

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MUNCIE, INDIANA**

1. Time & Place
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Members Present
4. Approval of the Minutes for August 28, 2024
5. Register of Claims
6. Office of Community Development – Contract Approval for partially HOME funded new construction of a single-family home to be sold to a low to moderate income homebuyer
7. Street Closure Application, Village Promenade
8. Informational Presentation for Matthew Joseph
9. Adjournment

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
CITY OF MUNCIE, STATE OF INDIANA
SEPTEMBER 4, 2024
CLAIMS PACKET & MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Board of Public Works and safety, City of Muncie, State of Indiana, met in City Hall Auditorium, at 9:00 A.M.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call Members Present:** Ted Baker – Lola Mauer – Linda Gregory
4. **Approval of the Minutes for August 28, 2024:** President Ted Baker entertained a motion to approve. Lola Mauer moved to approve minutes from the August 28, 2024 meeting as printed. Linda Gregory provided a second. Questions called. Motion passed by voice vote.
5. **Register of Claims:** Craig Wright, City Controller, wished to bring attention to a few claims:
 - ✓ Page 7 \$11,350 Rugged Design Police suppressor hearing protection.
 - ✓ Page 17 \$31,231.29 IMI Aggregates MVH #11 surface W Jackson.
 - ✓ Page 17 \$17,037.85 ABI Attachments MVH 1000 gallon water trailer.
 - ✓ Page 17 \$17,200 Randal Miller & Assoc. LR&S Stockport Road engineering planning.
 - ✓ EFT \$260,000 CRU Properties, Construction Economic Development Agreement Walnut St.
 - ✓ EFTS \$145,000.08 UMR
 - ✓ EFTS \$665,823.39 UMR

Questions called. Linda Gregory moved to approve register of claims of **356 Records** for a total amount of **\$1,298,009.79** as presented. Lola Mauer provided a second. Questions called. Motion passed by voice vote.
6. **Office of Community Development – Contract Approval for partially HOME funded new construction of a single-family home to be sold to a low to moderate income homebuyer:** Melissa Poulin, Office of Community Development, expressed this is the Habitat for Humanity proposed developer agreement in the amount of \$36,846.00 for their newest redevelopment project at 125 E. 9th Street. President Baker clarified what it is for. Poulin explained Habitat for Humanity is going to rebuild a property for a low-income family to help beautify the City and get people into home ownership. They have updated the preexisting contract with some newer rules and regulations in putting more protections into the packet for the City and some of those items include more periodic inspections throughout construction. A \$250 City reinspection fee was added in the event of an inspection failure in addition to other items such as maximum value (sort of things) that HUD has required. Lola Mauer moved to approve the contract. Linda Gregory provided the second. Questions called. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. **Street Closure, Village Promenade:** Carey Grimes, General Manager at Village Promenade, wasn't able to make it on the agenda but brought copies of her application for the Board to consider. They are planning to paint the exterior of their building and with here is Mike from Onit who will be doing the work. They just wanted to make sure

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to have the information filed so the public is aware of the dates of their planned closures. North Street will be closed from Martin to Dicks on 9/3 to 9/6 which will not interfere with Dill Street. Dill Street will be closed from University to North on 9/5 to either 9/13 or 9/15. Martin Street will be closed from University to North Street on either 9/13 or 9/15 to either 9/17 or 9/19. Lastly, University will be closed from Martin to Dicks on either 9/17 or 9/19 to either 9/26 to 9/30. It will be only during business hours and only block one lane. Grimes explained North Street is on the back side of the building with metered marking while Dill Street has two sides of the building (one on the east side and another on the west). The only thing that is going to hinder traffic is when they are in front of the building with the lifts blocking one lane of University on each side. This is being done for both access and safety. Lola Mauer moved to approve the street closure. Linda Gregory provided the second. Questions called. Motion passed by voice vote.

- 8. Informative Presentation from Matthew Joseph:** Matthew Joseph, along with his significant other, Harley, have come to speak on behalf of their job with FrodoBots AI. It is a video game mixed with virtual reality through an online gaming service called Discord and basically people get online and access robots that are placed in a specific location. They look a lot like the food delivery robots that have been known to appear on campus. They run on a public course (usually a big square/rectangle on sidewalks) with 4 to 6 mission points that people are supposed to travel to through with robot to collect points. They come back and the next person will get on and play. They are here to warn the Board and general public due to some issues lately with safety concern and people being oblivious what it is. Police have been called out some incidents and a lot of people just aren't liking the locations they have chosen. Joseph has done his research and as far as he can find there isn't any restrictions about placing them on public property. Some of the locations they have tried using consist of White River and the Cardinal Greenway (and they were contacted about it being a safety concern due to bicycles and the speed in which the robots moved) as well as Morrow's Meadow in Yorktown. After speaking with a Yorktown Officer there, it was relayed that Yorktown was "his" City and he didn't want them there because he didn't want to deal with the public complaints. Parents at the parks had concerns about it as well so they tried various trails but some just didn't work out due to the roughness of the terrain. Vandalism occurs after a certain amount of time or people calling the company to complain about them so they will reach out informing they are no longer to place them in the locations they have been.

President Baker asks a little more about the gaming process. Harley explained anyone can go online and drive the robot around and experience real world cultures just driving on the sidewalk completing missions. Anyone, even businesses, can purchase these robots but their job as a host is to just drop them off, make sure they are charged and that they stay on the sidewalk. There is a whole team that watches and speculates them to make sure that the drivers are staying on course. There are multiple features such as face and license plate-blurring which provides people with a little more comfortability with their privacy and there is a whole privacy note laminated on the robot explaining it is a video game that people roam around and experience different locations. They don't collect any data other than the weather, coordinates, etc. and the team at FrodoBots, of course, will report any crime that shouldn't be happening. They are just using public sidewalks/right-of-ways.

Linda Gregory questions what kind of liability insurance they carry. Harley replied Frodobots have full insurance on the robots so once they were vandalized in White River they were insured and able to get new ones. It all comes down to what they want to do if they want to press charges or not. Linda Gregory is more concerned about injury vandalism that might occur because the robots being there, such as disruption of traffic or in turn causing an accident. Matthew assured the company has insurance and that they wouldn't place them near a roadway or public street. The robots are monitored and have a special system to help them stay on the trails so if they happen to veer offtrack then they will automatically shut off. The admin would then have to get back on and either drive the robot themselves or call the staff (like the two of them) to go and pick it up to relocate it back into position before turning it back on.

Lola Mauer questioned the virtual reality aspect of it. If the players are seeing real-life Muncie or if special effects are enhanced to make it look like, for example, Las Vegas. Harley replied no, the people operating the robots see real life. They drive the robots with their keyboards or controller but it isn't able to be played on a phone. There is a front and rearview camera with the back view being a fisheye. She insists they are more than happy to send the Board videos or pictures of what all it entails and if there is

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
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any further interest. The Muncie Police Department is all for it as they have also talked with Gretchen Cheesman, the Delaware County Sherriff and the Deputy Mayor.

Linda Gregory asked if they get permission from businesses or homeowners in the vicinity of where they plan to be. They both answer yes. As earlier mentioned, they were granted permission to place the robots at Minnetrista. At the time, the video gamers could speak and use a microphone so it was then that Minnetrista rescinded their approval asking to not have them placed there anymore, which was fine and respected. Shortly after that, the team disabled the voice/microphone feature so it is only associable for the professional team whenever needed. She insists they always ask permission. Some places said no while others personally reached out saying their off-road trail could be used. The only incident on the news was after the vandalism when Harley placed them in her own neighborhood to better keep an eye on them. That is when her neighbors questioned their privacy and such. The robots have been removed from the neighborhood and Matthew and Harley just wanted to publicly speak and get the word out there. President Baker appreciates all the legwork and discovery that they have done and thanks them for keeping them informed. He recommends staying in tune with the public and making sure they are listening. Their kindness is great and he wishes them the best of luck. No formal action taken.

***President Baker announced that next week's meeting WILL NOT be held on Wednesday, September 11 at 9:00 AM and has been rescheduled to Friday, September 13 at 2:00 PM (to satisfy board quorum).**

9. **Adjournment:** There being no further business President Ted Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

We will meet next Friday, September 13 at 2:00 PM

Board of Public Works and Safety



Ted Baker, President



Lola Mauer, Vice-President



Linda Gregory, Secretary



Lacey Jones, Recording Secretary