

**Board of Public Works and Safety  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Franklin, Indiana, was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Steve Barnett presiding. Board members Ken Austin & Tina Jobe answered roll call.

Chief of Police Kirby Cochran, Fire Chief Joshua Snyder, Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner, Sewer Billing Office Manager Sherry Phillips, DPW Superintendent Sally Brown, IT Director Rick Littleton, Community Development Director Krista Linke, Planning Director Joanna Tennell, Street Department Director of Operations Jason Wilson, Clerk Treasurer Jan Jones, City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also in attendance.

Street Commissioner/Fleet Manager Brett Jones was absent.

Mayor Barnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements & Public Comments**

There were no announcements or public comments.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

1. Approval of Minutes from meeting held June 2, 2025
2. Board of Works Claims.
  - #060225 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$47,475.71
  - #060325 Sewer Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$59,963.81
  - Payroll in the amount of \$598,950.27
  - Pool Rental Payroll in the amount of \$915.00
  - #060925 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$429,484.84
  - #061025 Sewer Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$185,102.48
  - Separate Payroll in the amount of \$649.20
  - #061525 BOW General Obligations in the amount of \$132,634.51
  - #061425 Sewer General Obligations in the amount of \$25,588.77

Mr. Austin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business presented.

## **New Business**

### **Approval of Forms for Clients A-E for the Franklin Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation**

**(OOR)** - Administration Resources Association (ARa) Whitney Koelling explained this is a local home repair program for low-income residents within city limits. The forms acknowledge the program participants and allow the Mayor to sign off on construction contracts. Home inspections are the next step. City Attorney Gray explained she has reviewed and approved the documents. Ms. Gray also explained the grant is for very specific repairs such as roof, HVAC, water heater, ADA accessibility and radon level testing and mitigation. Not every homeowner will qualify for all 5 categories. Ms. Gray stated there will be additional forms that will come before the Board for approval. Ms. Koelling explained there are 7 other active programs in Indiana such as Bedford, Greensburg, Martinsville and Seymour. Community Development Director Krista Linke stated there has been a bidders meeting with companies interested in these projects. Ms. Koelling stated there were about 35 grant applicants and the goal is to help 20-25 of those applicants. Ms. Linke stated the Economic Development Corporation's residential repair program is a restricted area so this Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Grant allows for a wider range of applicants. Mayor Barnett made a motion to approve the forms for Clients A-E, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all member stating aye. The motion carried.

### **Acceptance of quotes and approval to move forward with Phase 3 of Headstone**

**Restoration Project at Greenlawn Cemetery** - Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner explained this phase will include 150 new headstone foundations and resetting 20 headstones. The Parks Department reached out to 3 companies for quotes: A & H Contracting \$50,000.00, DH Monument Foundations (declined to quote) and Midwest Monument (declined to quote). A & H Contracting completed the first two phases as well. The project will be paid from the cemetery budget. Ms. Gray explained many of these graves do not have family members who can maintain them so the Parks Department wanted to help care for those. Mayor Barnett stated the city plans to continue this project for several years. Mr. Orner explained that during Phase 2, the cemetery purchased a couple pieces of equipment so city employees can start learning the restoration process. Mr. Austin made a motion to accept the quotes and accept A & H Contracting as the lowest, most responsive and responsible quote, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Request approval and execution of Change Order 01 - FINAL for the Johnson Avenue Sidewalk Project** - City Engineer Matt McElroy explained this change order is for additional items to complete the work and a final balancing change order. Change Order 01 includes adding a vertical curb, and thicker sidewalk at driveways for a total increase of \$80.57 for a new contract amount of \$252,077.57. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve Change Order 01 with the Mayor signing on behalf of the Board, seconded by Ms. Jobe. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business presented.

### **Department Reports / Staff Reports**

DPW Superintendent Sally Brown stated Wessler Engineering advertised about the WWTP expansion, so they have received phone calls from contractors who are interested in the project.

Planning Director Joanna Tennell stated there is an initial meeting for the comprehensive plan next week.

Street Department Director of Operations Jason Wilson explained the two pedestrian crossings on East Jefferson Street are complete. Paul Hand road is closed for construction.

Community Development Director Krista Linke stated they are working with the visitor's center to get another downtown map display installed. The goal location is the mulched area right across the street from the visitor's center. At the North Main Street intersection, the display case has historic photos of what Main Street used to look like and a QR code with information. The new display case at the visitor's center would have historical information about that area of downtown as well. Ms. Gray asked if some of the QR codes could be audible for those individuals who are unable to read from a brochure. Ms. Linke explained the goal is to incorporate more audio features to cut down on printing costs and be able to display the most up to date information.

Fire Chief Josh Snyder stated they are waiting on some equipment to be installed on the ladder but it is close to being in service. There are 24 applicants going for interview for the new-hire list.

Police Chief Kirby Cochran stated they are presenting the Life Saving Award to an officer this evening and there is an officer being sworn in. With July 4<sup>th</sup> coming up, Chief Cochran asked for patience and understanding from residents. The Police and Fire Departments are collaborating to come up with the best way to manage traffic after the July 3<sup>rd</sup> festival due to the construction on US 31.

Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner stated there are several parks events coming up: June 21<sup>st</sup> Taylor Swift Tribute Concert at the amphitheater, June 30<sup>th</sup> Pickleball Lighting Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, July 1<sup>st</sup> Active Adult Center Ribbon Cutting from 11:00-3:00 with a Grand Opening Tour celebration and July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks Festival with Blue River Band (they are retiring after this year).

Ken Austin thanked all departments for their hard work.

City Attorney Lynn Gray explained effective July 1<sup>st</sup> that board agendas have to list the members and who appointed those members.

Mayor Barnett gave the following dates for budget approval: introduction 08/18/25, public meeting 08/18/25 and adoption 09/05/25. The initial numbers are discussed several months prior with the city's financial advisor Jeff Peters. Mayor Barnett explained he also collaborates with Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones, all department heads and council members.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Works, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer  
Enrolled: 06/19/25

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Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

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Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer