

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety convened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017, in the Council Chambers of Hammond City Hall. A roll call was taken: Mr. Dostatni - present; Ms. Garay – present: Mr. Margraf- present.

Motion by Mr. Margraf to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 2, 2017; seconded by Ms. Garay. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement between the Indiana Department of Transportation and the City of Hammond for the Hohman Avenue – Huehn Street to 200 feet north of 141st Street Project. Mr. Dostatni advised that the agreement calls for a 50/50 split in cost with the State. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-905)

Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement between the Indiana Department of Transportation and the City of Hammond for the 173rd Street – Indianapolis Boulevard east 1,300 feet to Woodmar Avenue and from the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad west 1,750 feet - Project. Mr. Dostatni said this is also a 50/50 split in cost with the State. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-906)

Change Order No. 1 for Van Buren Avenue Lighting Improvements, with an increase in cost of \$2,520.03 for additional paint markings at the 165th Street intersection, a sewer inspection at the intersection of Conkey Street and a final quantity closeout, received from Nies Engineering, Inc. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-907)

Agreement for Professional Services with SEH of Indiana, LLC for engineering services in the 2018 6th District Lighting Improvements Project – Colorado Avenue between 165th Street and 169th Street, Delaware Avenue between 165th Street and 169th Street, New Jersey Avenue between 163rd Street and 165th Street and Nevada Avenue between 163rd Street and 165th Street at a cost of \$61,885. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-908)

Correspondence received from Councilman Dave Woerpel requesting \$5,000 of gaming funds be allocated for various engineering services. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-909)

Correspondence received from Councilman Bill Emerson, Sr. requesting \$5,000 of gaming funds be allocated for various engineering services. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-910)

Correspondence received from Councilman Anthony Higgs requesting \$5,000 of gaming

funds be allocated for various engineering services. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-911)

Correspondence received from Councilman Pete Torres requesting \$5,000 of gaming funds be allocated for various engineering services. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-912)

Correspondence received from Councilman Mark Kalwinski requesting \$5,000 of gaming funds be allocated for various engineering services. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-913)

Correspondence received from Councilman Scott Rakos requesting \$5,000 of gaming funds be allocated for various engineering services. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-914)

Correspondence received from Councilman Anthony Higgs requesting \$2,520.03 of gaming funds be used for Change Order No. 1 of the Van Buren Lighting Improvements Project. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-915)

Correspondence received from Councilman Anthony Higgs requesting \$12,000 of gaming funds be allocated for French Drains in the alleys of the 3rd District. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-916)

Correspondence received from Antea Group requesting lane restriction at Roxanna Drive and White Oak Avenue on November 15, 2017 thru November 17, 2017 for groundwater sampling. Mr. Dostatni said BP has a pipeline corridor going through that area and the groundwater sampling is for pipeline maintenance. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-917)

Correspondence received from Safety Services & Supply, Inc. requesting Sohl Street, Carroll Street and Maywood Avenue be closed from November 8, 2017 through November 11, 2017 for paving rail crossings for Norfolk Southern. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-918)

Correspondence received from Chief of Police John Doughty requesting Certified Spanish Speaking Officer Specialty Pay to Sergeant Eusebio Gonzalez, Sergeant Robert Maldonado, Sergeant Joel Orozco, Corporal Sophia Rodriguez, Corporal Gabriel Malave, Officer Gabriel Nava and Corporal Carmen Ramirez, effective October 25, 2017 and Disposal Authorizations submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-919)

Corporation Counsel, Ms. Kristina Kantar, requested that a request for a rally permit be heard before demolition hearings begin.

Mr. Scott Holdieson, of the Progressive Democrats of America, Calumet Region, requested

permission to hold a rally at the southwest corner of Indianapolis Boulevard and Cabela Drive, Saturday, November 18, 2017 for common sense gun laws. Mr. Dostatni said the area is State highway easement and INDOT would need to give permission. Mr. Holdieson said he spoke with INDOT and got verbal approval to hold the rally. Mr. Dostatni requested written approval from INDOT needs to be submitted to this Board by the next meeting to be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017. No action taken.

Attorney Kevin Smith appears for the City in the following demolition hearings. Mr. Smith advised all parties have been notified.

Demolition hearings on property located at 1111 177th Place (garage only). Property owner appears. Mr. Smith said the property has been an issue since 2011, was cited in Court in 2014, default entered but no repairs made. Mr. Smith showed photographs of the frame garage with failing roof, garage door does not close leaving it open to the elements and peeling siding to the property owner who acknowledged the condition of the building. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 1573 Beverly Street. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Smith showed photos of the property which was boarded up on 2017, grass cut by the City since 2013, no utility service, no gas or electric meters, overgrown yard full of trash, a tree fell on the roof and is now laying in the yard and there is an illegal homestead exemption on the property. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 5936 Birch Avenue. Property owner appears. Mr. Smith showed photos of the property which is boarded up, front porch is failing, shed is open to the elements and filled with trash, fence is falling down, garage is boarded up, garbage in the yard and there is an illegal homestead exemption. Mr. Smith asked the property owner if the photos represented the condition of the property to which the property owner agreed and said he is currently making repairs and electric is back on. Mr. Smith gave the property owner paperwork to have the exemption taken off of this property. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 6716 California Avenue. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Smith showed photos to the Board of the property that has an addition that is collapsing, no roof, boarded up, yard full of trash, gutters hanging to the ground and overgrown yard. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 5462 Calumet Avenue. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Smith showed photos of a store front with apartments upstairs and in the back, façade in front is falling off, water off since 2013, boarded up windows and doors and gas and electric are off. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 6501 Calumet Avenue. Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Smith had photos of the property which has a roof and ceiling that are falling in, gas and electric is off, falling brick work on the exterior and there is a collapsed ceiling in the interior. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 229 Doty Street. Mr. Smith showed photos of the two (2) story multiunit property which showed a sink hole on the property as a sewer line has collapsed, water off since 2013, gas and electric are off, broken windows, collapsing porch, siding is falling off, garbage in the yard and missing porch steps. Attorney Robert Sorge has entered his appearance for the property owner and had requested this matter be continued. Motion by Ms. Garay to continue this matter to December 14, 2017; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 908 Drackert Street (garage only). Property owner appears, acknowledged the condition of the property and said she would like to self-demolish but is short on funds at his time. Mr. Smith had shown photos of the yellow frame garage with a completely failed roof. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 1114 Eaton Street (garage only). Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Smith had photos of the property showing a cinderblock garage with a collapsing roof and the lintel over the door is beginning to give way, area around garage is overgrown and neighbors have complained. Mr. Smith said this garage was placed on the demolition list in 2014 and the order has expired. Mr. Smith then requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 1136 Eaton Street (garage only). Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Smith showed photos of a white frame garage with pieces missing, no door and a broken window. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 7217 Harrison Avenue. Property owner or representatives, fail to appear. Mr. Smith said the property owner is deceased and has no estate opened. Mr. Smith then showed photos of the vacant frame house with an overgrown yard and broken windows with the water being shut off since 2013. Mr. Smith then requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 7234 Jarnecke Avenue. Attorney Kvachkoff appears for the property owner. Mr. Smith said the property has been marked "Uninhabitable" in 2016, water is off, garage is open to the elements and the property is boarded up and vacant. Mr. Kvachkoff said the owner has not paid for an inspection yet and requested this matter be continued. Mr. Smith then requested the Board request the owner to appear with Mr. Kvachkoff. Motion by Ms. Garay to continue this matter to November 16, 2017 and request that the property owner appear

with Attorney Kvachkoff; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on 7619 Linden Avenue. Attorney Courtney Smith appears for the lender who is foreclosing on the property and may self-demolish. Mr. Smith said the property has been marked “Uninhabitable”, water and gas and electric are off, house is roach and flea infested, boarded up with a collapsing front porch, lots of debris in the entire yard, one (1) side of the house is tarp and there is a hoarding situation inside. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 1148 Summer Street (shed only). Property owner appears. Mr. Smith said the shed was left behind when the house was demolished and has broken windows, doors that cannot be secured, failing roof, overgrown yard. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 1524 Summer Street. Property owner, Adoni, LLC, appears by Mr. Jose Galvan. Mr. Smith showed photos of the white cinderblock structure with no roof, water off, electric cut at the pole, no gas meter. Mr. Galvan agreed to the condition of the property and may try to make repairs. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 1723 Summer Street. Attorney Renee Babcoke appears with Mr. Andy Young. Mr. Smith showed photos of the brick commercial building that has collapsed steps, failed roof, property is open to the elements and there is garbage and debris all over the property. Mr. Smith requested this matter be continued to December 21, 2017. Motion by Ms. Garay to continue this matter to December 21, 2017; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 7025 Van Buren Avenue (garage only). Property owner appears and agrees with the condition of the property after looking at the photos Mr. Smith had showing missing siding, insulation falling out, fence is falling apart and the yard is overgrown and full of debris. Mr. Smith then requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Demolition hearing on property located at 40 Waltham Street (house and garage). Property owner fails to appear. Mr. Smith showed photos of the property showing an overgrown yard, boarded up windows, hole in the wall, junk vehicles in the yard and the garage has a tarp for a roof. Mr. Smith requested the Board affirm the Order to Demolish. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Status hearing on property located at 4401 – 4411 Sheffield Avenue. Mr. Smith requested this property be monitored by the Inspections Department with no further status hearings.

Status hearing on property located at 833 Wilcox Street. Mr. Smith requested this property be monitored by the Inspections Department with no further status hearings.

Status hearing on property located at 7149 Ontario Avenue. Mr. Smith said recent photos show progress and requested this matter be continued to January 25, 2018. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Status hearing on property located at 826 Drackert Street. Mr. Smith said recent photos show progress and requested this matter be continued to January 25, 2018. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

All demolition hearings and status hearings at (Ins. No. 17-920)

Rental registration hearing on property located at 6320 New Jersey Avenue. Property owner, Ms. Rocio Cervantes, appears. Mr. Kelly Kearney, Chief of Inspections, said Ms. Cervantes has owned the property since 2015 and has never registered it. Ms. Cervantes said she lived there in 2015 and her mother and sister have resided there ever since. Motion by Ms. Garay to dismiss this matter and have Ms. Cervantes complete an affidavit of family living; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-921)

Correspondence received requesting a rental registration hearing. Motion by Ms. Garay to set this matter for hearing on December 7, 2017; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-922)

Correspondence received from Mr. Gary Gleason, Director, Public Works, advising the guard rail at 1803 Brown Street will be replaced and the company that caused the damage will be billed, requesting placement of “No Parking from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 6040 Hohman Avenue be referred to the Hammond Police Department Traffic Division and a denial of the request to have signage changed in front of Super Sub to “15 Minute Parking Only” due to the other businesses in the area. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-923)

Correspondence received from Mr. Jaime Prieto requesting that Public Works drop off two (2) barricades in front of 7143 Arkansas Avenue for use on Monday, November 13, 2017 through Wednesday, November 15, 2017 to allow a company that will be repairing the roof access to the front of the house. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-924)

Correspondence received from the resident of 238 Doty Street requesting a “Do Not Block Driveway” sign due to vehicles blocking the driveway which results in numerous calls to the Hammond Police Department. Motion by Ms. Garay to refer this matter to Public Works; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-925)

Garage Sale Permits submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-926)

Under Matters from Board Members, Mr. Dostatni received a disciplinary matter from the Hammond Police Department. Motion by Ms. Garay; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL.

Motion carried. (Ins. No. 17-927)

Under Matters from Other Department Heads, Mr. Dean Button, City Engineer, said the debris along Norfolk Southern railroad tracks will be cleared by the company.

Mr. Buddy Fennie, 1132 Ames Street, requested extra police patrol each Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. north of Highland Street to 165th Street due to there being eight (8) churches in this area. Mr. Fennie said he does not want anything like what happened in Texas to happen here. Motion by Ms. Garay to send this request to the Hammond Police Department; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Ms. Garay to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Margraf. AYES ALL. Motion carried. The regularly scheduled meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

APPROVED:

BY: _____
Stanley J. Dostatni, President

ATTEST:

Lynn Laviolette, Secretary