

Board of Public Works and Safety
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 3, 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 member Ken Austin answered roll call. Board Member Tina Gross was absent.

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, Assistant City Engineer Matt McElroy, Street Commissioner/Fleet Manager Brett Jones, Clerk Treasurer Jan Jones, City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also in attendance. City Engineer Mark Richards was absent.

Mayor Barnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Public Comments

Resident Bill Harmening asked if the City of Franklin would follow the Federal Government's lead and send letters for staff reduction. Mayor Barnett answered that the City of Franklin gets a \$22,400,000.00 annual budget, 69 % of that goes to public safety and there are no intentions to cut public safety. However, when we must deal with what the State House is getting ready to do with property taxes, we will get with the City Council to see where cuts need to be made.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

1. Approval of Minutes from meeting held February 19, 2025
2. Board of Works Claims.
 - #021725 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$980,303.51
 - #022125 Sewer Bond in the amount of \$278,709.38
 - #021825 Sewer Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$340,733.75
 - Pension Payroll in the amount of \$50,637.75
 - #021725 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$980,328.51
 - #022225 Group Insurance Elan in the amount of \$349.00
 - #022325 Sewer Elan in the amount of \$4,812.69
 - #022425 BOW Elan in the amount of \$21,255.31
 - Separate Payroll in the amount of \$645.00
 - #022625 BOW Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$1,655,109.12
 - #022725 Sewer Contracts/Utilities in the amount of \$9,953.65
 - #030225 BOW General Obligations in the amount of \$90,326.07
 - #030325 Sewer General Obligations in the amount of \$81,429.65

Mr. Austin made a motion to approve the consent agenda and claims 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.

New Business

Resolution Approving the Transfer of Funds to Johnson County, Indiana for Johnson County Public Transportation Service (Access Johnson County) - City Attorney Lynn Gray informed that Access is under contract with Johnson County, which runs it through the Federal Dept. of Transportation. Technically, we should pay our annual amount to the county, and they will distribute the money to Access. The Access contract is up for renewal next year, and with the uncertainty of federal funds, Johnson County Attorney Tiffany Costley shared with Ms. Gray they are unsure what will happen. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve Resolution 25-03 approving the Transfer of Funds to Johnson County, Indiana, for Johnson County Public Transportation Service, in the amount of \$18,500.00, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried. Mayor Barnett noted that this service is an example of what could be cut if the Statehouse passes the property tax cut.

Street closure requests for 2025 Franklin Parks and Recreation events - Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner requested street closures for the following:

Cruisin' the Amp	June 7 th	Jackson Street, West Court Street, and a portion of Monroe St.
Firecracker Festival	July 3 rd	Jackson Street
Fall Festival	Sept. 27 th	Jackson Street, West Court Street, and a portion of Monroe St.

Mayor Barnett asked Mr. Orner to speak with the downtown business owners before the closings. Mr. Orner said he meets with them at the DDF meeting in March. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve the requested street closures for 2025 Franklin Parks and Recreation events downtown, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried. Mr. Orner added that there are many other events this summer, some of which have traditionally been located on North Main Street and those have been moved to the Amphitheater, which is why there are fewer street closure requests this year.

Request acceptance of bids for the 2025 Maintenance Improvement Project - Crack Sealing; Request award of construction contract to Robertson Paving, Inc. as the lowest, most responsive and responsible bidder; and Request execution of the construction agreement - Assistant City Engineer Matt McElroy stated this is part of our annual maintenance program. The following bids were opened on Friday, February 21, 2025:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Pavement Solutions | \$266,485.36 |
| 2. Scodeller Construction, Inc. | \$213,315.05 |
| 3. Russel Standard | \$234,337.13 |
| 4. HSC Pavement Maintenance | \$201,070.94 |
| 5. All Star Paving Inc. | \$199,624.75 |
| 6. Robertson Paving Inc. | \$182,109.91 |

The engineer's estimate was \$224,127.75. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried. Mayor Barnett noted that this item is also an example of what could be cut if the

property tax cut goes through.

Request approval of Change Order 6, Final Change Order for the E. Jefferson St.

pedestrian facilities project - Assistant City Engineer Matt McElroy stated that Change Order #6 is a final balancing Change Order for a reduction in contract cost of \$50,842.20, resulting in an overall cost reduction of \$41,712.49. This is a 4.4% reduction, resulting in an overall 3.6% reduction. The original cost was \$1,151,940.65, and the final cost was \$1,110,228.16, for which the City paid approximately \$50,000.00. Mayor Barnett said reductions are always good and thanked CrossRoad for a job well done. Again, Mayor Barnett stated the money for this project came out of the General Fund and would be affected if the Statehouse property tax cuts are approved. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve the request for Change Order #6, which is a final change order for the E. Jefferson St. pedestrian facilities project, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request approval of Change Orders 11 and 12 for the Active Adult Center Project -

Assistant City Engineer Matt McElroy stated Change Order #11 is a credit for removing the application of Aerolon on steel beams, relocation of sprinkler heads, and concealing sprinkler heads in the lobby. It is an increase of \$1,136.99, or .023%. Change Order #12 is for drilling through and reinforcing steel beams for expanded access to the sprinkler system. It is an increase of \$4,118.00, or .083%. Mayor Barnett stated this whole project has been paid for out of the money the City receives through property taxes. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve Change Orders #11 and #12 for the Active Adult Center and for Mayor Barnett to sign on the Board's behalf, seconded by Mayor Barnett. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Acceptance and execution of the following documents related to Malarkey: Sanitary Sewer Service Special Agreement, Earthwork & Paving Inspection Service Agreement, Storm & Sanitary Sewer Inspection Service Agreement and Performance Bond 30237866 Erosion Control \$135,641.71

- Senior Planner Joanna Tennell stated this is located south of Paul Hand Blvd. and the future extension of Essex. It is ready for consideration and action. Mayor Barnett made a motion to approve the execution of the documents related to Malarkey and the Performance Bond as presented, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request approval of Right-of-Entry for Retiring Lift Station/Forcemain

- Senior Planner Joanna Tennell said this is located north of 1230 S. State Street driveway. It is considered Tract A of the Wilson Overlook Subdivision. (At a previous meeting, we declined this property.) There is an existing lift station and forcemain that have not been used for many years, and in 2011, the easement was removed. Since Red Fred, Inc. owns the property, to finish the process of retiring everything, we needed his permission for Right-of-Entry. This is the request to move forward on that. DPW Superintendent Sally Brown confirmed they are planning to do this work in-house. Ms. Gray thanked Ms. Tennell and Mr. Paris for working together on this agreement. Mayor Barnett made a motion to approve the Right-of-Entry for retiring the lift station/forcemain as presented, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request permission to purchase Bobcat Telehandler via Sourcewell contract #020223-CEC and trade in credit Case SV250 Skidloader serial #JAFSV250ACM444916 - Street

Commissioner/Fleet Manager Brett Jones said the Wheel-loader needs to be replaced. Unfortunately, machinery costs have increased, interest rates are higher, and companies no longer offer low-hour lease arrangements, which results in prices that are triple what we currently pay. Now, it's \$14,500.00 annually for a piece of equipment valued at approximately \$15,000.00. When lease numbers from CAT, Case, and John Deere came in, the lowest was just under \$40,000.00, which is not the best use of funds, and neither was purchasing one for \$200,000.00. This Telehandler will do what the Wheel loader does (salt, asphalt, etc.), and also has the hydraulic attachment of the Skidloader. The Street Dept. used one in January and was pleased with how it fits their needs. Mayor Barnett complimented Mr. Jones on his efforts. Mayor Barnett made a motion to approve the purchase of the Bobcat Telehandler via the Sourcewell contract, authorize the trade-in of the Skidloader, and for Mr. Jones to sign on behalf of the Board, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request permission to purchase Elgin RegenX Street Sweeper via Sourcewell contract #093021-ELG Machine to be paid for from MS4/Stormwater Fund - Street

Commissioner/Fleet Manager Brett Jones stated this has been in the Capitol Project Plans to add a second sweeper. This selection was made in conjunction with Ty Urban at MS4. The mechanical machine (paid 50/50 between Street Dept./MS4) will still be used, adding the new machine (paid 100% by MSR4), especially in the spring and summer months. The Street Dept. had a chance to operate this machine, courtesy of Plainfield Street Dept. Per the State's mandate, the City is required to clean curb lines, storm lines, etc. Mayor Barnett made a motion to approve the purchase of an Elgin RegenX Street Sweeper via Sourcewell contract, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

Request Disposal of Salvage Equipment - Director of Technology Rick Littleton shared a list of surplus items that can be recycled or disposed of and have no resale value. Mayor Barnett reminded Dept. Heads to turn in things that are no longer usable to Mr. Littleton. Mayor Barnett made a motion to approve the equipment list ready for disposal, seconded by Mr. Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Department Reports / Staff Reports

DPW Superintendent Sally Brown stated they are preparing for Ultra Violet Disinfection season beginning April 1st.

Assistant City Engineer Matt McElroy shared that the US 31 Project is starting soon, and the City's portion has been paid.

Community Development Director Krista Linke said it is Tax Abatement Compliance time and Dana Monson has been working on those. Quotes to redo the dumpster enclosure near the Artcraft are being finalized, and 650 Overstreet has drywall installed and paint going up, so cabinets, flooring, and fixtures should soon follow; hoping to list in about six weeks.

Police Chief Kirby Cochran thanked Mr. Jones for always working to get the best numbers for the vehicles used by the City. The Police Dept. definitely appreciates it.

Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner said they are interviewing 164 people for 126 summer positions. Parks is still looking to fill two landscaping positions. Also, the Active Adult Center has made a lot of interior progress and should be completed by the end of May.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Works, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 03/05/25

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer