

**Board of Public Works & Safety
and Park Authority Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.
Ligonier City Hall · 301 S. Cavin St. · Ligonier, IN 46767**

Call to order by Mayor Earle Franklin

Roll Call

Present: Board Members Tom Janes, Ron Terry, and Mayor Earle Franklin
City Attorney Jack Birch and Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting of January 10, 2024

Motion to approve: Ron Terry Second: Tom Janes Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Fire Department – 2024 Gear Quote

Chief Jeremy Weaver provided a quote from MES-Municipal Emergency Services for turnout gear. The budget includes \$20,000 and the quote came in at \$16,787.24.

Motion to approve: Tom Janes Second: Ron Terry Vote: All Ayes

Park Department – Concrete Quote for Woodlawn Park

Park Director John Parrish provided a quote from Young Services to extend the sidewalk from parking lot to cabin, extend sidewalk from Lincolnway Building (former Nursery School) with ADA pad and repair the floor at the three-sided shelter for a total of \$8,814. Budget is \$29,000.

Motion to approve: Earle Franklin Second: Tom Janes Vote: All Ayes

Commerce Drive Bid Award Recommendation

City Engineer Jonathan Moen provided a letter recommending the city not award the Commerce Drive Project at this time due to the bids being over the estimated cost by more than 10%. He recommends doing a value engineering analysis to look for potential savings and to rebid the project in early spring.

Motion to approve: Tom Janes Second: Earle Franklin Vote: All Ayes

Comments by Members of Council and Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Last fall the board approved the purchase of the new squad truck in the 2024 budget. It has been ordered and is ready to go into production. Chief Weaver will start ordering the equipment budgeted for the truck.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Thanks to Tim Buchanan, Troy Arnold, and John Parrish for helping with the plowing during the winter storms.

Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bryan Shearer

- Last week we had the onsite assessment for the accreditation process. The assessor is recommending approval to the commission. If the commission approves, we should receive word at the conference next week.
- The Windows for the former city hall building, purchased by the Redevelopment Commission, were delivered and installation should begin tomorrow.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle

- The AMI system for meter monitoring is up and running. We will have training next week from Utility Supply. For meter reading, any meter that does not read will be read by water department personnel. As we change out old meters, this will reduce the list of no readings.

WWTP Superintendent Kenny Sprague

- Anticipating delivery of the sludge press pump this week and hope to have it up and running by Friday. Hope to be able to budget to get a spare to have just in case this occurs again.

Park Director John Parrish

- With the equipment budget, plan to purchase 2-3 pieces of weight equipment. Will be getting prices for the replacements and bringing the quotes to the board soon.

Building Administrator Elroy Mast

- Updates on the burn out houses
Lincolnway – They are waiting on weather to clean up the remainder of the area.
Martin Street – We were contacted by an excavator about a permit to do the tear down. Granite Ridge is working with them as well so there will likely be a rebuild.
North Main – The Rose house is making some progress. For the other house, the owner says she has found someone to take it down.
West Second – The owner did not have insurance and says they have no funds to take the house down. Will have a discussion with city attorney regarding the next step.

- Inquired if there were any type of ordinances regarding furnaces that would not allow homeowners to use space heaters instead of a furnace.
City Attorney Jack Birch said there is an unsafe building procedure in state code regarding space heaters. He will check into this to take care of promptly. He also stated there should not be too much involved to restrict occupancy if there is no furnace. Regarding the burnout houses, if the owner does not take the house down, there are procedures with the unsafe building ordinance where the city could take the house down and place a lien on the property to be collected with property taxes.
- Mayor Franklin stated he appreciates everything Elroy is doing. Elroy stated he appreciate the way the city runs and all of the help he has gotten from everyone connected to the city.
- Police Chief Shearer commended Elroy on the job he does and the person that he is and is happy to have him as part of the city's team.

City Attorney Jack Birch

- We met with the Housing HUB regarding the acreage owned by the city (former community foundation land). The architect provided basic drawings and sketches from other neighborhoods he has worked on. The group made some initial decisions on the type of neighborhood we want to have developed; the mix will offer a new type of neighborhood and offer amenities not currently available. The housing mix will be apartments, single family homes, villas, and rental homes. At the next meeting, the architect will have sketches available for review.

Mayor Earle Franklin


- At the Noble County Economic Development Corp. meeting today, we learned that a person/company is looking for about 100 acres in our annexed land at the south end of the city. No further information is available at this time.

Adjournment


Motion to adjourn: Tom Janes

Second: Ron Terry

Vote: All Ayes



Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer



Earle Franklin, Mayor