

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

Meeting Minutes
June 24,2003

Opening:

Board Member Stephen Houglan called the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 24, 2003 in City Hall.

Present:

Mr. Joseph Ault and Mr. Stephen D. Houglan were present. Also present was Clerk Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, Police Chief John Borges, City Engineer Mike Buening, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Lewis, Street Commissioner Richard Hughes, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Rick Littleton, and Planning Department Director David Weir.

Absent:

Mayor Norman P. Blankenship Jr., was absent.

Mrs. Karen Bridges a correspondent from the Indianapolis Star attended.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Approval of Claims

The following claims were presented. Mr. Ault made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Houglan. The motion carried. Approved for payment.

Date	Type	Description	Amount
6-24-03	Sewer	Vendor Claims 5655 – 5665	21,122.58
		Total Sewer Claims	21,122.58
6-24-03	Civil City	Vendor Claims 28655 - 28700	144,300.00
		Total Civil City	144,300.00

Old Business

Parking on Samuel Street: Mr. Ron Jewell a city resident appeared and repeated his request for parking in front of his home on either side of the street. Fire Chief and the Police Chief have advised the Board to deny the request due to the narrowness of the street in that area. Mr. Ault seconded by Mr. Houglan made a motion to deny the request. Motion carried. Mr. Houglan asked Mr. Csikos to research Mr. Jewell's request for an alley vacation.

No Parking on E. Jefferson Street: The following residents petitioned the Board in person to ask the Board for assistance with a problem caused by vehicles parked along the roadway at the first block of East Jefferson Street east of Forsyth Street: Mr. Dave Walters of 1041 E. Jefferson St., Mr. Warren Beeler of 1084 E. Jefferson St., Ms. Brenda Wilkerson of 1055 E. Jefferson St., Mr. Bob Knabe of 1081 E. Jefferson St., & Mr. Robert Andrews of 1097 E. Jefferson St. Each of the neighbors spoke and expressed their individual and collective concerns which included: danger to children and adult

pedestrians caused by motorists who must drive around the parked vehicles, damage to lawns, and the potential hazard of parking along a narrow and highly used roadway in a residential neighborhood. The Board Members asked Mr. Csikos, the Staff Planner to work with Mr. Schafstall to consider possible options to resolve this problem and report back to the Board.

GASB 34 – State Mandated accounting procedures: Clerk Treasurer Janet Alexander asked the Board to table this matter. Mr. Hougland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ault to table this matter. The motion carried. Tabled.

New Business:

Ethnic Festival Sept. 6, 2003 request to close E. Court Street: Ms. Arlene Andrews. No one appeared to present this request. Mr. Hougland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ault to table this matter. The motion carried. Tabled.

Walnut Street Problems: Mr. Larry Wood introduced himself and the following residents who petitioned the Board of Works for assistance with several issues on and around Walnut Street, Herriott Street, Banta Street and Emma Street: Dr. & Mrs. Paul J. Stahl, D.D.S. Mr. & Mrs. James VanVleet, Donna Bennett, Mrs. Janet Kirby.

In addition to the individual reports, Dr. Stahl also gave Mr. Hougland four letters from: Mr. & Mrs. Doug Stucker of 600 Walnut Street, Ms. Vickie Broshears of 499 N. Walnut Street, Mrs., R. Scott, and one from Dr. Stahl himself stating their concerns about the upkeep of the property located at 498 Walnut Street. High grass, standing water, a stack of tires, multiple cars parked on the property, and small children running in and around the vehicles, represent just a few of the complaints cited in the letters.

Dr. Paul Stahl and Mrs. Stahl separately expressed their concerns about the appearance of the property as well as their concern that the resident may be operating an auto repair shop out of the garage.

Mr. James VanVleet and his daughter Donna Bennett of 450 Banta Street raised another issue. Mr. VanVleet reported his concerns about the large number of teenagers gathering in the high school parking lot in the evenings. Loud music, profanity, and cars speeding around the neighborhood are disturbing the family at night. He stated that the teens usually gather there until 11:00 p.m. Chief Borges stated that he would contact Dean Fleener with Franklin High School to discuss the problem. He also will send officers to patrol the lot on a regular basis.

Mrs. Janet Kirby a resident of 422 Walnut and a mother of two small children stated that she is concerned about cars traveling at a high rate of speed along Walnut St., and the danger to children and other pedestrians. The Board Members asked the Chief to assign officers to this street to reduce the problem.

Mr. Larry Wood of 400 Walnut Street told the Board about several incidents involving people dangerously driving cars and trucks at high speeds on Walnut Street. He also voiced a concern about the loud “boom-boom” cars and trucks, as well as motorcycles with straight pipes (rather than mufflers).

The neighbors asked the Board to consider stationing a police officer in the area to discourage these individuals and to improve the safety of the neighborhood. The Board

and the Chief stated that they would increase patrol and encouraged the residents to call whenever they have a concern or a specific incident.

The residents also asked the Board to address the unkempt property at 498 Walnut Street. Mr. Csikos outlined the procedure his office follows to correct code violations related to nuisance properties. He also stated that he would look into the history related to that specific home and contact Dr. & Mrs. Stahl to keep them informed about our progress.

Telecommunications Bidding review and Paul Johnson Contract Proposal: Mr. Paul Johnson, of Paul Johnson and Associates, appeared and asked the Board about their decision concerning his contract to prepare a bid for lease / purchase of the communications equipment. Mr. Ault seconded by Mr. Hougland made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the original agreement. The motion carried. Approved.

Other Business:

Lynhurst Alley – Mr. Larry Moran reported that a resident of Lynhurst Street put in a concrete driveway, which ran into the alley within the City's right of way. Mr. Moran also stated that the resident recently installed a 2 x 4 post in the alley in the right of way.

Department Status of Tasks:

Street Department - Street Commissioner Richard Hughes had no report.

Planning Department - Mr. Joe Csikos on behalf of the Planning Director David Weir provided the Board with a memorandum titled Board of Works Status Report dated June 24, 2003.

Engineering – Mr. Mike Buening – Mr. Buening provided the Board of Works his Status Report dated June 24, 2003.

Wastewater Plant and Sewer Maintenance – Mr. Rick Littleton reported on his progress as to the City auction: He state that he spoke with Findley Auctioneers and scheduled a City auction on July 26, at 10:00 a.m. at the Street Department. He also stated that he received a telephone call from Mr. Bob Gee asking that the Board rotate the city auction between other local auctioneers. The Board Members agreed that the auction could be rotated between vendors in the future.

Fire Department - Chief Mike Herron
Deputy Chief Lewis had no report.

Police Department –Chief John Borges

Chief Borges requested the Board agree to pay an additional fee for the towing of a dump truck that was abandoned on Edwards Street due to the unusual size of the vehicle and due to the fact that the truck is filled with junk. He also asked the Board to support a request to the Mayor for an overtime blitz by officers tagging abandoned vehicles throughout the City. Mr. Hougland and Mr. Ault agreed. Chief Borges also asked the Board to authorize him to meet with the City Attorney and work out a special parking permit for jurors to park downtown around the Courthouse during trials. The Board agreed with this request.

City Attorney – Robert H. Schafstall, Esq. reviewed a memo provided to the Board updating them on pending issues. Mr. Schafstall covered the following matters:

1. Mr. Schafstall stated that IDEM contacted him concerning their requirement that Speedway Super America be allowed to monitor the site. Mr. Schafstall reported that the three-way agreement between Speedway Super America, the City of Franklin and Provincial Gardens is still pending. The Board asked Mr. Schafstall to contact IDEM and see if they can assist the City by encouraging the company to execute the agreement.
2. St. Paul, the City's insurer advised him that in regard to the federal lawsuit filed by American Outdoor Advertising, they will defend the City at their cost but will not pay any judgment entered against the City.
3. City v. James Jachimiak: A hearing is set July 1, concerning the City's Emergency Motion for Preliminary Injunction.
4. Eastside Sewer Interceptor Project: Mr. Schafstall reported that Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Braden have agreed to accept \$2,500 for their land with a promise that the City will repair any landscaping damage which may occur as a result of the project. Mr. Ault made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Hougland. The motion carried. Approved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held July 15, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk Treasurer

Approved by the Board of Works: _____

Norman P. Blankenship, Mayor