

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety convened at 9:04 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023, in the Council Chambers of Hammond City Hall. A roll call was taken: Mr. Long – present; Ms. Greenwell – present; Mr. Kalina – present.

Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve the Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2023, October 26, 2023 and November 2, 2023; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Under Gas Exception Hearings. 6502 Kennedy – Marathon Gas. Mr. Sukhdev Singh – coworker sworn in. Exhibits A – emails with photos. They have been in the Hessville area for 30 years, he has two other stations, but they will remain closed. Mr. Singh is requesting this station remain open as it has a large crown in the morning. They have lost ½ of the revenue since the construction and with the closing deadline has lost more.

Mr. Smith questions his position and if he would be willing to open at 3:00 or 4:00 to help facilitate the early morning crowd. Jeswinder Sahi is the owner. Operation opened in 2012 and has always been open 24 hours. Mr. Singh agrees this is not near an interstate. Mr. Singh states they have two other locations at 165th /Arizona and 169th/Arizona- Hudson Gas. They are presently not open all night. Mr. Singh states there are some arguments in the parking lot, cannot control what they do and don't have issues on the inside. His revenue overnight is about 10-15% and rush hour is usually between 3:30 and 4:00 serving the industrial workers. People want them to be open and he is requesting to be open 24 hours. Mr. Singh states his request is to be open 24 hours.

Mr. Long asks if he is aware of the station at 165/Arizona that a police office was able to buy gas at the pumps on the midnight shift. Mr. Singh states he does understand the ordinance that the pumps also need to be stopped, they leave the canopy lights on to have a visual for employees. He states that the repair guy was out yesterday because shutting pumps off is not an easy fix and they are working on it.

Lt. Christopher Gootee sworn in. FUSUS Administrator. He has visited 6502 Kennedy, there is adequate lighting, camera, well lit inside and out. They are working on FUSUS and have a password issue, there is bullet proof glass. The corridor is a heavy bar location, does consider bars problematic, has had issues with the bars with pop-up events in spaces, large police presence responding due to violence. There was a murder at Coaches Corner and Porter's. Gathering at the stations is not as large as the bars, not accessible to highway.

Exhibit 1 – call log.

Tom Novak sworn in. Exhibit 2 – summary of zoning and ordinance with photos. Safety issues with the signage on the windows, shelving, cannot see inside or outside. ADA parking has

a sidewalk blocked, there is graffiti on the pumps which is tagged by a gang, and some were covered. Address is not legible. It would need to be larger in the front and back.

Nicholas Farrell sworn in. Exhibits 3 and 3A. License for business in 2016 and have not been valid from 2018-2020. Renewed in 2021 and has not since. No current business license.

Mr. Singh states there was misunderstanding regarding the license and information and he came in yesterday and paid all.

Mr. Long questions his desire to be open 24 hours. Mr. Singh would rather stay open 24 hours so they can prepare for the morning rush.

Heather Tyler sworn in. Mr. Tyler is an overnight employee and has had a financial hit with the overnight shift being cut.

Mr. Smith closed with the factors. 1) criminal activity being problematic, close to bars, and ask to consider the history of Kennedy Avenue as a whole. 2) FUSUS will be connected soon, security is adequate and well lit. Does not agree that the location is near interstate, more in between residential and industrial. Ordinance and zoning issues, not having a valid business license, problems with gas being dispensed overnight from the other two stations owned by owner. Mr. Smith states there are ongoing criminal issues, business license not valid which should be a factor for denial, not to stay open all night, maybe opening early for the morning rush. (Ins. No. 23-981)

The Board will take the matter under advisement.

Under Correspondence, correspondence received from William Short, Chief of Police, requesting Officer Arthur Latiker be promoted to the rank of 1st Class Patrolman effective November 18, 2023; Correctional Officer Zachary Anderson received promotional raise due to him effective November 14, 2023; and rescind the retirement date of Sergeant Thomas Andrews that was previously approved effective November 8, 2023 and approve the new retirement date effective the close of business on January 7, 2024. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-982)

Correspondence received from Councilman Dave Woerpel requesting a 4 way stop sign on the 6700 block of Alexander Avenue where Martha Street and Nickle Plate Street meet. Mr. Button requests this be referred to Engineering. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to refer to Engineering; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-983)

Correspondence received from Milan Kruszynski requesting street closures, no parking and 8 traffic control yellow horses for the Pierogi Drop Event for December 31, 2023. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-984)

Under New Business, Service Agreement with SoundThinking, Inc. submitted for approval. Mr. Smith had a few changes, controller and grant money will be funding. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-985)

Order to Rescind and Release Order to Demolish property located at 5554 Walter Avenue. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-986)

First Extension of Agreement to Rehabilitate property located at 2314 Indianapolis Blvd. Mr. Lewter states it has not been signed. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to set for status on November 30, 2023; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Agreement to Rehabilitate property located at 1463 Indianapolis Blvd. Mr. Lewter states owner lives in another state and there is no guarantee this will be completed and requests a 2-week status. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to set for status on November 30, 2023; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Funding Allocation Request requesting \$50,000 from the 2nd District Gaming Fund to be allocated for the Civic Center Equipment. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-987)

Emergency Demolition Order to Repair 28-34 Ruth. Mr. Kearney states this is a u-shaped apartment complex with walls falling down. Photos provided. The west portion of wall is next to a residential house which is occupied, court yard has been barricaded, east wall is hazardous and will take immediate action on the west wall. He will put a drone on the roof for safety precautions and will come before the board if a demolition is required. He has made several attempts to contact owner through a PO box number, several listed phone numbers to no avail. (Ins. No. 23-988)

Disposal Authorizations received from Hammond Police Department submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-989)

Right of Way Permit received from Engineering submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-990)

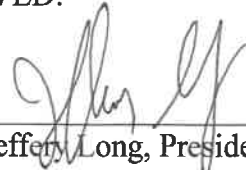
Agreement with Medicare Part D (Express Scripts) modifying their reconciliation methodology on their annual rebates they provide to the City quarterly. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-991)

Under Old Business, status on temporary stop signs at Cleveland. Mr. Button states he has not completed study and requests time to complete. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to set for status on January 4, 2024; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Ms. Greenwell to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Kalina. The regularly scheduled meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

APPROVED:

BY:


Jeffrey Long, President

ATTEST:


Linda Norville-Moles, Board Secretary