

**Board of Public Works and Safety
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2020**

The special meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Franklin, Indiana was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Steve Barnett presiding. Board member Bob Swinehamer was present, and Board member Lisa Jones called in remotely. Clerk Treasurer Jayne Rhoades, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also in attendance.

Les Tabeling – Public was also present.

New Business

Board of Works Resolution No.: 20-03 A Resolution Waiving Certain Procedures & Formalities During Disaster Emergency Pursuant to IC 10-14-3-17 - City Attorney Lynn

Gray gave an overview of what exactly this resolution does. Ms. Gray gave an update of what has happened since Monday night's Board of Works meeting. Ms. Gray stated there have been three types of things that have occurred. Wednesday there was a conference call from the White House which included essentially all local entities to give updates of what was occurring. They mentioned the current disruption could be weeks or months. Tuesday night Governor Holcomb issued an executive order which included some relaxation of open door laws, and one of those things was the ability to have electronic meetings, and request that those be limited to essential services only. There has been some question of whether Governor Holcomb has the authority to authorize changes to the municipal open door policies or not. Ms. Gray stated that her position on this is that even though he is governor of the state his order also applies to local municipalities.

Ms. Gray stated that the third thing was in yesterday's press conference with the governor he went through some additional closures and things that he was asking for the public's assistance on, and he was asked specifically if he was going to issue an order that everyone self-quarantine. His response was for no one to panic, and not yet! So Ms. Gray stated she thinks it's prudent given what other states have done, to anticipate and have something in place in the event that there was to be some action that required all of us to not attend any kind of public meeting, and so that is what brings us here today. Ms. Gray stated as related to the Board of Works in the upcoming months when meetings are scheduled there are essentially three options that could occur. The first thing would be our next regular meeting is scheduled for April 6th at 5:00 p.m., it is possible that we will have a meeting on April 6th at 5:00 p.m. just like we always do, that's hopeful & possible but that's probably not likely given the experience that we've had in other localities. The second thing would be there is a possibility that we have a meeting on April 6th, and we carry on our ordinary business like we always do, but we do it in this format where we have only a few members present, and the rest join remotely. It is suggested by both the governor's office, and by the Public Access Counselor that if you do have that type of meeting that since there will be limited members from the public present, you limit those decisions to only necessary & essential types of things, so that could happen. In that case the resolution that

you are being asked to consider here today really doesn't affect the majority of things. The third thing that could happen is that we could be in a situation where we've been requested & ordered to quarantine in which case we would not have this type of meeting available but we would continue to need to do business as a city. That's what this resolution would really address because that would then give the Mayor & Clerk Treasurer the ability to do things that typically the Board of Works would do such as: utilizing some of our government buildings as we've often done, we've let the Lions Club use the City Parking lot for a fish fry, and the Board of Works gives them permission to use the city parking lot. What if the hospital asked to use one of the City's parking lots to put up a tent so they could do testing, we would then give the Mayor & Clerk Treasurer the ability to authorize these types of things. If departments need to purchase supplies this would also be approved by the Mayor & Clerk Treasurer, and then when we do have the next scheduled meeting those actions that were taken that typically would have been approved by the Board of Works are put on that agenda for what we call ratification. Ms. Gray stated she believes that the only things that should be done are the things that are essential, and related to the emergency types of things, but she believes we need to be thinking along those lines. Ms. Gray stated she is available to answer any questions that anyone might have, and would rather be prepared than unprepared. Board member Lisa Jones stated she is glad that Ms. Gray put this resolution together. Mayor Barnett stated that yesterday he received a call from the Mayor of Columbus, and he had an opportunity to order masks, and Mayor Barnett stated he ordered 5000 masks which will be paid from Board of Works. Mr. Swinehamer made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Jones. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried. Ms. Jones stated that she would come by and sign the resolution later this afternoon.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Works, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled:3/20/2020

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer