

City of Tipton Board of Public Works and Safety meeting held on September 27, 2021, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Dolezal, Councilman Kring, and Clerk-Treasurer Clark. Councilman Rippy was not present.

Others: Vicky Boyd with Tipton Tribune, Sharon Teuscher, Kendra Hummel, Jeff Stout, Joe Bitner, Ken Ehman, and Mike Terry.

Mayor Dolezal opened the September 27, 2021, BOW meeting.

Minutes: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the September 22, 2021, BOW minutes, seconded by Mayor Dolezal, with all in favor.

Old Business:

Trash Bids: Public Works Manager Terry recommended the contract with Republic Services for the disposal of trash and garbage. He stated the rates are right in line. Terry commented it would be cheaper to haul to the landfill in Frankfort, but we will need to weigh the distance and hauling. Councilman Kring made a motion to accept Public Works Manager Terry's recommendation on Republic Services for a three-year contract with a three percent escalator per year, seconded by Mayor Dolezal, with all in favor. Terry stated he had a good discussion with Craig from Republic Services after the last meeting and they stated they could help us when our truck is out of service. He also stated he was checking with another municipality on backup service.

New Business:

Street Closure – Tipton Main Street – “Tis the Season” December 3rd: Ms. Kendra Hummel stated she received approval from Police, Fire, and Dispatch along with the State on the street closure request. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the Street closures for December 3rd from 4-8 p.m., seconded by Mayor Dolezal, with all in favor.

Fire: Chief Bitner asked if there were any questions on the August monthly report. With no questions, Chief Bitner stated there were no issues with the Pork Festival, it was smooth. He also stated it was a busy time with the ambulance and the hospital on diversion. Councilman Kring gave kudos to the Ambulance service for the quick response to the accident at US 31 and 600 South. Chief Bitner commented there could have been a serious wreck at SR 213 & SR 28, the Departments worked well together and got the gentleman out of his vehicle. He asked the Board about changing the living requirements in the County to expand to a 20-mile radius. Bitner stated in the NW part of the County google maps shows a 26-minute ETA to the station. If we give a broader area, it won't narrow the applications down, this will tremendously help us with hiring. It would include the City of Kokomo, which takes in Alexandria (McDonald's at SR9/SR28) a 30-minute drive so only four minutes longer than the most NW property of Tipton County. Mayor Dolezal stated we talked about modifications we may need to take under advisement. Chief Bitner stated Ryan Speer has a full-time hire date of May 23, 2021, and after six months (November 23, 2021) he is entitled to four days of vacation to use by

the end of the year. Most of the days have been marked up by the other fire department members. Bitner asked the Board if Speer could carry two vacation days over to the first quarter of 2022. Councilman Kring asked if it puts a bind to the schedule. Chief Bitner stated no, just the BOW must approve it. It was reported this was done on a case-by-case basis. Councilman Kring made a motion to allow Ryan Speer to carry over two vacation days to the first quarter of 2022, seconded by Mayor Dolezal, with all in favor. Chief Bitner commented on the lateral transfer, what can we do for the Fire, is there possibly a bonus like Police. What is the reason? Chief Bitner stated we normally don't have a lateral transfer to Tipton, but we possibly could be getting it since the pension base raise compared to neighboring departments. It was stated with the Police we pay recruit to Academy, and we don't have that with Fire. There was a brief discussion regarding certifications. Mayor Dolezal asked for Chief Bitner and him to have more discussion. Councilman Kring asked when the application process would start? Chief Bitner stated he would like to start advertising in October. There was a brief discussion of the last hiring process and the available applicants. Chief Bitner commented that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month so the Department will be wearing pink shirts and lapels. Mayor Dolezal thanked the Chief for improving the relationship with Cicero Township and his Department.

Police: Chief Stout echoed Chief Bitner's comment regarding the Pork Festival went well. He also stated the SRO vehicle is complete, kudos to those guys for the work they have done on it. Chief Stout commented the Officers will be wearing pink undershirts and pink lapel pins as well.

Hiring of Police Officer: Chief Stout recommended offering a condition of an offer of employment to Levi Glassburn and Jeffrey Teter waiting on Public Safety Medical. Councilman Kring made a motion to accept Chief Stout's recommendation on hiring the two candidates, seconded by Mayor Dolezal, with all in favor.

Ms. Sharon Teuscher addressed her concerns regarding the Fire, Police, and Street Dept. and their pay. She stated we need to support these departments, not just through taxes. She stated you need to come up with a better budget, get in the 21st Century, and start thinking for yourselves. Teuscher stated she is not asking for criticism. Councilman Kring commented he doesn't know where else to get the money from other than taxes and other fees. It was stated we done an excellent job working with the Chiefs on the pay structure and living requirements, wages, and pension. There was a brief discussion regarding grants, and state money being doubled.

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

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.



 Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer



 President, Board of Public Works and Safety