BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

Regular Meeting November 15, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Shelbyville, Indiana, was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 8:30 A.M. All members were present, and Mayor DeBaun presided.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on November 9, 2016, and Mr. Finkel seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Mr. Finkel moved to approve the claims as presented, and Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Under old business, Mayor DeBaun announced that trash for Thursday next week will be picked up on Friday, and Friday's trash will be picked up on Monday. Also, the November 29 Board of Works meeting will be changed to Wednesday, November 30, at 8:30 A.M.

Police Chief Mark Weidner asked to amend SOP #17. Mr. Finkel said this clarifies the training and he would appreciate an update from the Chief at the end of the first quarter of 2017. The Chief said he would. Mr. Williams moved to approve the request, and Mr. Finkel seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Mayor DeBaun said there were two issues coming before the Board today. The first was a letter sent to a homeowner about a possible demolition of a home on John Street, and the second was a dog bite case that's being continued from last week.

Mayor DeBaun asked Building and Plan Commission Director Bryant Niehoff to come forward. He said the structure at 29, 29 1/2 and 31 John Street, and 32 Walker Street was declared an unsafe structure by the Shelbyville Planning and Building Department on October 31, and the notice was received on November 3 by certified mail. He said the Shelby County Health Department has been working on this since September of 2015, saying they've received several complaints since then. Sandra Hall, from the County Health Department, spoke about the issues their Department has dealt with, and spoke how poor the living conditions were, which included cockroaches, bed bugs, and termites. Rod Miller, construction inspector with the Building Department, talked about the exterior of the property, saying it was in poor condition, with no investment being made on the property for quite a long time. His recommendation was to have the home torn down. Harold Cooper, the owner of the property, came forward saying his renters were told not to pay him for any further rent because they were asked to leave the property. He didn't care to have the building demolished, as long as he was paid $17,000.00 to have it taken down. That was his estimate. Mayor DeBaun said the City has no interest in owning that property. Rupert Bonham has apparently said he might have an interest in the property. Mr. Williams moved to affirm the order given that the demolition and removal of the home be done within thirty days of the notice, and Mr. Finkel seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote. Mayor DeBaun asked Mr. Cooper, and anyone else representing him, to get with the Building Department to get it taken care of.

On the second issue, Animal Shelter Director Keith Barrett said his Department was called by the Police Department that there was a dog bite case on November 2 at 50 W. Penn St. Three dogs were involved in a dog fight, and there was a lot of blood. The dogs were taken to the Shelter, but the owner couldn't afford having a vet take care of the injured dog. Keith said the owner of the dogs, Jeremy Shearer, has had several incidents from the past, mostly with his dogs running loose. Mr. Finkel said 28 different incidents were turned into the Board involving Mr. Shearer, going back as far as 2009. In this case, Keith said there were wounds and scars on the dog's ear, neck, and head, and there was a lot of blood wherever the dog was taken. Mayor DeBaun asked about the demeanor of the dogs at the Shelter. He said the female is very friendly, the dog that was bitten doesn't feel very good, and the other male dog shows a lot of aggression, thinking it could be hard to adopt him. Mr. Finkel said that dog is probably the meanest dog he's seen at the Shelter, and Mayor DeBaun agreed with him. As he said last week, the dogs could be kept at 1736 W. Boggstown Rd. The owner at Boggstown Rd. gave her name as Jenna Ray Smith, saying fences would be put up behind the garage. It was found that Mr. Shearer would keep the older dog himself, and Jenna would keep the other two dogs, temporarily. Mayor

DeBaun said that Keith wanted to inspect the locations before placing any dogs at either location. After talking with Keith, it was felt it would be better if the female dog was spayed tomorrow, preventing her from having further puppies. The cost would be $75.00 to have the female fixed, so Jeremy said he would pay the fee over time. Mr. Finkel moved to have the female spayed, Mr. Shearer must pay the fee eventually, and the two locations must be inspected before releasing the dogs. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

Mr. Finkel reminded everyone about the Holiday parade happening Friday evening, then the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" will be shown at the Strand Theatre, with Mary Owen speaking, who is the daughter of Donna Reed in the movie. The cost is $10.00 per person at the door.

There being no further business, Mr. Williams moved to adjourn.

Thomas D. DeBaun
Mayor

ATTEST:

Frank Zerr

Frank M. Zerr
Clerk-Treasurer