

MINUTES
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
OCTOBER 3, 2013

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works & Safety convened at 9:03 a.m., in Council Chambers of Hammond City Hall. A roll call was taken: Mr. Lendi – present; Mr. Dostatni – present; Mr. Smith – present.

Motion by Mr. Dostatni to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 26, 2013; seconded by Mr. Smith. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Request for advertising dates of October 31, 2013 and November 7, 2013 with a bid opening date of November 21, 2013 for the demolition of 5502 Alice Avenue (house and garage), 935 Ames Street, 7247 Calumet Avenue, 5536 Claude Avenue, 5712 Erie Avenue, 5735 Erie Avenue, 4203 Johnson Avenue, 935 Michigan Street, 951 Reese Street, 5 Rimbach Street, 7243 State Line Avenue and 5554 Walter Avenue (house and garage). Motion by Mr. Dostatni; seconded by Mr. Smith. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Res. No. 4000)

Bid recommendation received from Nies Engineering, Inc. for the Monon Bike Trail and Bridge Project to Superior Construction Co., Inc. low bidder. Motion by Mr. Dostatni; seconded by Mr. Smith. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-955)

Hearing on property located at 714 Sibley Street. Attorney James Driscoll appeared for the property owner. Mr. Driscoll stated the work to restore this property will be done and that he will submit an agreement to the Board regarding the same. Mr. Driscoll then requested additional time to prepare the agreement. Motion by Mr. Smith to continue this matter to October 17, 2013; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-956)

Hearing on property located at 12 Lawndale Street and 268 – 169th Street. Mr. Driscoll appeared for the property owner and requested additional time to prepare an agreement to submit to the Board. Motion by Mr. Smith to continue this matter to October 17, 2013; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-957)

Hearing on property located at 912 Summer Street. Mr. Driscoll appeared for the property owner and advised two (2) units will be removed. Mr. Matt Saliga, Inspector, Inspections Department requested the Board affirm the Findings and Order to remove the illegal units. Motion by Mr. Smith to affirm the Findings and Order; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-958)

Hearing on property located at 1212 – 150th Street. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Saliga requested the Board affirm the Findings and Order requiring the removal of one (1) unit. Motion by Mr. Smith to affirm the Findings and Order; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-959)

Hearing on property located at 832 Truman Street. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Saliga advised the owner is cooperating and requested this matter be dismissed. Motion by Mr. Smith to dismiss this action; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-960)

Hearing on property located at 4920 Ash Avenue. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Saliga stated that an agreement has been reached and requested this matter be set for status. Motion by Mr. Smith to continue this matter to January 9, 2014; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-961)

Hearing on property located at 4832 Cedar Avenue. Property owner appears with Attorney Robert Sorge. Mr. Sorge stated the owner's will convert this residence back to a single family dwelling. Mr. Kelly Kearney, Commissioner, Code Enforcement, appeared and requested the Board affirm the Findings and Order requiring the property be returned to a single family dwelling. Motion by Mr. Smith to affirm the Findings and Order; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-962)

Hearing on property located at 851 Indiana Avenue. Property owner appears and requested he be allowed to keep this property as a three (3) unit as he was told it would be acceptable to remove only one (1) unit. Mr. Kearney stated that it is zoned as a two (2) unit and that if the property owner was under the impression otherwise, he misunderstood. Mr. Kearney then said the property owner did pull a permit for the removal of the basement unit. Mr. Dostatni then advised the Board cannot approve a three (3) unit building as it is zoned as a two (2) unit structure. The property owner then said it seems as if no one knows what they are doing. Mr. Dostatni said zoning on the building would need to be changed and the Board does not have the authority to make any zoning changes. Motion by Mr. Smith to require the removal of the basement apartment and to convert the second floor units into one (1) unit; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-963)

Hearing on property located at 4618 Oak Avenue. Property owner appears. Ms. Gabriella Gallegos appears as the property owner's interpreter. Ms. Gallegos stated the property owner would like to know what needs to be done in order for him to rent the property again. Mr. Kearney said the 2nd floor apartment needs to be removed. Mr. Saliga added that a Findings and Order requiring the removal of the 2nd floor unit was affirmed by the Board in April of this year. Mr. Kearney advised that the ceiling on the 2nd floor is 6'4". Mr. Lendi said that emergency responders would not have enough room to carry someone out of the 2nd floor unit. Ms. Gallegos then said the property owner is willing to remove the unit. Motion by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-964)

Notice of Violation on property located at 1020 Becker Street. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Saliga requested this matter be continued to October 10, 2013. Motion by Mr. Smith to continue this matter to October 10, 2013; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-965)

Notice of Violation on property located at 4724 Torrence Avenue. Attorney Marco Molina appears for the property owners. Mr. Saliga requests the Findings and Order be affirmed. Motion by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-966)

Notice of Violation on property located at 539 Lewis Street. Property owners appear and stated their son lived in the basement for a period of time, they live upstairs and their home has never been rental property. Mr. Saliga stated he put an "Uninhabitable" sticker on the basement apartment after he was at the property due to a police call made there. Mr. Smith advised the property owners that no one should be living in the basement at this property at any time. No action taken. (Ins. No. 13-967)

Notice of Violation on property located at 1315 Sherman Street. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Saliga stated this property is vacant, the owners are cooperating and requested the Board affirm the Findings and Order requiring the removal of illegal unit(s). Motion by Mr. Smith to affirm the Findings and Order; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-968)

Notice of Violation on property located at 1020 Hoffman Street. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Saliga stated the owners are cooperating and requested the Board affirm the Findings and Order requiring the removal of illegal unit(s). Motion by Mr. Smith to affirm the Findings and Order; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-969)

Notice of Violation on property located at 4849 Elm Avenue. Property owner appears. Mr. Saliga stated that the owner is cooperating in returning the structure to a single family dwelling and then requested the Board affirm the Findings and Order requiring the removal of the illegal unit(s). Motion by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-970)

Notice of Violation on property located at 647 – 165th Street. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Saliga stated the dwelling has been returned to single family and requested to Board affirm the Findings and Order. Motion by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-971)

Correspondence received from Attorney Robert H. Sorge requesting a continuance of the Notice of Violation hearing on property located at 4231 Wabash Avenue. Motion by Mr. Smith to continue this matter to October 24, 2013; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-972)

Rental registration hearing on property located at 1020 Becker Street. Mr. Saliga requested this

matter be continued to October 10, 2013; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-973)

Rental registration hearing on property located at 6405 Kennedy Avenue. Property owner fails to appear. Motion by Mr. Smith to deny the appeal and assess a late fee of \$500 per unit and rental registration at \$80 per unit; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-974)

Rental registration hearing on property located at 1534 – 174th Street. Property owner appears and stated rental registration was paid in 2007 and he thought it was a one (1) time payment. 3rd District Councilman Anthony Higgs appeared with the property owner and requested the Board waive the late fee. Motion by Mr. Smith to assess one (1) \$500 late fee and rental registration at \$280 total for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-975)

Correspondence received requesting rental registration hearings on property located at 6348 Euclid Avenue, 1027 Drackert Street, 1106 Cherry Street, 4824 Ash Avenue and 2640 – 162nd Street. Motion by Mr. Smith to set these matters for hearing on October 17, 2013; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-976)

Order to Rescind Order to Demolish property located at 422 Highland Street. Motion by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-977)

Findings and Order on property located at 1930 Wespark Avenue. Motion by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 13-978)

Mr. Dostatni leaves the meeting. Normal rules of procedure are suspended.

Hearing regarding dangerous animal Anny Girl. Animal owner Ms. Kathy Zubrenic and Mr. Vincent Tavoletti appear. Ms. Jenny Krol, Animal Control, appears and stated their dog Anny Girl, has been declared a dangerous animal due to an incident that occurred on August 24, 2013. Ms. Krol stated Anny Girl attacked a neighbor on the neighbor's property without provocation. Mr. George Connor, the man who was attacked by Anny Girl, appeared and said he was not a stranger to Anny Girl. Ms. Krol gave the Board photographs of Mr. Connor's injuries and advised he was hospitalized for a week due to the dog bite. Ms. Krol then said Anny Girl was not up to date on shots at the time of the incident. Mr. Tavoletti and Ms. Zubrenic both stated that Anny Girl is a good dog and their companion. Ms. Zubrenic then offered photographs of the outdoor gate that was installed at her home to keep her animals in her yard. Mr. Tavoletti then said Anny Girl got out of the house, ran after a squirrel and the dog was not purposely let out loose to bite anyone. Mr. Tavoletti then said that he had three (3) statements from the animal hospital where Anny Girl was quarantined which state that she was not vicious during her stay there. Ms. Krol advised that after the dog bite occurred Mr. Tavoletti and Ms. Zubrenic initially refused to have Anny Girl quarantined but then relented. Recommendation by Mr. Smith to declare Anny Girl a

dangerous animal and have the dog euthanized; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-979)

Correspondence received from Mr. Gary Gleason, Street Commissioner, requesting permission to install a four (4) way stop at Waltham Street and Lyman Avenue for a ninety (90) day trial. Recommendation by Mr. Smith; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-980)

Correspondence received from Pilgrim Studios requesting permission to film a documentary series relating to cars for the Discovery Channel with street closure near 1500 – 141 Street, Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Recommendation by Mr. Smith to approve subject to the Hammond Police Department and Hammond Fire Department present during filming; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-981)

Agreement Regarding Park Improvements received from 1st District Councilman Mark Kalwinski requesting the authorization of \$72,670 of gaming funds to be appropriated for Park Improvements at Hammond Hermits Park, Pulaski Park and Pulaski pool. Recommendation by Mr. Smith; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-982)

Correspondence received from 4th District Councilman William Emerson requesting \$1,475 of gaming monies be used for benches along the Monon Bike Trail. Recommendation by Mr. Smith; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-983)

Correspondence received from 3rd District Councilman Anthony W. Higgs requesting ornamental lighting on the 5600 block of Maywood Avenue, construction to be done in 2014 on Claude Avenue from Carroll Street to Thornton Street and all street designs be completed and construction take place in 2014 on all projects in the 3rd District. Recommendation by Mr. Smith to refer these requests to the Engineering Department; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-984)

Order Authorizing the Withdrawal of Appearance of Attorney Justin Murphy for Mr. Steven Skirmont property located at 5502 Alice Avenue. Recommendation by Mr. Smith; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-985)

Correspondence received from Mr. Louis Karrubas regarding demolitions. Correspondence acknowledged. (Ins. No. 13-986)

Garage Sale Permits submitted for approval. Recommendation by Mr. Smith; Mr. Lendi concurred. (Ins. No. 13-987)

Under Meeting Opened to the Public, 3rd District Councilman Anthony Higgs requested the sidewalk be repaired on the 5900 block of Tapper Avenue and various houses on Becker Street, Carroll Street, Bauer Street, Highland Street, Ray Avenue, Ames Street and Field Street be demolished immediately. Recommendation by Mr. Smith to refer this matter to the Inspections Department; Mr.

Lendi concurred.

Mr. Michael Atchison, property owner of 5969 Park Place, appeared and read a letter regarding an inspection that was done at this property. Mr. Atchison said “Uninhabitable” stickers were placed at this property and he would like additional time to make repairs due to the cost and amount of time necessary to complete them. Mr. Atchison said he cannot evict a tenant that has signed lease. Mr. Anthony Spencer, tenant, stated that Mr. Atchison is a good man and requested that he not have to be evicted.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Mr. Smith to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Dostatni. The regularly scheduled meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED: October 17, 2013

By: _____
Robert Lendi, President

ATTEST:

Lynn Laviolette, Secretary