

City of Tipton Board of Public Works and Safety meeting held on May 26, 2020, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

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

Others: Jeff Ogden, Joe Bitner, Bob Edinger, Vicky Boyd with Tipton Tribune, David Lacy, John Crume, Steve Niblick, Judy Coker, Joe VanBibber and Jim Powell.

Mayor Dolezal opened the May 26, 2020, BOW meeting.

Minutes: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the May 11, 2020, BOW minutes without amendment, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business:

Parade in Park on May 30th for Seniors: Mayor Dolezal reported there will be a drive-thru parade on Saturday at 2 p.m., the parade will line up on South Street and go around the Cemetery. He also reported the Fire Engine will lead the parade and they will go through the Park and then they will exit to the South.

Fire: Mayor Dolezal reported we have retiree Chief Ogden and the new Chief, Joe Bitner with us. Chief Ogden reported the April report was in your packets. He also reported we would like to get quotes on an engine it is running around 600K. Engine 11 is 1998, 22 years old, it could be retired but we think we are going to keep it. Chief Ogden reported we currently have two capital expenses, loan for SCBA and compressor it should be paid off September 1, 2020 of 25K and then Ladder 10 should be paid off November 1, 2026 of 40K. We could probably get the first payment due in 2022, it will take a year to build a truck and with a late delivery you could only be three years out before the ladder is paid off. In late 2018 the estimated amount for an engine was \$595,000, a 15-year loan with a \$50,000 loan payment. He also reported the annual payment for the SCBA would cover part of it for a few years without Ladder 10 paid off. It was reported the manufacture lead time is 10-12 months. Chief Ogden stated yes, a year and you can work out with financing. Mayor Dolezal asked what is the typical payment arrangement. Chief Ogden stated we have paid chassis in advancement and then when it is delivered. We will advertise and put it out for bid. Councilman Kring made a motion to advertise for bid on the specification for an engine, seconded by Councilman Rippy. Mayor Dolezal asked for Chief to send the Board a copy of what they need. The motion was passed with all in favor. Chief Ogden introduced Joe Bitner and stated the Mayor appointed Bitner as the next Fire Chief. He will do a great job; he has 21 years of service. We have been training the basic process. Chief Ogden thanked the BOW, Council and Mayor for what they have done for the Fire Dept., good equipment, great supporter, EMS basic issues, etc. He also stated to listen to the guys and support the Chief. The Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and Board members thanked Chief Ogden

for his service and stated he would be missed. Asst. Chief Bitner reported he looks forward to working with the Board. Councilman Kring reported he spoke to Chief Ogden and Chief Stout about looking at the Public Safety building itself whether renovation or a new build.

Police: Asst. Chief Lacy reviewed the police reports. He requested an Executive Session before the next meeting so we can interview the three applicants. Clerk-Treasurer Clark stated she would get back with him on a date. Asst. Chief Lacy reported they purchased in-car cameras and updated the cards and it cost \$1,600 to accomplish. He also reported Captain Nichols and Officer DellaRosa received a letter of commendation for their professionalism while helping a mentally unstable person. The Tactical Entry Team (TET) will also be receiving a letter of commendation as their next training session. Mayor Dolezal stated a job well done, a very difficult situation. Asst. Chief Lacy reported it was done very smoothly and no one was injured. Councilman Kring asked the last date Officer DellaRosa will be in force. Asst. Chief Lacy reported September. Clerk-Treasurer Clark asked if the applicants were for his replacement. Asst. Chief Lacy reported yes, we would offer conditional full-time employment, but we would bring him on as a reserve until DellaRosa leaves. Councilman Rippy asked if they have the academy. Asst. Chief Lacy reported the three applicants are not academy certified.

Enforcement Division

Ross Trailer Park: Commissioner Niblick reported Mr. Ross's 45-days expired yesterday on the demolition of the trailers. There was a brief discussion regarding the contractor for the demolitions and Mr. Ross not signing the contract yet. Commissioner Niblick recommended to assess a \$50 fine starting today for 30 days and bring it up to \$100 per day for the next 30 days for the six trailers to be removed. Clerk-Treasurer Clark asked per trailer or property. Commissioner Niblick reported for the property. Mayor Dolezal reported we need an appearance by him. Commissioner Niblick reported we will order him to appear in two weeks, do we need to wait to impose the fine in two weeks. Councilman Kring made a motion to charge a \$50 fine per day for the first 30 days and the fine begins today and order Mr. Ross to appear June 8th, seconded by Councilman Rippy. It was stated we need to put pressure on it. The motion was passed with all in favor.

304 W. Adams Street – Mr. James Powell: Enforcement Officer Coker reported this is Mr. Powell's third appearance before the Board his last appearance was October 14th. Coker gave a status update on the Adams property. Mr. James Powell, 986 S. Peru Street, Cicero, Indiana. Mr. Powell reported his intentions and stated with COVID it set things back. Mayor Dolezal asked Mr. Powell if he plans on doing any repairs. Mr. Powell stated the one in violation of the code. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this property. Enforcement Officer Coker made a recommendation to charge a \$50 fine per day for the first 30 days and then bring it up to \$100 per day the next 30 days, etc. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve Coker's recommendation of a \$50 fine per day starting today, seconded by Councilman Rippy, with all in favor. Coker asked if he

needs to be at the next BOW meeting. It was reported on June 26th the fines will double. Mayor Dolezal stated it would be your best interest to keep Enforcement Officer Coker abreast on what is going on.

427 Green Street – Mr. Stroup; Enforcement Officer Coker requested an order to appear for Mr. Stroup to the June 8th BOW meeting. She updated the Board on the status of the property. There was a brief discussion regarding extension and fees to be charged for extensions on permits. The Board told her to issue the order to appear. It was reported that Coker is doing a good job on so many things.

208, 210 and 212 E. Jefferson: The owners are Mr. Lewis Walker and Mr. John Cunningham and we are trying to make contact to get some work done on these properties.

Mr. VanBibber stated sorry about Mr. Powell, he has no sympathy for him. He has known him for four years and he is an absentee owner. He also stated what you did today is the best you could do, you set the tone to make the job easier.

Mrs. Vicky Boyd with Tipton Tribune asked if a property is uninhabitable can they sell the property. It was reported it has to be improved before someone lives in it. There is no limitation, you can sell the house. You can buy it to improve it. Councilman Rippey reported a year ago the Gamblin house was uninhabitable and it sold.

Mr. Bob Edinger, Tipton going to impose fines and they double at some point. Mayor it was effective with getting water to the Mobile Home Park. If you have another suggestion let me know. Coker reported the State statute says 5K is the max per violation and max of \$300 per day for a max of 5K per violation. Mr. Edinger stated if they get to the 5K then what are the next steps. Councilman Kring reported to lien the property and the Judge hears the case and the Judge does what he needs to do. If it is the case where we need to tear the house down then the City tears it down. They have to go through a legal process that Commissioner Niblick has done in Grant County it goes before a judge and then the Judge will say what needs to happen. If the owner still does not pay the fine then the owner loses the property. Mr. Edinger asked if the Board was going to go that far. Councilman Rippey stated yes. Councilman Kring stated I think the reason we are in this mess is for 20 years we have just rolled over and said Nah and then the owner says they are going to sue us because you fine us legally, fine.

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