

CITY OF FRANKLIN
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2006

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

Mayor Jones-Matthews and Board Members Joe Ault and Stephen Hougland were present. Also present were Police Chief John Borges, Deputy Fire Chief Greg Nelson, WWTP Superintendent Rick Littleton, Sewer Billing Office Manager Brenda Poe, Planning Director Joseph Csikos, City Engineer Mike Buening, City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, Deputy Clerk Sue Midkiff, and Records Clerk Dee Day.

An invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag were offered.

Public Comments

Mayor Jones-Matthews asked if anyone from the public wished to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda. No one requested to speak.

Best Way Disposal Service

Ms. Colleen Mason, an account representative from Best Way Disposal Service, appeared before the Board to present trash and recycling collection statistics for the month of July.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held July 25, 2006
2. Approval of Claims

The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Unkempt Property

Clerk-Treasurer, Janet Alexander, presented a report of unpaid citations to the Board, and asked for guidance on what action the Board would like taken relative to the uncollected

debts and those debts deemed to be uncollectible. The City Attorney, Rob Schafstall, recommended that some of the unpaid citations be declared uncollectible. A discussion was held. The Board's consensus was to have the City Attorney coordinate with the Clerk-Treasurer in collecting the fines and asking the Council to adopt a policy relative to bad debt.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for a Streetlight at 751 Yandes

Kim Cantwell, a resident of Franklin, appeared before the Board and asked that a streetlight be installed in front of an alley located at Cincinnati and Yandes Streets. Ms. Cantwell stated that she is concerned about her neighborhood and pointed out that the alleyway is very dark. She stated that a man was recently attacked in the alley and that occurrence increased her and her neighbors concern for their safety. A discussion was held. The City Engineer, Mike Buening, said that he would go look at the alleyway and report to the Board.

Request for a Variance from the City's Noise Ordinance

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Paris, residents of Franklin, requested a variance from the City's noise ordinance on Saturday, September 2, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. in order to hold a wedding reception at their residence which is located at 1201 Paris Drive. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to approve the request. The motion carried and the request was approved.

Request for Closure of East Court Street

Mayor Jones-Matthews reported that Arlene Andrews had called to ask for this request to be stricken from the agenda. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to strike the request from the agenda. The motion carried and the request was stricken.

Request from Milestone Contractors to Work at Night and for a Variance from the Noise Ordinance

Mr. Stan Stradley, representative from Milestone Contractors, appeared before the Board, along with Rachel Randall, a representative from the Department of Transportation (INDOT), to request a variance from the City's noise ordinance in order to work at night. Mr. Stradley reported that they would be paving Jefferson Street from 144 to 165. A discussion was held. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to approve the request of Milestone Contractors for the noise variation from 31 to Hurricane for the next two months. The motion carried and the request was approved.

Mr. Stradley also requested assistance from the police department to restrict parking from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. along the paving route. Police Chief, John Borges, mentioned that the department would post the no parking signs twenty-four hours in advance and help with enforcement.

The City Engineer, Mike Buening, provided an aerial map to the Board and recommended that Milestone Contractors use City property to store vehicles and equipment used for the current project. Mr. Buening told Mr. Stradley that as long as Milestone did not block driveways he did not foresee any problems with this request. Mr. Buening stated that the property was the next entrance just west of Lovers Lane off of State Road 44 East. A discussion was held.

Mr. Borges asked the Board approve his department's ability to coordinate with the Street Department and Milestone to close streets, and to restrict parking as needed, to allow them to complete their project. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to approve the request of the Chief's request. The motion carried and the request was approved.

Request for Signatures on Grant Policy

Clerk-Treasurer, Janet Alexander, requested the Board strike the Grant Policy from the Board of Works agenda since it will require Common Council approval. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to strike the request from the agenda. The motion carried and the request was stricken.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

REPORTS BY DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

Chief John Borges said he had received a phone call about the property located at 901 E. Jefferson Street. The Police Chief said that the prior occupants evicted by the former owner are living in the home again. He said that the ownership of the home has reverted to the bank (Heartland). A discussion was held. The City Attorney will contact the bank to ask whether they own the property and if they have authorized these individuals to live in the home.

Mr. Borges also presented a new version of the departments Personnel Manual and the Drug and Alcohol Rules and Regulations to the Board. Mr. Borges said that this policy would come to the Board at their next meeting.

Fire Department

Deputy Fire Chief Greg Nelson presented a policy which amends the Fire Department's Rules and Regulations. The new section reads; "Under no circumstances shall the rules covering the scheduling of time off be waived to extend a members service with the department. This includes all accrued time." Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to add the new rule to the City of Franklin's Fire Department Rules and Regulations; titled article one, section seven. The motion carried and the new rule was added to the Fire Department Rules and Regulations.

Sewer Billing Manager Department

Sewer Billing Manager Brenda Poe had nothing to report.

Street Department

Street Commissioner Richard Hughes was not present.

WWTP

Superintendent Rick Littleton had nothing to report.

Engineering Department

City Engineer, Mike Buening, reported on the following:

Hillside Drive Drainage

- Engineering has looked at a drainage concern located on Hillside Drive that requires a drain installed to eliminate a problem caused by water coming from a natural underground spring that flows onto the street and freezes during cold weather. This will require approximately 860 feet of pipe with two inlets. Nine driveway crossings and half a dozen Bradford Pear trees are in the path of the new pipe.
- He requested that the Board of Works authorize the Street Department to proceed with placing the pipe. The affected homeowners will be notified prior to the installation.

The Board's consensus was to have the Street Department proceed.

Mr. Buening also reported that paving work will begin on Friday, August 18, 2006 at the King Street railroad crossing. He said the street will be closed. Police Chief, John Borges, recommended that the Board authorize the Police Department to close this street. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to authorize the Police Department to close King Street from Friday, August 18 to Monday, August 21, 2006. The motion carried and the recommendation was approved.

Planning Department

Planning Director Joe Csikos reported that his department has received inquiries about restricting parking on streets in residential areas surrounding Franklin College. A discussion was held. The Board would like to refer this issue to the College.

Mr. Csikos also reported on an unsafe structure located at 50 West Madison. The Planning Department has cited the owner for unsafe living conditions and has responded to tenant complaints regarding the interior and exterior. Mr. Csikos mentioned that they are working with Johnson County Human Services and the property owner to start corrective actions on the home.

Board Member Comments

City Attorney Rob Schafstall reported that he received a phone call from Debbie Swinehammer, the Board President of the organization known as the Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County, concerning non-compliance by the Shrine Club with the City's Smoking Ordinance. A discussion was held. Mr. Schafstall recommended that the City's Code Enforcement Officer investigate and report to the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on August 29, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk Treasurer

Enrolled: 8-25-06

Approved by the Board of Works: 8.29.06