

City of Tipton Board of Public Works and Safety meeting held on January 22, 2024, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Schmicker, Councilmen Ehman, and Kring, and Clerk-Treasurer Clark.

Others: Jeff Stout, Joe Bitner, Tim Richards, Benny Frazier, and Abbie Smith – Community Development Director.

Mayor Schmicker opened the January 22, 2024, BOW meeting.

Minutes: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024, BOW minutes, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Councilman Kring made a motion to add a contingent Police Officer – New Hire under New Business, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Chief Stout stated he enjoyed the interviews today and he recommends making a conditional offer of employment to Dalton Ludvigsen and Tryce Huffman pending Public Safety Medical. Tryce and Dalton will go Thursday to Public Safety Medical. He also stated they will be great assets to the Department. Dalton will be a lateral from Johnson County and Tryce is local. Councilman Kring made a motion to offer a conditional offer of employment to Tryce Huffman and Dalton Ludvigsen pending Public Safety Medical, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Old Business: BOW appointment to Planning Commission: Mayor Schmicker suggested Holly McGuire's name for this appointment and stated there are no partisan requirements for this appointment. Councilman Ehman made a motion to appoint Holly McGuire to the Planning Commission as the BOW representation, seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

New Business:

Farmers Market – Erin Shockley: Mayor Schmicker stated the application was in the packet and has been approved by the Fire, Police, Street, and Dispatch. He also stated tradition was that it was in the parking lot, but they are requesting it to be on Court Street. Mayor Schmicker stated his own opinion that he thought it looked better on the street and he believes the Farmers Market has outgrown the space in the parking lot. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the Temporary Street Closures for the dates and times specified in the Farmers Market application, seconded by Councilman Ehman. Mayor Schmicker stated the CCG this year includes Court Street so we will communicate this with the Farmer's Market and offer another area during this time. The motion was passed with all in favor.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schmicker commented he has a meeting with Public Works Manager Terry regarding the ice event tonight and the weather is pretty favorable after the event starts so he doesn't believe it will be a long-term issue but we want to make sure there is response plan for that commute activity. He also commented the social media contract

was sent out to the Council and we will be moving forward with the contract with Harden Digital & Design. They will help manage the City's social media and that will include the departments as well. There will be one central and it will keep all posting and responsibilities in place. We are developing each department's social media strategies, and what to post, they will create the content based on your submission. Mayor Schmicker stated he has accepted the initial contract with them but because we are a municipality there has to be a special language that we have to put into contracts to make them legal and binding and we will get this presented to this Board at the next BOW meeting.

Fire: Chief Ogden asked if there were any questions on the December monthly report or the 2023 YE report. Mayor Schmicker stated that just as forecasted we are already pretty heavy on ALS calls vs Fire calls. Do you expect that will increase since we have County-wide ALS, do you think that percentage will grow for medical? Chief Bitner stated the percentage will stay about the same since we have been running with Seals. He also stated the YE what we do now is what we have been doing. The only thing changing is we provide the medics, and the money comes to us, not to Seals. Chief Bitner commented ALS is up and running, we missed 2.5 hours the morning of January 1st with the switchover and getting everything in place, no calls were missed, the only call we had was a lift assist that Ambulance 10 made. Seals loaned us a set of cables until we got ours. Mayor Schmicker stated the City received the contract in early January for the ALS service, but we have offered some amendments, one regarding the lapse in time to 0700 hours on January 1st instead of the contract ending on December 31, 2027, from TFD to the new service provider if it would change and a few other items. Chief Binter stated Seals agreed to go from December 31st at midnight until 7 a.m. on January 1, 2024. He also stated they started a hiring process in October and will be adding two new members to the Pension Board because two members have expired. We will have four applicants we will be taking to the Pension Board to get their perspective. Chief Bitner asked for an Executive Session in the morning of the next meeting of the BOW on the 26th for the last open Firefighter position. If all four are worthy, then you will have four interviews. Chief Bitner reported he has a member of the Department that is currently on probationary year, at the end of January it will be six months. His shift officer is recommending that we take him off probation. The firefighter has 15 years of fire experience and Shift Officer Anderson wrote a letter to remove Jordan Davis from probation and move to 2nd Class Firefighter after six months. He is an asset to his peers and the Department. Mayor Schmicker stated January 30th is his sixth month, will this have a budgetary impact? Chief Bitner stated no we schedule any salary changes and longevity increases for that budget year. Councilman Kring made a motion to remove Jordan Davis from probation and to 2nd Class Firefighter effective January 30th, 2024, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor. Chief Bitner commented Madison Twp. Fire Chief, Jon Williams, stated they will be getting Engine 11 back to us so we can post it for sale. He also stated there is no space in the building for the Engine so it will be sitting outside, we will try to park it behind the pole building.

Police: Chief Stout stated there were 1,316.45 hours of training, we processed 10 gun permits, and 63 golf cart licenses were issued in 2023. He also stated Dalton Money will complete his one-year probationary period on January 29, 2024. Captain Nichols stated he is a great officer and an asset to the Department and recommends he be taken off probation. Councilman Kring made a motion to move Officer Money off probation effective January 29, 2024, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor. Chief Stout commented he was able to get the two new hires to Public Safety Medical on the 25th of January. He also commented he will have two open spots remaining, there are two individuals we are interviewing, one is from Elwood and the other is from Mishawaka. We will keep pushing forward in this process until all positions are filled.

Enforcement Division: Councilman Kring commented the Red Brick did clean up everything we requested. The BOW discussed having an Excel spreadsheet on the goals that the Board would like to work on this year. We might have a few properties in the downtown area and then five or six properties in the residential area that need to be fixed this year. One example would be the building across from Needlers (the old Tenbrook building). Mayor Schmicker stated the goals for enforcement could be categorized as residential and commercial.

Adjournment: With no further business, Councilman Ehman 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