

Board of Public Works and Safety
Berne City Building, 158 W Franklin Street
Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Minutes

Mayor McKean-Present
Ron Dull- Present

Curtis Wurster-Present

The Board of Public Works and Safety met on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 in council chambers along with City Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Secretary of Record Becky Sprunger according to the posted notice.

In attendance from the City; Gwen Maller, Shannon Smitley, John Crider, Gary Nussbaum, Assistant Chief Jim Newbold, and Chief Tim Taylor. Others in attendance, Clint Anderson, Berne Witness, members of the Downtown Merchants, Jerry Walker of the Berne Tree Board and Shane Rekeweg and Mike Brown with the county.

Mayor McKean called the meeting to order and verified a quorum.

Approval of Minutes On a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Curtis Wurster, the minutes from January 16, 2019 were unanimously approved.

Opening of Sealed Bids as Advertised for the Sale of Used Vehicles: City Attorney Dave Baumgartner reported that the request for bids was published for the 2002 Ford Explorer and the 2010 Dodge Charger. Dave opened and read aloud the following for the Ford Explorer:

Gary Nussbaum	\$501.00
Kurt Dailey	\$ 500.00
Jackson Werst	\$ 1375.00
Yousef Dabbagh	no bid

Bids for the 2010 Dodge Charger were opened and read aloud as follows:

Mike Gerber	\$ 2525.00
Les Shaneyfelt	\$ 2137.27
Yousef Dabbagh	\$ 1668.00

Ron Dull made a motion to accept the bid of \$ 1375.00 from Jackson Werst for the 2002 Ford Explorer and the bid of \$2525.00 from Mike Gerber for the 2010 Dodge Charger. Curtis Wurster made the second. The motion was unanimously carried.

Downtown Merchants :Arlene Amstutz, representing the Downtown Merchants, came before the board to discuss three areas of concern from the merchants. Arlene gave the board members a printout outlining the items.

Item 1 Tree Removal/Cement: The merchants would like to see the ornamental trees planted a number of years ago be better maintained or even removed. Arlene said merchants have had bird droppings tracked into their stores and the droppings are unsightly and pose a health risk. Some trees have orange berries on them which are also being tracked into stores. Some trees have gotten big enough that when people park their cars near the trees they have trouble opening their car doors.

Would the city agree to removing the trees and grates and pouring concrete in place of the grates? Arlene stated that 27 businesses along the Main Street corridor were personally contacted about the trees, and no one they contacted voiced opposition to removing the trees. The manager of Dollar General was contacted and stated that she would also like them removed, but advised that this is a decision for the owner of the building. Arlene said they will be contacted.

Mayor McKean reported that if the decision is made to remove the trees and grates, the city would repair the sidewalk. Tree Board president Jerry Walker said that while some trees are still pretty nice, he would support removing the trees because the grates are a trip hazard. Mayor asked about the name plaques on the grates given in memory of family members or loved ones. Jerry stated that the tree board will start another structure in the municipal parking lot for the plaques and either he or Brad Yoder will keep the plaques until the structure is ready.

Dave Baumgartner advised the Board of Works that this would be best going to council so others can weigh in on the proposed tree/grate removal if they so choose. On a motion by Ron and a second by Curtis, the board recommended that council consider removing the trees and grates and repair the sidewalks. This item will be on the February 25th council meeting.

Item 2 Speed Zone Enforced: Arlene stated that merchants would like a greater police presence downtown to curb the speeding of cars and trucks through the downtown area. Chief Taylor stated that he appreciates knowing of the concern and he will have his officers monitor the situation. A concern was also registered about people not recognizing that Jefferson Street is one way from Main heading south and the police were also asked to keep an eye on this.

Arlene also asked if there could be any signage for special events like the recently held Cocoa Crawl. These events are bringing more pedestrian traffic downtown. Dave Baumgartner stated because Main Street is a state highway, the state would have to be petitioned for approval of any signage whether it would be a temporary or permanent sign. Ron suggested that the city act on behalf of the merchants.

Item 3 Snow Removal: the merchants are concerned about removal of snow from the downtown. City employees normally remove snow from the downtown area after about 4 inches of accumulation. This is done during the night time hours the same day or the next night. Recently, more business owners are having snow removal services stacking up snow from their parking lots and from in front of their business. City employees Gary Nussbaum and John Crider said the snow is being stacked in areas that cause a hazard and that we cannot get to for removal. After more discussion, Mayor McKean stated that he wants the city to continue to provide snow removal downtown. Mayor McKean asked if several of our snow removal employees could meet with the merchants when they have one of their meetings. Arlene stated that they would welcome them to the meetings to work this out. They meet the second Thursday of the month at the Lasting Light Emporium. Ron suggested that once a procedure is in place, it would be a good idea to put in written form for all of the merchants. Arlene and the merchants thanked the Board of Works for giving them time to present their concerns.

Upgrade in Police Department Wiring and Security. Mr. Mike Brown and Mr. Shane Rekeweg from Adams County's IT Department presented the board with a quote of \$ 43,451.00 from Wired Communications, LLC to completely re-wire the police department's communications infrastructure system. Mr. Brown stated that the wiring, equipment and access points are currently not secured, and would not pass a security audit for using the CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) The estimate included separating the EMS wiring from the police department, secured cabinetry for sensitive equipment and cabling through the ceilings instead of exposed, testing of the new system and a one year warranty from completion on materials, labor, performance and workmanship for the new cabling system.

Mr. Brown stated that the cost of not having the building secured could be more than securing the building if there were to be a security breach. Curtis Wurster asked if Wired Communications would stand behind their work should the system ever be breached. Mr. Brown assured the board that they would stand behind the security of the installation.

Chief Taylor did say that they are beginning to have access point failures and small fixes occur quite often, and an upgrade will be needed sooner than later. Chief also stated that Adams County EMA has researched grants for this type of work and they have not had any success.

Mr. Brown stated that he is currently working with the Town of Geneva on their need to upgrade their system and he has worked other county agencies.

When asked, Clerk Treasurer Gwen Maller said that she budgeted \$ 40,000 this year out of the Public Safety LOIT fund for the project.

Dave Baumgartner advised the board that without 3 quotes, they can only recommend that this gets moved to council according to the City of Berne purchasing policy. Ron Dull made a motion to recommend moving this request on to council for their consideration. Curtis made the second and the motion was unanimously approved. This will be on the agenda for Monday, February 25.

Other Ron updated the board that in speaking with Mr. Don Finnegan, the annual Run for the Fallen will start at the Fort Wayne Coliseum on Friday, May 10th and will pass through Berne on that same day. The corner of Clark and US 27 will once again be where the run will stop to honor the sacrifices of SPC. Nick Taylor and SPC. Sergio Perez, KIA on July 16, 2012 in Kandahar Afghanistan.

Dave Baumgartner reported that the two easements needed for the Main Street Water Main project have been signed and are being recorded today.

With nothing further to discuss and on a motion by Ron and a second by Curtis the meeting was adjourned.