BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety convened at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2017, in the Council Chambers of Hammond City Hall. A roll call was taken: Mr. Dostatni - present; Ms. Garay - absent; Mr. Margraf- present.

Due to the absence of Ms. Garay, normal rules of procedure are suspended.

Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2017; Mr. Dostatni concurred.

Bid opening – Kennedy Avenue and 174th Street Intersection Improvements. Bids received as follows:

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Walsh & Kelly, Inc.	$260,737
Rieth Riley Construction Co., Inc.	$235,395

Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to refer the bids to the consulting engineer for tabulation and recommendation; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Res. No. 4046)

Agreement with Nies Engineering, Inc. for drainage issues, alley, paving and sidewalk projects as needed not to exceed a cost of $30,000. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-161)

Professional Services Agreement with United Consulting for engineering services on Birch Place, Birch Avenue, 172nd Place, Alabama Avenue, Delaware Avenue and Carolina Avenue at a cost of $61,900 for design engineering. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-162)

Bid recommendation received from Nies Engineering, Inc. for the 2017 Hammond and Whiting Sidewalk Program to J&J Newell Concrete Contractors, Inc., low bidder at $373,355. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-163)

Correspondence received from AT&T requesting permission to conduct work at 165th Street. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-164)

Change Order No. 1 received from United Consulting for Beech Avenue Lighting Improvements with an increase in cost of $3,495 for additional curb and gutter work. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-165)

Correspondence received from Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. requesting permission for lane restrictions on Chicago Street from Calumet Avenue to White Oak Avenue on Monday, March 20, 2017. Mr. Dostatni said the boring is being done for an upcoming bid by the Indiana Department of Transportation. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-166)

Correspondence received from 5th District Councilman Dave Woerpel allocating $61,900 for street lighting projects on Birch Place, Birch Avenue, 172nd Place, Alabama Avenue, Arizona Avenue, Delaware Avenue and Carolina Avenue. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-167)

Correspondence received from Chief of Police John Doughty submitting the resignation of Civilian Jeanette Llanes, effective Tuesday, March 7, 2017 and approval of street closures for Whiting's 4th of July Parade. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-168)

Acceptance Certificate with Motorola for leased equipment. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-169)

Mr. Dostatni acknowledged Councilwoman Janet Venecz in the audience.

Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Hammond, Indiana and Hammond Firefighters Local 556. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-170)

Correspondence received from Attorney Gary Matthews requesting the Notice of Violation for 4234 Johnson Avenue be dismissed. Mr. Dostatni said an Agreed Order was submitted by Mr. Matthews which has been signed by Corporation Counsel Kristina Kantar. Mr. Kelly Kearney, Chief of Inspections, said this property is a success story as all repairs have been completed. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-171)

Status of repair on Motel 6. Attorney John Reed appears for Motel 6 with architect Mr. Tom Kuhn. Mr. Reed said all repair work has been bid out and contractors are ready for permits. Mr. Reed then said Building Commissioner Kurt Koch wants all railing replaced but Motel 6 would like to repair the existing railing. Mr. Kuhn said the railing just needs to be repaired and have now been reattached. Mr. Reed said Motel 6 understands the risk. Mr. Dostatni asked if there is any rust on the railing. Mr. Kuhn said there is rust on the railings but the railings have been reattached leaving the only thing wrong is the spacing on the verticals. Mr. Koch then said he does not believe the Board has proper jurisdiction and that Mr. Reed should have gone to the Building Department or the State for an appeal. Mr. Koch said if over 50% of the railing needs repair, all must be replaced. Mr. Koch requested this matter be deferred as the Board is not the correct venue. Mr. Kuhn then said he will submit plans to the State. Mr. Koch said the plans may be submitted to the State but they will not be returned saying the work is approved. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-172)

Rental registration hearing on property located at 64 Kenwood Street. Property owner appears. Mr. Jaime Prieto, Code Enforcement Commissioner, said an inspection has been done and the property is five (5) units. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to waive the late fee and assess rental registration at $5 per unit; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-173)

Rental registration hearing on property located at 1647 Myrtle Avenue. Property owner appears, said he forgot to pay for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and lives in one (1) of the two (2) units. Mr. Prieto requested one (1) late fee be assessed. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to assess one (1) late fee and rental registration of $80 per unit for 2013 and 2014 and $5 per unit for 2015 and 2016; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-174)

Rental registration hearing on property located at 3252 175th Street. Property owner appears, said he forgot to pay 2015 and 2016 timely and when he thought it was due he mailed it in too late and it was returned. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to waive the late fee and assess rental registration of $5 per unit for 2015 and 2016; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-175)

Notice of Violation hearing on property located at 6525 Arkansas Avenue. Property owner appears. Mr. Nick Farrell, Inspector, Inspections Department, said the property is in the process of being sold and a title search revealed an order stating the basement is not a habitable space. Mr. Farrell then said there is a sink and cabinets as well as interior walls and more that 50% of the floor area is below grade which classifies this space as a cellar. Mr. Farrell requested the Board affirm the Findings regarding the property requiring the cellar apartment must be removed by licensed contractors in the City of Hammond. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-176)

Correspondence received from Hammond Parks & Recreation requesting permission to hold a commercial fireworks display on Friday, July 21, 2017 and Saturday, July 22, 2017 at the 14th Annual Festival of the Lakes. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-177)

Correspondence received from Hammond Parks & Recreation requesting permission to close Sheffield Avenue from 129th Avenue to Calumet Avenue, 121st Street to 125th Street and one (1) southbound lane of Calumet Avenue, 119th Street and Calumet Avenue at the entrance to the Water Gardens subdivision from 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, 2017 through Sunday, July 23, 2017 at midnight for Festival of the Lakes. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-178)

Correspondence received from 3rd District Councilman Anthony W. Higgs requesting approval to hold a Neighborhood Clean-Up from Monday, April 3, 2017 through Friday, April 7, 2017 with dumpsters place at 1000 Morris Street, Harrison Park and Memorial Park and to hold the 13th Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament at Martin Luther King Park on Saturday, June 17, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with Tapper Avenue closed between Lyons Street and Highland Street. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-179)

Correspondence received from the Whiting Fourth of July Parade and Festival Committee notifying the City of the Annual 4th of July Parade in Whiting and streets and roadways to be closed the morning of July 4, 2017. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-180)

Correspondence received from South Shore Arts requesting permission to use the parking lots on each of Substation 9, 435 Fayette Street, on Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 10, 2017 for an outdoor art gallery and live music event. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-181)

Correspondence received from Mr. Steve Quist, property owner of Steve & Nick's Tavern, 1105 Gostlin Street, advising a sidewalk on the west side of his property is sinking. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to refer this matter to the Engineering Department and the Inspections Department; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-182)

Correspondence received requesting rental registration hearings. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to set the hearings for April 13, 2017; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-183)

Under Matters from Board Members, Mr. Dostatni received an Engagement Letter for Legal Services for the City of Hammond from Bose McKinney & Evans LLP regarding the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract Financing. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-184)

Mr. Dostatni also received a request for request to close one (1) lane in both the northbound and southbound lanes of Kennedy Avenue beginning Friday, March 31, 2017 from Hanson Engineering and ending September 30, 2017. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-185)

Mr. Dostatni then received the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Hammond Police Department. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-186)

Under Old Business, status of H.U.G.S. parade to be held September 16, 2017. Mr. Margraf advised a Certificate of Liability Insurance has been received. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to defer this matter to March 23, 2017; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-187)

Status of the Northwest Indiana Puerto Rican Committee of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico parade and festivities to be held after. Recommendation by Mr. Margraf to defer this matter to March 23, 2017; Mr. Dostatni concurred. (Ins. No. 17-188)

Under Meeting Opened to the Public, Mr. Alvin Cheeks addressed the Board. Mr. Cheeks said he had been on Willow Court and the Hammond Police Department asked for his identification as he looked like an individual they were looking for. Mr. Cheeks then said he was asked for his identification by a security officer for the First Baptist Church and then twice by the Hammond Police. Mr. Cheeks asked why the church closes streets continually.

Councilman Pete Torres, 2nd District, asked why the First Baptist Church closes streets in the area of the church so often. Mr. Margraf said they have conferences which bring in hundreds of people and the Board just approved street closure there for a conference. Mr. Torres then said that he does not want profiling happening in Hammond and the Mr. Cheeks should go to the Police Department to complain. Mr. Torres asked why CSX is closing crossings. Mr. Dean Button, City Engineer, said CSX is doing repairs and will get dates for crossing closures to Mr. Torres.

There being no further business to come before the Board, recommendation by Mr. Margraf to adjourn; Mr. Dostatni concurred. The regularly scheduled meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

APPROVED:

BY:_____
Stanley J. Dostatni, President

ATTEST:

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Lynn Laviolette, Secretary