

**CITY OF FRANKLIN**  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY**

Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2006

**Opening**

Mayor 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**

Mayor Jones-Matthews and board members Joe Ault and Stephen Hougland were present. Also present were Police Chief John Borges, Fire Chief Jim Reese, Street Commissioner Richard Hughes, Sewer Billing Office Manager Brenda Poe, WWTP Superintendent Rick Littleton, City Engineer Mike Buening, City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander, and Clerk-Treasurer Assistant Kristi Bruther

An invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were offered.

**Public Comments**

**Best Way Disposal Service**

Ms. Colleen Mason, an account representative from Best Way Disposal Service, appeared before the Board to answer questions regarding recent complaints received by the Mayor's office about the collection of recyclables. Ms. Mason provided information and survey results to the Board regarding the recycling/trash collection procedures and recent numbers. Mayor Jones-Matthews gave Ms. Mason a copy of an email complaint she had received to allow Best Way to follow-up with the customer.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented and amended in regard to the Minutes from the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2006
2. Approval of Claims

The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

**Old Business**

**The City of Franklin Drug and Alcohol Policy**

Mayor Jones-Matthews requested that the acceptance of the drug and alcohol policy be tabled until the next meeting. This request was made due to recent changes to the proposed policy recommended by the City Attorney. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to table the matter. The motion carried and the matter was tabled.

**Signatures & Acceptance for Memoranda of Understanding (Franklin Police Department Chaplain and the City of Franklin Board of Works and Safety)**

Clerk-Treasurer, Janet Alexander, presented the Board with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Franklin Police Department Chaplain and the Board of Works and Safety regarding the agreement of the use of a credit card by Dennis Patton, the department's appointed Chaplain. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to approve the acceptance and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was carried and the Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

**New Business**

**Request for a Speed Limit Sign and a Children at Play Sign**

Resident Jeannine McKinney was not present. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to table the request. The motion carried and the request was tabled. Mr. Hougland recommended that the Mayor's office explain that the City no longer approves Child at Play signs due to recommended Federal/State signage guidelines. The Board requested that the Police Department review traffic issues at 1989 Churchill Road, before the next meeting and to be prepared to make a recommendation concerning the posted speed limit.

**Request to Close Jefferson Street (in front of the Courthouse) on Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

Mr. Dave Rook, American Legion representative, appeared before the Board to request that Jefferson Street be closed in front of the Courthouse on Memorial Day, May 29, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for the American Legion's Memorial Day Event. Mr. Hougland made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Ault. The motion carried and the request was approved.

**Request for a Handicap Parking Sign**

Mrs. Endicott, on the behalf of Mr. Milton Sipes, appeared before the Board to request a handicap parking sign on the street in front of her property at 1506 Roberts Road, in Franklin. Mrs. Endicott explained that her neighbor complains about where Mr. Sipes parks his car on the street. Mrs. Endicott explained that they live on the west side of the street, however, parking is only allowed on the East side of the street. Mayor Jones-Matthews explained that if a handicap parking sign is posted, the homeowner is not given an exclusive right to the parking space, and that any person with a handicap sticker may use the space. Mrs. Endicott stated that she understood. Mr. Hougland requested that the Police Department speak to the neighbor. Mr. Hougland made a motion to approve the request for a handicap parking sign across the street from 1506 Roberts Road, seconded by Mr. Ault. The motion carried and the request was approved.

**Request for Waiver of the City's Noise Ordinance**

Drew Bright, Franklin College student and Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) Fraternity President, appeared before the Board to request a waiver from the City's noise ordinance on April 29, 2006

for a live band from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mr. Ault reminded the students that the Police Department has the right to shut down the band if problems arise and/or excessive complaints are received. Mr. Ault made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Hougland. The motion carried and the request was approved.

## **REPORTS BY DEPARTMENTS**

### **Police Department**

Chief John Borges stated that the City's current noise ordinance does not include a citation for barking dogs. A discussion was held. The Board's consensus was for the Police Department to respond to calls about barking dogs. In cases where a barking dog problem is deemed chronic, the person making the complaint may elect to file a complaint of a common nuisance.

### **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Jim Reese reported that he has four firefighter positions open due to resignations. Chief Reese explained that he recently met with the Clerk-Treasurer to discuss issues related to filling the openings and overtime costs. Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander explained that due to the settlement payments made to the former firefighters following their resignations, the department's operating budget has been reduced to the point that they may only fill three of the four vacant positions and at what date they can hire. A discussion was held.

Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to direct the City Attorney to modify the personnel manual to address the issue of payment of benefit time upon retirement. A discussion was held. The motion carried.

Chief Reese asked for clarification in regard to hiring new firefighters. A discussion was held. Mr. Hougland, seconded by Mr. Ault, made a motion to direct Chief Reese and the Clerk-Treasurer to determine the additional appropriation needed to hire four replacement firefighters as soon as possible.

Chief Reese informed the Board that a claim for unemployment benefits, which the City had fought, had been appealed. The appeal hearing was held and the Judge ruled in favor of the City.

### **Sewer Billing Department**

Sewer Billing Manager Brenda Poe had nothing to report.

### **Street Department**

Street Commissioner Richard Hughes inquired about the status of the invoice with Midwest which was turned over to the City Attorney. Rob Schafstall told the Commissioner he would contact the company.

## **WWTP**

Superintendent Rick Littleton had nothing to report.

## **Engineering Department**

City Engineer Mike Buening presented a memorandum dated April 25, 2006 to the Board that provided updates, but had nothing to report.

## **Attorney Comments**

City Attorney Rob Schafstall reported that the Komputrol agreement with the City and the Clerk Treasurer has been reviewed and is acceptable. Mr. Schafstall returned the original documents to the Clerk-Treasurer for her signature and filing of the agreements.

## **Clerk-Treasurer Comments**

Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander presented a request from Franklin Insurance regarding the option to purchase terrorism risk insurance. The Board declined to purchase coverage for Acts of Terrorism offered by Franklin Insurance. The rejection of the coverage was signed by the Mayor.

Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander presented a letter that her office recently received from the Town of Bargersville regarding a Town Council meeting that will be held May 25, 2006 regarding a proposed ordinance which will remove municipal electric utility of the town from the jurisdiction of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander announced that the Common Council approved a resolution increasing the mileage reimbursement rate from .33 to .40 per mile. Chief Borges requested that the personnel manual be updated to reflect this change.

## **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Jones-Matthews explained that her office has received several thank you notes from the residents in Knollwood because of a recent meeting the organization had, and for the tagging of abandoned vehicles issued by the Police Department. Chief Borges explained that approximately 235 abandoned vehicles were recently tagged.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 9, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,

Janet P. Alexander, Clerk Treasurer

Enrolled: 5-3-06 / jpa

Approved by the Board of Works: 5-9-06