:

The Johnson County Maintenance Department is interested in paving the parking area that adjoins Monroe Street south of the Courthouse. The area is 170 feet long and 30 feet wide. . They asked if Franklin would include this area in our paving project. The County would have to agree to reimburse the City. Mr. Buening said he would get an agreement signed by the County. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve the request. The motion carried.

Work at the Commerce Drive bridge approaches will require closure of Commerce Drive. Milestone has scheduled closure starting September 4, 2007. Mr. Buening also said the sign announcing the closure was put up today, and stated he anticipates the closure to last for two weeks or more.

Milestone submitted Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$2,750. This change order provides for bituminous approach paving on Banta Street due to the shifting of sidewalk to the south side of the street. Also the change order includes a concrete cross gutter for the entrance to Briar Ridge on Hospital Road. This gutter will allow the intersection to be corrected to eliminate standing water after every rain event. He requested approval of Change Order No. 1.

Mr. Buening also stated that since the sidewalks were switched to the opposite side of Banta Street, resident Mr. David Canary requested the asphalt be wedged up on his driveway toward his garage. Mr. Buening stated that Mr. Canary would pay for that portion which would be three to five tons of asphalt at \$100.00 a yard. Mr. Buening will obtain a written agreement from Mr. Canary. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve accept the offer. The motion carried.

Concerning Jefferson Estates Commercial Subdivision, Mr. Buening reported that on 8/27/07 he learned that Al Stout no longer owns the property and Irwin Union Bank now has control. Mr. Buening contacted the surety concerning the performance bond and a reply is expected in the next several days.

Planning Department

Planning Director Joe Csikos had nothing to report.

Attorney Comments

City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall reported that he and City Engineer Mike Buening were ready to advertise the City's request proposals for structural engineering studies to be performed on both the Hamilton Avenue Fire Station and Fire Headquarters located on N. Main Street. The Common Council urged the Board of Works to obtain professional opinions about the structural integrity of the fire stations. Mr. Schafstall proposed that the Board authorize him and Mr. Buening to present a final version of the specifications to the Mayor or to direct him to bring the proposals back to the Board at their next meeting. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve that once Mr. Buening and Mr. Schafstall send the proposal to the Mayor, she is authorized to set the dates for responses to the request for bids and to schedule the bid opening. The motion carried.

Mr. Schafstall stated that Police Chief John Borges has received a grant or permission to send one officer to basic SWAT training at Camp Atterbury, and that the camp requires the City to sign a memorandum of agreement. Mr. Schafstall stated he did not have a problem with signing an agreement, however, the agreement also requires the City to provide liability insurance. A discussion was held. Mr. Schafstall recommends that the Board authorize the Mayor to enter into the agreement once insurance is provided. Chief Borges stated that Officer Shawn Henson will go to the SWAT training. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mayor Jones-Matthews, made a motion to approve. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer

Enrolled: September 5, 2007

Approved by the Board of Works: September 11, 2007