

**Board of Public Works and Safety
Berne City Building, 158 W Franklin Street
Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Minutes**

Mayor McKean-Present

Curtis Wurster-Absent

Ron Dull- Present

The Board of Public Works and Safety met on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 8:00 am in council chambers along with City Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Secretary of Record Becky Sprunger. An agenda was posted at the door. Unable to attend, board member Curtis Wurster.

Guests in attendance were Berne residents; Linda Balsiger, 650 E Franklin Street and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Howe, 641 E Franklin Street . Others in attendance from the city; Clerk Treasurer Gwen Maller, Police Chief Tim Taylor; Shannon Smitley, Gary Nussbaum and Kurt Dailey.

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

Approval of Minutes On a motion by Ron Dull and a second by Mayor McKean, the minutes from August 16, 2017 were unanimously approved as written.

Condition of Properties and Nuisance Ordinance Mayor McKean invited Frank Howe to share his concerns with the board. On behalf of Linda and Mrs. Howe, Frank wished to thank the city for the pride they take in their equipment and in doing their jobs well. Frank also wanted to bring the current condition of some homes and properties around Berne to the boards attention. Frank noted that he had talked with others in his neighborhood and in the community and they support his position that some properties aren't being kept up and he is asking the city to look in to ways to promote upkeep.

Frank stated that the condition of surrounding properties has resulted in a reduction of the value of his property, based on his conversations with a local realtor. Linda Balsiger said that in the 38 years she has lived in the area of question, it has definitely gotten worse. Frank shared pictures he had taken the day before from his back door. Mayor McKean agreed that the pictures of the condition of the house next door are awful.

Dave stated that the original ordinance as it relates to the condition of a property, dealt more with tall grass and/or weeds and until recent years, poorly kept properties were seldom an issue. Dave stated that he feels it is time to review and consider amending the ordinance so it will deal more specifically with the eyesores like those mentioned today. Dave added that any changes will be a process to insure that the revised ordinance addresses all concerns and can be enforced.

Ron Dull made a motion to have Dave research measures to address the public nuisances as presented and to amend our current ordinance accordingly and have this on the next Board of Works agenda. Mayor McKean made the second.

Frank thanked the board for their time. He also asked about standing water near Hitzer on Main Street. Kurt advised that this is a state highway issue, since it is actually SR 218. However, when the city does more separation projects on the east side of the city, it should help eliminate some issues like this one.

Progress Report on Firing Range at the WWTP Chief stated that the cement and additional dirt embankments have been installed per the August Board of Works meeting. Chief Taylor presented the board with the proposed rules and regulations when the firing range is being used and are as follows:

Proposed City Employee Range Rules and Safety Guidelines

1. Range use limited to City Employees, their family members, and retired Law Enforcement.
2. Any person from (1) must complete a safety course organized and held by the Berne Police Department Firearms Instructor(s) before use.
3. All rules included in Berne Police Department Range Rules and Safety Guidelines must be followed.
4. No range use before 3:30 pm Monday-Friday
5. Contact on-duty Berne Police Officer prior to use and when finished
6. Advise on-duty officer of weapons, ammo being used. On-duty officer to log.
7. Any person violating rules or commits unsafe act refer to (11) of the Berne Police Department Range Rules and Safety Guidelines. If family is the involved party, then the employee will be held responsible.
8. Range use will comprise of 50 yards and closer.
9. Any exceptions to these rules must be approved by Berne Chief of Police or Firearms Instructor.

Chief stated that the officer on duty would be the contact for any city employee wishing to use the firing range, and the officer would be responsible for the logbook.

Mayor McKean asked Shannon Smitley to review the rules as presented with Chief Taylor and Shannon said he would do so and advise the Mayor if he thought there needed to be any changes or additions.

Dave stated that he did not think the rules needed to be in ordinance form, Ron suggested the rules be made part of the Employee Handbook.

After additional discussion and on a motion by Ron and a second by Mayor McKean, the board unanimously recommended the Proposed City Employee Range Rules and Safety Guidelines as presented be sent to the Council at their October 10th meeting subject to review by Shannon. Chief Taylor said he will talk with Terry Kongar, WWTP superintendent about the proposed changes before the next council meeting.

Wayfinding Signage Mayor McKean presented the board with a wayfinding sign for the Industrial area along the Parr Road corridor. Mayor reported that FCC-Adams asked if the city would consider installing a wayfinding sign similar to what Portland installed at the city's expense in their industrial area. Mayor also reported that he has already talked with local business man John Kirchofer about his Yager Furniture Store billboard which will not be as visible if the wayfinding sign is installed. Per the Mayor, John appreciated being included in the conversation and does not have an issue with the proposed placement of the wayfinding sign.

In reviewing the proposal from Baldus Sign, who did the wayfinding signs on the four main roads leading in the city, Ron asked where the funding for the \$ 10,780 sign and the \$1,800 cost of installation would come from. Clerk-treasurer Gwen Maller stated that the money would come from CEDIT money (County Earned Income Tax) which can only be used for economic development, which this project is.

On a motion by Ron and a second from the Mayor, the board unanimously approved the Industrial park signage as presented for council consideration at their September 25th meeting.

Other John Crider reported that the 4 inch water main at the new construction for Smith of Brothers of Berne has been installed along with 2 new fire hydrants.

Mayor McKean reported that Smith Brothers of Berne would like the stop signs to remain at Berne and Behring streets even though there is no longer a need for the 4-way stop signs with the Smith Brothers expansion. Dave advised that the ordinance needs to be changed from a 4 way stop to an all way stop and he will prepare the change for council consideration.

Ron asked what the Board of Works could do to encourage the clean-up of property as described earlier in the meeting until the new ordinance is in place. Dave advised that a letter can be sent now informing the property owners they must clean up the property and to have the letter delivered by a member of the Berne Police Department. Gwen will write the letter and have it delivered as stated.

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