

REGULAR SESSION, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY, April 8, 2024

The Board of Public Works and Safety of Plymouth, Indiana, met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m. on April 8, 2024. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers, on the second floor of the City Building, 124 N. Michigan St., Plymouth, Indiana.

Mayor Listenberger called the meeting to order. Listenberger presided for Board Members Duane Culp, and Dave Morrow who were physically present. Board Members Don Ecker Jr. and Shiloh Milner attended virtually. City Attorney Houin and Clerk-Treasurer Gorski were also present. The public was able to see and hear the meeting through Microsoft Teams.

Board Members Morrow and Culp moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular session of the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting of March 25, 2024. The motion carried.

Fire Chief Holm stated that routinely they will receive notifications from past patients disputing prior bills they have. He said he tends to review those to find out what the circumstances are to see whether or not it is a valid issue to either forego the billing or instruct them that they have to pay it. He explained that a couple of weeks ago he was made aware of a patient of ours who started the process to dispute a bill. He said he learned that it was a patient from 2018 and there was a big mix-up with the address. He stated that our charts, as well as the hospital, had the address that this person hadn't lived at for over 10 years. He stated that somewhere along the process, the hospital ended up with the correct address and billed the patient and received their payment. He explained that we were never made aware of the change of address so it went through our third-party billing, came back to us and we tried to bill it but it never went anywhere with the old address, and then it went to collections. He stated that the collections agency was able to locate the patient at the correct address and that is when it came to be.

Houin stated that it was his understanding that the collections agency we used determined the correct address and sent the bill and that was the first the patient learned of the bill from the City of Plymouth and had contacted the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. He stated that with change in personnel this was put on hold and only came up again recently. He said that this is a six-year-old bill so it is not something that can be resubmitted to the patient's insurance for reimbursement. He stated that our options are to either pursue the full amount, which is \$547.50, or withdraw it from collections. From what Attorney Houin understands from the Fire Chief is if we were to withdraw it from collections, then our responsibility is 15% of that billed amount. He explained that the patient has agreed to pay that 15% in exchange for the City withdrawing

it and writing off the debt. He feels that his only suggestion for this is that it needs to be decided by the Board of Public Works and Safety.

Morrow believes that is reasonable.

Ecker asks what the percentage is we are looking at.

Holm responded by stating it is 15% of what the bill was. He explained that 15% comes out to \$82.15 that the patient said he would have no problem paying if we wished to forgive the original debt and charge him what it takes to take it out of collections.

Houin stated that with the patient paying that amount, the city would not pay anything and they would simply write off the debt and not collect anything.

Board Members Morrow and Culp moved and seconded to approve the request as presented. The motion carried.

Police Chief Weir wished to update the board on their testing process. He stated that he had ten people show up for the agility and written test on Saturday. He said that out of the ten applicants, only one failed the written test so the rest are moving along in the process.

He said he would like to purchase a 2012 Ford F-150 Quad Cab Pick-Up. He stated that it has 54,000 miles, tow package, bedliner, cover, and has been rust proofed twice. He explained that it is in immaculate condition and he is able to purchase it for \$20,000. He said that he has looked at local dealerships for lease turn ins to get something other than a brand-new vehicle and the price has been looking to be around \$35,000. He stated that he has the opportunity to acquire this. Should he do so, it will be driven by the Assistant Chief Emenhiser but will be available 24/7 if it is needed by anyone on any shifts. He stated that it will have lights and a radio put into the interior. He said it will be used to haul equipment to ranges, training, and picking up found property instead of calling out the Street Department whenever they have issues hauling items.

Culp asked Chief Weir if he will be allowing Assistant Chief Emenhiser to drive the new vehicle on duty.

Weir responded in agreeance and stated that he does not work the road very much as he is handling paperwork. He explained that it is why it is more of a civilian type vehicle as he primarily drives to and from home.

Listenberger asked if he will have a squad car anymore.

Weir said that he has not had one as he has been driving the retired Chief's vehicle which is unmarked.

Culp asked if it will be a concern that this is not a police package in the case of him getting into any pursuits.

Weir stated that Emehiser already explained that he would not be involved in any pursuits.

Houin wished to clarify an agenda item that was put on the Council Agenda that really applies to this request. He stated that the seller of the particular vehicle is someone Police Chief Weir is related to. He explained that it is probably not a legal conflict of interest because it is not a dependent but just for transparency, he had the Police Chief complete a conflict-of-interest statement just to fully disclose that. He added that the statement does not really require any action and is more for their information. He explained that he had reviewed it with the Police Chief and the Mayor and believes that this is a legitimate purchase with the conflict not having any burden on it.

Ecker said that he appreciated the step taken by Police Chief Weir to show conflict of interest in the communications that were sent.

Board Members Culp and Morrow moved and seconded to approve the request as presented. The motion carried.

Street Superintendent Marquardt stated that Rieth-Riley is tentatively scheduled to start on April 22nd on Pioneer Drive and Commerce Street. He said that as long as weather holds, they will start on the project and traffic may be a mess. He explained that they will close Pioneer Drive one side at a time and maintain two lanes. He explained that they are in communication with INDOT and will be meeting them tomorrow about timing of the traffic light. He said that the contractor was concerned about when the lights would change so he planned to meet with INDOT on April 9th.

Culp asked if it is right at US 30 and Pioneer and if they plan on making Pioneer wider.

Marquardt responded by stating that it is back just a little of the way and one can see where the state paved up last time. He stated that it is from there back to the second entrance of Gary Drive. He explained that they do not plan on widening it as they are just going deeper, putting soil stabilization in and putting thicker asphalt.

Morrow asked how long it would take.

Clerk-Treasurer Gorski responded by stating that it will take three weeks for Pioneer Drive and one to two weeks for Gary Drive.

Marquardt commented that Gary Drive will be a lot less intrusive than Pioneer Drive is. He stated that this is a Redevelopment project as well.

Listenberger asked if there is any word yet for Gibson and LaPorte Street.

Marquardt replied he couldn't speak for the school but he believes they spoke to them a little and E & B Paving does not have a definite date yet. He stated that it is sounding like the end of May or early June.

Listenberger asked if they believe they will have it done in time.

Marquardt said they are aware of the completion dates.

Clerk-Treasurer Gorski introduced a street closure request for the Cars & Coffee Event.

Sean Hatfield was in attendance to answer questions.

REQUEST FORM
CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Date: 3/27/24

Notice to BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY, CITY OF PLYMOUTH, INDIANA
Kindly review of the following request:

Request to close approximately 1 block of
Beerenbrook Street on both the north and
south sides of Jefferson Street for
Cars and Coffee event from 6:00am to 11:00am.

Hosted at the restored Mobilgas Station
owned by Calvin Bailey.

Dates: May 4, 2024 June 1, 2024 July 6, 2024 August 3, 2024 September 7, 2024
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Signed John Montgomery Phone Number 574-780-6885
Print Name John Montgomery Address 10548 King Road

In-Office Only:
Determination of Request
Approved by Board of Public Works & Safety, April 8, 2024

Return original form to Clerk-Treasurer's office after determination is complete.

Signed Gary Gorski Title Clerk-Treasurer

Dates:
May 4, 2024
June 1, 2024
July 6, 2024
August 3, 2024
September 7, 2024

Hatfield explained that the one block of Beerenbrook Street is the one adjacent to Mobile Gas Cars and Coffee to the south and Overmyer Water, Servpro, and the Bowling Alley to the north. He listed the dates of the event above. He said there are typically between 100-300 cars but it is weather dependent. He explained that cooler weather usually has less of a turnout. He extended an invitation to the City Council.

Culp asked if they would be utilizing the Sheriff's Reserves to cross the street.

Hatfield responded in agreement and stated that they utilize the Reserves to assist and facilitate with the crossing on Jefferson Street. He stated that they are aware that it is a known issue so they want to ensure it is as safe as possible. He explained that in closing the two blocks, it allows them to park more vehicles and assist with navigating around the facility.

Mayor Listenberger asked if they have been doing this for several years now.

Hatfield replied that this is their seventh year.

Board Members Morrow and Milner moved and seconded to approve the request from John Montgomery to close streets for the Cars and Coffee Event as presented. The motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Gorski introduced a request to use an electronic message sign from the Benjamin JW Fisher Memorial Foundation.

Laura,
Mayor Listenberger,

BENJAMIN J W FISHER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION has been offered a message board to use for the Four Corners Awareness that will be taking place on Friday, April 12, 2024 and Saturday, April 13, 2024, from High Star Traffic in Knox, IN.

Would it be possible to obtain approval for this and have it located on the Northeast corner of the intersection of North Michigan and East Jefferson Sts?
The hours of our Awareness are Friday from 1-7pm and Saturday from 9am - 3pm.

The board runs on solar or battery and can be stationary wording or rolling words.
(Image attached)

A typical message would be:

BEN FISHER FOUNDATION
RAISING AWARENESS IN
WORK ZONES

Thank you very much for hearing this impromptu request.



Mayor Listenberger stated that this would be during the time they are selling wristbands and keychains at the intersection of Michigan St. and Jefferson St.

Culp asked if they would need to get approval from the State.

Houin replied that they would not as it would be on City property.

Mayor Listenberger explained that from his understanding Jo Fisher was offered the use of the message board sign this weekend which is why this request is last minute.

Board Members Culp and Morrow moved and seconded to approve the request from the Benjamin JW Fisher Memorial Foundation as long as it does not disturb traffic. The motion carried.

Board Members Ecker and Morrow moved and seconded to allow the payroll for March 31, 2024 and the claims for April 8, 2024, as entered in Claim Register #2024-7. The motion carried.

Board Members Culp and Milner moved and seconded to accept the following communications:

- April 8, 2024 Docket
- March 26, 2024 Technical Review Committee Minutes
- Plymouth Fire Department Activity Report – March 2024

The motion carried.

There being no further business, Board Members Morrow and Culp moved and seconded to adjourn, Listenberger declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

