



BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBER

THURSDAY, February 15, 2024

4:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Mayor Long, City Attorney Doug Lehman, Todd Titus

Department Heads Present: Park Superintendent Adam Hall; Police Chief Matt Bruss, Fire Chief Andy Oswalt; Street Department Superintendent Scott Richardson; Building Commissioner Jeff Knee; Wastewater Superintendent Bob Gray

MINUTES

Todd Titus motioned to approve the minutes. Mayor Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CITY CLAIMS-SEWAGE CLAIMS

Mayor Long motioned to approve the City Claims-Sewage Claims. Titus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Paul Hayden of Indiana Landmarks updated the Board on the Wilkinson Lumber situation. The owner of the buildings is very anxious for an agreement with Indiana Landmarks, but the Norfolk-Southern railroad owns the land the buildings sit on, and they have not responded to a purchase offer sent by Indiana Landmarks three weeks ago. Mr. Hayden requested an additional month from the City to allow him time to pursue this a bit further. He stated that after this additional month, Indiana Landmarks will no longer be putting their resources toward the attempt to buy the Wilkinson Lumber property. Titus motioned to approve extending the timeframe an additional 30 days; Mayor Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Hayden also brought up the concern of the wall by the sidewalk being in very poor condition. He asked Kevin Gidley of Happy Homes to quote a retaining wall and a bid was offered of \$3000 for a wall that would last one year. If the wall is constructed of treated lumber, it will last longer than a year and the price for that is \$3,500.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Bids for Wabash Northeast Business Complex Sanitary Sewer Extension Project that were taken under advisement at the last meeting. Keith Bryant of United Consulting Services presented a quote tabulation of the four accepted bids and stated that the company offering the lowest bid had the resources and experience required for successful completion of the project. Mayor Long motioned to approve awarding the contract to Fox Contractors Corp of Fort Wayne for their bid of \$78,404. Titus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Professional Service Agreement with United Consulting regarding the Northeast Sanitary Sewer Project. Mr. Bryant explained that the sewer system in the northern part of the city needs to be upgraded to allow the Northeast Corridor to be opened up to further development. For a proposed price of \$660,000 United Consulting proposes to do the work to put the City in position to be ready for an improved sewer should grants or industrial needs materialize. Wastewater Superintendent Gray feels the money will be available for this. Mayor Long made a motion to approve the United Consulting agreement. Titus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Attorney Lehman brought up an agreement sent by GP Trucking for signature prior to their paying for damage done to the sewage plant property by one of their trucks. The concern was that the agreement included a clause requiring the agreement to remain confidential. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Lehman will request the clause be changed to “confidential to the extent permitted by law or statute.”

Mr. Lehman has received a ballot for signature in order to accept an Opioid Settlement from Endo International PLC, which is currently in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Mayor Long had previously been cautioned by the Indiana Attorney General’s office not to sign individual settlements such as this one and wants to call the Indiana AG Todd Rokita’s office for advice. Titus made a motion to authorize the City to sign the agreement pending approval from Todd Rokita’s office. Mayor Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Wastewater Superintendent Gray says that Mill Street is back open now.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Works meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm

Mayor Scott A. Long	Member
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Todd Titus	Member
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Jim Reynolds	Member
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