

City of Tipton Board of Public Works and Safety meeting held on November 22, 2021, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Dolezal, Councilmen Kring, and Rippy, and Clerk-Treasurer Clark.

Others: Judy Coker, Tom Frye, Jeff Stout, Ken Ehman, Kegan Schmicker, Joe Bitner, William Jones, and Bob Edinger.

Mayor Dolezal opened the November 22, 2021, BOW meeting.

Minutes: Councilman Rippy made a motion to approve the November 8, 2021, BOW minutes, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Old Business: None.

New Business: New Hire Fire Dept. – None.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Dolezal stated the stop signs are scheduled to be installed in the next 10 days at Green Street and Sweetland Ave.

Fire: Chief Bitner asked if there were any questions on the October report. No questions. Chief Bitner stated the Firefighters passed out candy over the two nights for Halloween, there were a lot of visitors. He also stated the new extrication equipment has been delivered and we have already trained on the equipment. We don't have a claim yet, but they delivered the equipment and explained the features. We are happy, and it is easier to move. Chief Bitner commented the Fire Dept. is getting back to pitching in money and making breakfast for all City employees, this will be December 9th, we want to say thank you to all Departments and we will be cautious on the layout. Chief Bitner stated one of the candidates misread his email and thought the interview was at 5 p.m. that is why he wasn't there. He stated that the new hire candidates are both interested in part-time, and he would recommend that for now. Councilman Kring asked if he needed a full-time. Chief Bitner stated not right now it would be for next year, this would be an effective way to see how they would work out. Councilman Kring asked if you adjourned the executive session. Mayor Dolezal stated the Chief is recommending part-time and that doesn't require interviews by the BOW but full-time would require an interview. Chief Bitner stated the last three new hires haven't worked part-time for us. The Board decided to take the Chief's recommendation to go part-time and will plan an interview at a future date for full-time.

Police: Chief Stout handed out his monthly stats. He stated in citation/warnings they doubled; a blitz was held October 30th. Tipton Police Dept. had three participants, covered 243 miles, 23 stops, 14 citations issued, 17 warnings, 5 arrests (2 OWI), and 1 K-9 deployment, the Tipton County Sheriff's Dept. had six participants, covered 484 miles, 42 stops, 2 citations, 40 warnings, and 3 arrests (1 OWI). Chief Stout commented they do the blitz twice a year normally spring/summer and late fall. He also commented the OPO starts in the first part of December. Mayor Dolezal stated this is CHIRP grant money.

Chief Stout stated he should be back to full staff then he will be throwing another one in after the first of the year. He also stated he hoped to receive input back from Public Safety Medical by December 5th on the new hires, then they will have 40 hours of pre-basic field training and then he hoped to get them in the Academy for the April or July class. Chief Stout commented the application process is due back on November 30th, we only have received four back so we may push it out to December. He also commented they turn the specs for the two new vehicles into Tipton Ford, Dan Young, and Academy Dodge, the two vehicles don't have to be sealed bids because it's under the amount. Clerk-Treasurer Clark asked if it was in his budget. Chief Stout stated either line 451 or 452. He also stated there has been a lot of overtime and comp time because he has one out on family leave and one for bereavement. Chief Stout commented Officer Michael Firks will be here for six months on December 6th and he would like to recommend him to First Class Police Officer and take him off probation instead of waiting until his one year. Mayor Dolezal stated he would need to research, they are on probation for one year and asked if this is department policy. Councilman Kring stated he is comfortable with this but if you take him off probation, he gets a take-home car, and he lives in Sheridan. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated they get a pay increase as well. Councilman Kring stated you get the supervisor's recommendations. Chief Bitner stated he believed one of the Firefighters (Crane) was taken off probation at six months, but he had worked for the city before. Chief Stout reported probationary officers can't work by themselves, so once they are off probation, they can patrol by themselves. Mayor Dolezal stated he is not by himself at all. Chief Stout stated correct. There was a brief discussion regarding approving someone to be released from probation early. Mayor Dolezal stated he was good with the condition to have Chief have documentation from the training officers authorizing the release to be off probation. Councilman Kring made a motion to remove Officer Firks from probation before the 12 months (December 6, 2021) per Chief Stout with letters from Training Officer(s), seconded by Councilman Rippey, with all in favor. Councilman Rippey asked how the public safety building was. Mayor Dolezal stated they provided me details and he had a discussion with John McCord, details in progress. He also stated the Commissioners and himself are looking into maintenance on both City and County buildings. Councilman Kring asked about RFP's. Mayor Dolezal stated he would get copies to you both of what Chief provided me.

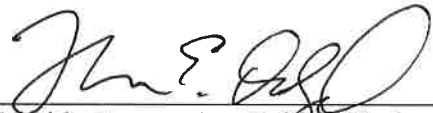
Enforcement Division – 802 Oak Street – Jones property: Enforcement Officer Coker gave a history of the property. She stated there was an agreement on August 9th most of the work will be completed by October 1st. The property has been vacant since 2006. Coker commented no work has been finished and the property is still empty. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the property. Mayor Dolezal shared with Coker that Mr. Jones shared interest in selling the place. Mr. Jones stated he meets with a guy today; it might be a package deal with another property in another County. Coker reported the permit was issued on August 9th, 2021, and is good for 12 months. Councilman Kring stated there are stipulations in 60 days and 90 days. Coker reported Mr. Jones owns the property at 416 Harrison. There was a lengthy discussion on what Mr. Jones would like to do with the four different parcels he owns and the current situation. It was suggested

the hard deadline be by March 1st and at the first meeting in March, we will ask for a demo if not done. Councilman Rippey made a motion by March 1st, 2022, the home is habitable, and at that time if not, they will take Judy's recommendation. Councilman Kring stated living there legally, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor. Councilman Kring asked about 622 E. Jefferson (house by Casey's), 119 N. East Street (Red Brick). Mayor Dolezal asked about 300 Erie Street by the Street Dept. Councilman Kring stated you need to investigate the owner of 119 N. East Street. Coker stated the city mowed 622 E. Jefferson and took care of the bushes on Jefferson Street. Councilman Kring commented Ms. Ricketts passed and it shows the owners as Brett and Merry Ricketts. Mr. Ken Ehman asked if there was an update on Needlers. Councilman Kring reported there is an order to appear on December 13th, 2021. There was a brief discussion regarding the property, owner, and architect-engineer. Coker was thanked for her hard work.

Adjournment: With no further business, Councilman Rippey called for adjournment, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.


Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer


President, Board of Public Works and Safety