

**Board of Public Works and Safety
Berne City Building, 158 W Franklin Street
March 21, 2018 8:00 am
Minutes**

Mayor McKean-Present

Curtis Wurster-Present

Ron Dull- Present

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in a public meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 8:00 am in council chambers according to the posted notice. Along with the board was City Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Secretary of Record Becky Sprunger.

Those in attendance; Allison Amstutz from the Berne Witness, and from the city; Kurt Dailey, Shannon Smitley, John Crider, Chief Taylor, and Gwen Maller.

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 of February 21, 2018 were unanimously approved as written.

Dumpster Use at City Garage: Chief Taylor gave an update on the recently installed camera at the Jefferson Street garage. Chief stated that the video quality is very good, but the placement of the camera might have to be considered so there is better coverage of the area.

Mayor McKean reported that since the camera has been installed, there have been several instances of the dumpsters being misused. One was by a local person who filled up 3 dumpsters with sofas, mattresses and other items that did not appear to come from one home. When asked by a city employee who observed the action, the person said that he is a taxpayer in Berne and he had the right to use the dumpsters. City Attorney Baumgartner said that the ordinance states that the dumpsters are for the personal use of our residents and also that the use of the dumpsters is a privilege not a right. On advice of the City Attorney, Mayor McKean is going to ask the person to meet with him to explain the ordinance and to let the person know that there will not be a fine this time.

Mayor McKean also reported to the board that it is his understanding that at one time, city employees who lived outside the city limits were allowed to bring their trash to the city dumpsters. The Mayor added that this might have been before our citizens were assessed a fee for sanitation pickup. The Mayor asked the board their feelings of a policy that would allow city employees living outside the city limits to bring their weekly trash to the dumpsters as an employee benefit, but that they would pay the \$ 11 a month residential sanitation fee. No official action was taken, but the board felt this would be an equitable solution.

Mayor noted that the following item is not on the agenda but it is something that he would like the board to think about. With the continuing assaults of people in public places, it is time that

the city looks into making City Hall a more secure building for its employees, especially the Clerk's office where they all too often have disgruntled, angry citizens who confront them about their utility bills. Shannon had done some initial inquiries into different materials and estimates on ways to secure city hall. Mayor McKean stated that while this concern needs to be addressed as soon as possible, he would like to see a risk assessment done by a professional firm first. Since Dave Baumgartner has some knowledge of this because of the First Bank of Berne, he would be able to offer names of some firms for the city to consider. Ron Dull agreed that there should be an assessment so the money spent will be done wisely and with the most affect for the safety of those in the building.

Ron Dull made a motion to have a security assessment of city hall as soon as possible. Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Board Comments Ron reported that he had been in recent contact with Dana Plattner, INDOT PE for the Fort Wayne District, about any plans to address concerns previously discussed concerning the intersection of US 27 and 700. Ron stated that Mr. Plattner informed him that the plans have been submitted for scoring and prioritizing, but he indicated that it is doubtful the intersection will score high enough to warrant being changed at this time.

Ron reported that the timing of the stop light at US 27 and Main Street was indeed an equipment issue and has since been corrected.

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