

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2022

The Board of Public Works and Safety met for a regular session at City Hall on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. CST with the following members present: Mayor Dennis Estok; Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Kidder; Board Members Steve Dodge and City Attorney Autumn Ferch. Jim Collins was absent.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING 01/26/22

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to the Board Members prior to the meeting for their review. A motion was made by Steve Dodge to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mayor Dennis Estok and passed by a vote of Two (2) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 301 E DANKER STREET – UPDATE

Building and Code Compliance Director Ken Pfof updated the Board on 301 E Danker Street. Director Pfof inspected the south side rooms and found no improvements had been made as suggested. The abandoned car has been removed from the parking lot and outside of the office has been cleaned up. After inspection of the south side rooms, they were found to be unsafe. Mayor Estok made a motion to work with the Starke County Health to have the building condemned. Steve Dodge seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of Two (2) ayes and No (0) nays.

RE: 7 N BOWER STREET – UPDATE

Building and Code Compliance Director Ken Pfof updated the Board on the property at 7 N Bower street. Director Pfof gave them an order to rehabilitate or demolish. The property owners asked for some time to decide what to do. The Board agreed and gave them until the March Board of Public Works meeting to decide.

RE: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Building and Code Compliance Director Ken Pfof gave updates on:

1. 6 N Pearl and 204 W Bender, there is a public hearing for these properties set for March 23, 2022, at 9:30 AM during the next Board of Works Meeting.
2. 401 E Lake Street, their deadline to have property cleaned up is February 28th or the City will clean it up at their expense.
3. 10 S Heaton Street, the demolition started yesterday February 22, 2022.
4. 301 S Shield Street, demolition is done and looks good.
5. 502 E Lake Street, it is under enforcement, trying to get it cleaned up.

Director of Park and Recreation Karl Swihart informed the Board that the Adult Basketball League has 10 teams participating. Youth basketball has 136 participants. The Daddy/Daughter Dance was very successful with 119 in attendance. A MOU is in process with the KVA.

Police Chief Harold Smith informed the Board that his department partnered up with Porter Starke for a Drug Take Back Program on February 12th. It was very successful. On February 19th Karl Swihart Director of Park and Recreation with a donation from the Knox VFW Auxiliary Post 748 sponsored a free child ID Program. Our Crossing Guard resigned; Officer Ashley Vandemark has been filling in. The new officer is doing well and got good reports.

Street Superintendent Jeff Borg informed the Board that he attended a virtual training for pesticide credit for his license. They have received 3 loads of salt. Repairing equipment from the last snowstorm and will be ready for the next storm.

Sewer Superintendent Jason Clemons informed the Board that his department is working with J & G installing VFD drives and rebuilding 3 pumps. The new gas sensors will be installed March 2nd for free. Merrell Brothers will be hauling off liquid biosolids at .16 a gallon. Keith and Justin rebuilt two transfer pumps and ACU Dig assisted with two backed up sewer lines. Justin has started prep class for his certification. Vac Truck is still in the shop.

Water Superintendent Tim Lindewald informed the Board that IDEM did a survey check and the department had a Water Audit for 2019, 2020, and 2021. Repaired the hydrant by the Community Center, it is now cosmetic only and painted black. State Permit was received for the Media Filter change, it will start the first week of March. The department has changed out 5 – 7 meters this month plus have had 10 plus freeze ups this month. Tim also thanked the street department for their help with deliveries. On St. Louis Street we will possibly be extending the water main.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time the meeting upon motion was duly adjourned.

Dennis Estok, Mayor

Attest: _____
Cyndi Kidder, Clerk-Treasurer