

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

Meeting Minutes  
November 25, 2003

**Opening**

Mayor Norman P. Blankenship called the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety to order at 6:00 p.m. on November 25, 2003 in City Hall.

**Regular Meeting**

**Present:** Mayor Norman P. Blankenship, Jr., Mr. Joseph Ault and Mr. Stephen D. Hougland were present. Also present was Clerk Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, Police Chief John Borges, City Engineer Mike Buening, Fire Chief Mike Herron, Street Commissioner Richard Hughes, Wastewater Treatment Facility Superintendent Rick Littleton and Planning Director David Weir.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held October 28, 2003 were approved as distributed.

**Approval of Claims**

The following claims were presented. Mr. Ault made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Hougland. The motion carried.

Date	Type	Description	Amount
10/3/03	Sewer	Payroll	\$21,009.41
10/17/03	Sewer	Payroll	\$21,753.12
10/31/03	Sewer	Payroll	\$22,171.00
		Total Sewer Payroll	\$64,933.53
11/25/03	Sewer	Vendor Claims	\$145,469.84
		Total Vendor Claims	\$145,469.84
10/31/03	Civil City	Perf & IN Fire & Police Pension	\$278,657.33
10/31/03	Civil City	Payroll	\$247,826.87
		Total Civil City Payroll & Pension	\$526,484.20
11/11/03	Civil City	Vendor Claims 29579 – 29597	\$1,154,443.60
11/25/03	Civil City	Vendor Claims 29598 – 29786	\$550,128.52
		Total Civil City Vendor Claims	\$1,704,572.12

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Branigin Road Turn Lane**

Ms. Ann Parker, on the behalf of Beazer Homes, came to discuss the turn lane at the intersection of Branigin Road and US Highway 31. Ms. Parker reviewed the following options for consideration: Option 1: Amend commitments to delete requirement for turn lane. Option 2: Accept engineering plans for right turn lane and funds for installation of such from Beazer in lieu of actual installation. Option 3: Have City condemn right-of-way for turn lane and install turn lane at Beazer's expense. Option 4: Accept contribution from Beazer to City for general road improvements in lieu of installation of Branigin Road turn lane. Option 5: Engage in legal action.

Discussion held. Mayor Blankenship stated that the Board of Works would consider Option 5 – Engage in Legal Action as presented by Beazer at the City Council Meeting on Monday, November 24, 2003. The Board of Works will hold an Executive Meeting in the near future to discuss threatened or pending legal action. No further action was taken. The matter was tabled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Request to Close East and West Court Street on 12/2/03 for the Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Mr. Rick Littleton on behalf of Ms. Trisha Bechman and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce requested that the City close Court Streets December 2, 2003 for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Hougland, seconded by Mr. Ault made a motion to approve. The motion carried.

### **Amendment to Fire Department Rules and Regulations**

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Lewis presented Chief Herron's request to amend the Fire Department Rules and Regulations for the position of Fire Captain that was approved by the Board of Works in April 2002. The words "or equivalent State certification" were omitted from Article III-4.4 page 1, Number 4. Mr. Lewis explained that the correct version for Number 4 should read: "Certification as a Fire Officer II or equivalent State Certification". Mr. Ault seconded by Mr. Hougland made a motion to approve the request and amend the Fire Department Rules and Regulations. The motion carried.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Street Department**

Mr. Richard Hughes reported that leaf-vacuuming crews are working and will continue to pick up leaves this coming holiday weekend on Friday, November 28, 2003 and Saturday, November 29, 2003.

### **Planning Department**

David Weir reported to the Board of Works that Krista Linke is preparing a Brownfield Grant application to be presented to the State of Indiana/Department of Commerce. The grant is for \$300,000, of which \$200,000 would be for an assessment and \$100,000 for property clean-up.

### **Engineering**

Mr. Mike Buening, City of Franklin Engineer, provided the Board of Works his Status Report dated November 25, 2003. He specifically reported about the following matters:

- In regard to Branigin Boulevard: Milestone has completed all paving with only final seeding, sodding, mulching, and other punch list items remaining. Branigin Boulevard is scheduled to open to public travel on Wednesday, November 26, 2003. In addition, Cinergy is installing streetlights and have advised that the lights should be in operation for the Holiday Weekend.
- In regard to State Road 44 – Forsythe Street: Mike Hoffman, INDOT Traffic Department Manager, has formally requested that the area between King Street and Jefferson Street be converted to a "no parking" on either side of the street.

Representatives from a local surveying company, CKW requested information about the status of the proposed plat for the Jefferson Gardens Subdivision. Mr. Buening informed the representatives and the Board of Works that some of the requirements have not been met at this time. Mr. Buening agreed to work with CKW Representatives to resolve the outstanding issues that have held up the decision to finalize the plat.

## **Wastewater Utility**

Superintendent Rick Littleton presented the two (2) year contract between the City of Franklin and Best Way Disposal for solid waste trash hauling, and curbside recycling. Mr. Hougland, seconded by Mr. Ault made a motion to approve the contract. The motion carried.

Mr. Rick Littleton also presented an agreement with SBC Communications for equipment purchase related to the Telecommunication Committee telephone system upgrade. Mr. Hougland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ault to authorize Mayor Blankenship to sign the agreement to purchase routers from SBC. The motion carried.

Mr. Littleton presented an addendum to the contract between the City of Franklin and Expanets. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to approve the addendum to the contract with Expanets and to authorize Mayor Blankenship to sign.

Frank Schumacher Chairman of the Telecommunications Commission informed the Board of Works that the telephone upgrade project is moving along. He stated that an initial meeting was held Tuesday, November 25, 2003. He also stated that regular weekly conference calls would be scheduled. In addition, Frank presented a list of telephone numbers that he will be sending to department heads and employees. It is his intention to have the information about existing telephone services from the offices for the meeting to be held on December 16, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## **Fire Department**

Assistant Chief Mike Lewis reported that the Fire Department is in the process of applying for a federal grant for fire equipment and would like for the Board of Works to consider authorizing the hiring of a grant writer. Mayor Blankenship suggested that the Fire Department contact Planning Director David Weir for contact information for grant writers used by the City for other projects.

## **Police Department**

Police Chief John Borges presented the following items to the Board of Works:

- He reported that Deputy Chief Hood received an award from the Governors Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving. Mr. Hood received the Southeastern Coordinator of the Year Award. He was given a plaque and an expense paid trip to the 2004 LifeSavers Conference in San Diego California, which is a national highway safety conference. The Franklin Police Department was also recognized as the South Region Champion among medium sized police departments and received a \$2,000 equipment grant.
- Two (2) students, Megan O'Connor and Elena Garcia raised \$607 for the purchase of a bulletproof vest for the Franklin Police Department drug canine, Boris. The two students received a community service award for their efforts.
- Requested that parking on the northwest corner of Forsythe Street and Monroe Street be restricted. Mr. Hougland, seconded by Mr. Ault made a motion to approve. The motion carried.
- Reminded the Board that County Judges have requested that there be special provisions for juror parking. Discussion was held. The matter was tabled.
- A new wrecker company was recently added to the Police Department's approved list. Other vendors notified the Chief that they were concerned about the loss of business due to the addition of a fourth vendor. The Board of Works discussed the topic and considered limiting the number of wrecker companies. No further action was taken.
- Discussion regarding amending and/or updating the current skate board ordinance took place. The matter was tabled.

**City Attorney's Report**

Mr. Rob Schafstall reported that he received a letter from Ron Smith, attorney for Electro Spec, relative to the withdrawal of a tort claim filed against the City. Mr. Schafstall requested that the City reduce the Fire Department Haz Mat bill to \$5,000.00. Mr. Ault seconded by Mr. Hougland made a motion to approve. The motion carried.

The City Attorney initiated a discussion concerning the purchasing of telecommunications equipment. He stated that he had been contacted by Mr. Max Frodge who expressed an interest in financing the purchase for the City. The Clerk Treasurer explained that \$100,000.00 had been appropriated in the 2004 budget for this project and asked the Board whether they intended to request an additional appropriation for the balance of the project or whether they wished to finance all or part of the project. Discussion was held. The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to pursue financing and/or purchasing options for the system.

**Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Blankenship made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ault to allow Chief Borges to sign future agreements with the Johnson County Gang Task Force. The motion carried.

Mayor Blankenship revisited the recommendation made by INDOT to restrict parking along State Road 44 from King Street to Jefferson Street. Planning Director, David Weir, and City Engineer, Mike Buening, commented that the City should follow the INDOT recommendation. Discussion was held. Mr. Hougland, seconded by Mr. Ault made a motion to approve. The motion carried.

Mayor Blankenship received a bill for the 2003 Election from Johnson County. The Mayor stated that he intends to pay this debt out of the 2004 budget in January.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on December 9, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk Treasurer

Approved by the Board of Works: \_\_\_\_

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Norman P. Blankenship, Mayor