

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY,  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA  
January 4, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:** Mayor Dan Eckstein welcomed everyone and called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Works and Public Safety at 5:00pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Members present were Kristi Bonewit, Pam Weiseman and Mayor Dan Eckstein. Also present were Attorney, Brandon Murphy and Clerk-Treasurer, Dana Whatley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Weiseman made a motion to accept the agenda. Ms. Bonewit seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Bonewit made a motion to accept the minutes of December 21, 2020 as submitted. Ms. Weiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Mayor Eckstein made a motion to accept the claims as submitted. Ms. Bonewit seconded the motion. The vote to approve the claims was 3-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A.) **LONG TERM INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEE S.M.:** Mayor Eckstein made the motion to approve this employees time off until the next meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 pending receipt of new documentation, from the employee's physician. The motion carried 3-0.
- B.) **I&M PURCHASE AGREEMENT:** Mayor Eckstein stated that this item needs to be removed from the agenda for now. This agreement won't be ready to address until sometime spring/summer 2021. There was no action needed.
- C.) **LIGHT FARMS EXTENSION OF CASH FARM LEASE:** The documentation submitted for approval was incorrect. It had the wrong farm name listed on it. Ms. Bonewit made a motion to amend the agreement to read Light Farms. Ms. Weiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. The City Attorney will bring the amended document to the next meeting.
- D.) **RESOLUTION 2021-01 REVISION OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:** Mayor Eckstein stated there is some confusion in the verbiage in the amended section. With the new wording, does the Board of Works have any options regarding an employee who's been arrested and charged with a felony or unlawful act? After a lengthy discussion, Attorney Murphy said that the Board of Works cannot terminate an employee until the determination of guilt or innocence by a court of law. This amendment to the handbook references that if an employee who's been charged with a felony or unlawful act is enrolled in a diversion, deferral or Veteran's Court program which could potentially dismiss the case against the employee, he or she can either be reinstated to their position and allowed to continue working or the Board of Works can choose to suspend them until the case is resolved. The only stipulation is if the employee is suspended from work, their

position must be held open until the case is completed. Ms. Weiseman made a motion to approve resolution 2021-01. Ms. Bonewit seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 3-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.) WWTP – J. MASSEY WAGE INCREASE:** WWTP Supervisor T. Williamson approached the Board of Works requesting a wage increase of 27.5 cents bringing Mr. Massey’s hourly rate up to \$18.67 effective 1/4/2021. Mr. Williamson shared that Mr. Massey has completed 1,000 OJT hours completing his 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the apprentice program. Ms. Bonewit made a motion to approve this wage increase. Mayor Eckstein seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 3-0. Ms. Weiseman expressed her congratulations to Mr. Massey.

**BOARD INPUT:** Mayor Eckstein shared with everyone that since 2021 is a year with no elections, the employee handbook states that each city employee is entitled to two flex days to be taken according to handbook guidelines. These days will take the place of the election day holidays in May and November that are observed, in years with election. City Hall and all departments will be open and working on those days in May and November this year.

Mayor Eckstein also told everyone that he and Clerk-Treasurer Whatley have discussed a way to show the city’s appreciation to all the city employees for everything they’ve done to work through the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is going to ask City Council to give each city employee (excluding elected officials, City Council and Board of Works) \$200 in the form of a hazard pay bonus. This money will be funded by the CARES ACT grant money. The Mayor stated that he feels confident and hopeful that City Council will approve this gesture.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With there being no further business, Ms. Bonewit made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:26pm.

**FOLDER 2/REC 16**