

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MUNCIE, INDIANA

1. Time & Place
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Nomination of Officers
4. Roll Call Members Present
5. Approval of the December 30, 2020 Meeting
6. Register of Claims
7. Bridges Community Services - Restroom
8. Residential Rehabilitation for 407 W. 8th Street
9. Residential Rehabilitation for 607 W. Charles Street
10. Holistic Rehab is a program administered by PathStone that provides Housing Rehabilitation Services
11. Public Works Construction Services Contract between the City of Muncie and Accurate Striping
12. President Gregory Partial Lane Closures
13. Kristopher Bilbrey
14. Audi Barber
15. Andrew Pop
16. Craig Wright, City Controller
17. Gretchen Cheesman, Community Development Director
18. Linda Gregory
19. Adjournment

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
CITY OF MUNCIE, STATE OF INDIANA
January 6, 2021 MINUTES

1. Board of Public Works and Safety, City of Muncie, State of Indiana, at 9:00 A.M. President Gregory called the meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Nomination of Officers:** President Gregory entertained a motion to nominate officers. Ted Baker moved to retain officers from year 2020 for 2021. Lola Mauer provided a second. Motion passed by voice vote.
4. **Roll Call Members Present:** Linda Gregory, Lola Mauer, and Ted Baker
5. **Board of Works Minutes for December 30, 2020:** President Gregory entertained a motion. Lola Mauer moved to approve minutes from the December 30, 2020 meeting as printed. Ted Baker provided the second. Motion passed by voice vote.
6. **Register of Claims:** Craig Wright, City Controller brought to the board's attention on the bottom of **Page #5 Legal Settlements** Alternative Service Concepts, LLC \$278,891.75 this is from the pending cases from 2019. After talking to Legal Counsel, we have to pay these settlements 100% in full including all fees before we get reimbursement back.

Page #6 Park's Department Equipment Rental Repair and Maintenance **Stoops Freightliner Quality Trailer \$17,653.42** repair to new Trash Truck.

Page #8 Motor Vehicle Highway Capital Equipment payoff to **Star Equipment Finance \$26,161.70** for Lee Boy Grader.

President Gregory asked if there was any more questions for Craig.

Ted Baker asked Craig how long it would be before we receive the reimbursement. Craig responded two and half weeks.

Lola Mauer had not questions for Craig.

Linda Gregory asked Craig about **Page #9** Police Department Inter-fund Transfer City of Muncie November 2020 Reimbursement 93 hours worked. Craig responded that he would get with the Chief of Police or his Deputy to find out more information for the reimbursement next week.

Page #10 Community Development, Cares Grant to **United Day Care Center \$59,441.00** Gretchen Cheesman, Director of Community Development responded that United Day Care was awarded \$59,000 for additional staff they needed in order to keep the day care open because of Covid.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MUNCIE, INDIANA

President Gregory entertained a motion to approve. Ted Baker moved to approve Board of Works claims as printed **156 Records** for a total amount of **\$649,619.02**. Lola Mauer provided the second. Motion passed by voice vote.

Jerry Wise 326 W. Charles Street – I asked for a recap of the year-end report for 2020 which I have not received. I think the public should have the check register before the Board of Works meeting not after the meeting to be able to ask questions. Ted Baker asked Jerry Wise how we should get that to people. Jerry responded posted on the web site or part of the meeting notes. Jerry then asked about **AT&T invoice** on **page #2** under Board of Works for \$47.25 Craig responded that he will report back next week. Then on **Page #1** of Second Batch General Fund Mayor, Ally Financial **\$638.12** 2019 GMC Terrain, lease for Mayor's vehicle. Then on **Page #2** City Council, Attorney Fees for Delk McNally LLP **\$6,000** fee. Then on **Page #3** Board of Works Communication Center **\$124,899.96** Craig responded that is for the 911 Communications Center. Bottom of the same page, **Hillcroft Services Inc.** **\$4,359.43** monthly fee to clean City Hall. Then on **Page #4** Board of Works Building Maintenance & Repair **Resolve Tech** **\$6,654.71** Craig responded this is their quarterly fee for preventative maintenance on HVAC System. Same page under Police Department **Wells Fargo Financial leasing** **\$537.00** for their copier as well as other departments that lease copiers. Then on **Page #8** Board of Works EDIT Fund **Vandwalle & Associates** **\$9,963.75** and **Indiana Association of Cities & Towns** **\$16,102.00** and **Endpoint Creative LLC** **\$2,000.00** my point being shouldn't be put to a department instead miscellaneous is what Board of Works becomes. On **Page #9** EDIT Fund Board of Works **Calibre Engineer, Inc.** **\$44,962.00** for on-call engineering. Towards the bottom of the page **MPD OPO 2020-2021** Eaton Police, Delaware County Police and Daleville Police Departments **\$3,523.46** I do not understand why we paying these out of the 2021 budget instead of the 2020 budget, it will inflate the 2021 budget. President Gregory responded the controller's did not receive for payment until 2021.

7. **Bridges Community Services – Restroom:** Gretchen Cheesman, Community Development Director requested this item remain on the table for one more week.
8. **Residential Rehabilitation for 407 W. 8th Street:** Gretchen Cheesman, Community Director requested this item remain on the table for one more week.
9. **Residential Rehabilitation for 607 W. Charles Street:** Gretchen Cheesman, Community Development Director requested this item remain on the table for one more week.
10. **Holistic Rehab is a program administered by PathStone that provides Housing Rehabilitation Services:** Gretchen Cheesman, Community Development Director reported that PathStone administers this for us every year for rehabilitation services for low to moderate income homeowners. They repair or replace a lot of roofs and various other types of repairs that homeowners need. Contract is for \$200,000 and 10% of that or \$20,000 is for administration by PathStone. President Gregory entertained a motion. Ted Baker moved to approve Holistic Rehab program by PathStone as presented and discusses. Lola Mauer provided the second. Motion passed by voice vote.
11. **Public Works Construction Services Contract between the City of Muncie and Accurate Striping:** City Engineer, Brian Stephens-Hotopp reported that back in December we received quotes pavements markings for an on-call services as needed services contract. The unit pricing is on Appendix A on the back page this a contract not exceed \$140,000 to paid from MVH Funds. President Gregory entertained a motion. Ted Baker moved to enter Into Construction Services Contract with Accurate Striping as presented and discussed. Lola Mauer provided the second. Motion passed by voice vote.
12. **President Gregory Partial Lane Closures on Tillotson Avenue between Brooks Drive and University Avenue:** President Gregory noticed in the newspaper reference partial lane closures but was wondering why it had come before the Board of Works. City Engineer Brian Stephens-Hotopp no we did not, it was a last minute thing that came up if we could have the Board's approval for the temporary closure that would be great. We only found about that before the holidays.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MUNCIE, INDIANA

13. **Kristopher Bilbrey** "I think it is interesting that you were just talking about wanting to know more info about the road closures. I like it when you ask questions like that because it seems you have the best interest of the public at heart when you do that". However, I would really urge you to go to the cities web site on Facebook when you go home and look at this meeting and absolutely listen to how absolutely rude you sounded to Jerry Wise as he was asking questions. He is asking questions to get answers on tax money and I know you people are not paid but you are appointed here by a Mayor who is paid who is elected by the public. I do not know if you guy's need to be out of here by 9:50 or what time you guys need to be out of here but if he has 40 more questions or there are 50 more people with questions each. You should be able to sit up here and answer the questions with a little bit more tack than what you do. I mean it absolutely comes off as rude that is the face that you people are putting on this but that is how you guys kind of conduct business. Mr. Baker asked again Mr. Wise how he thought you guys could provide the claims ahead of time to people, I don't understand why this is a hard thing. You people get the claims ahead of time and whomever prints that off they should be easily able to print off another copy or another two copies or another ten copies I do not know what the magic number is. You could one copy and put it right up here on the podium and Mr. Wise wants to get here 10 minutes early and look at it or if I want, too I good do that. Let's say 50 people walk in here and they all want to look at it and at that point we could go somewhere and make more copies but there is no reason why we can't provide that and this has to be asked for repeatedly. Like Mr. Wise said, "I will be every time from now on and I will ask about this. This is nonsense that he cannot be provided.

When we were on break and you were doing zoom meetings, I submitted an email you people took a minute and fourteen seconds to vote on Mr. Hotopp's contract and yet you took six minutes to discuss whether or not you should read the questions that was sent to you in an email. I think that it is very interesting because you were so concerned about whether the email was bad or looked negative on him, negative on you, or negative on the city. Rather than understanding that people look to you for transparency, your boss ran on transparency and ran on slowing government down so if it is not him making him look bad it is you guys making him look bad. I would figure you would want to act in such a way that reflected a little bit better on your boss.

So I am going to take a second and read the questions that you refuse to ask during two meetings and those questions are. 12.16.20 Mayor Ridenour came before the Board of Works wanting a pay increase to increase the contract for Calibre Engineering Brian Stephens-Hotopp. Mayor Ridenour said very little about this issue. Linda asked one question what this was for and Mayor Ridenour said it was an increase because he doing a little bit extra and is spread thin. All three Board of Works shock their heads yes and voted 3-0 to approve this. President Gregory asked for the increase but there no other questions. You people approved this in one minute and fourteen seconds from the time it was brought up and the time you were no longer talking about it. None of the Board of Works members asked how the increase was and I can only assume that means you knew ahead of time, the public watching doesn't know ahead of time the public watching does not know and did not learn from your meeting that was a \$50,000 increase. Although you are doing, your job as far as the city is concerned and as far as Calibre Engineering and as far as the Mayor is concerned you are not fulfilling your role as public officials allowing the public that information. I had to do a whole bunch of extra legwork to find out how much the contract was for.

Here is how I assume this would work and as soon, I say all stuff you would say thank you and I would sit down. I know you do not like what I am saying and I know I am a pain in the ass, but the questions is does it sound like these questions are unreasonable. Is this something that we can improve? It does not have to be an adversarial relationship, as if I can ask these questions and you can say yes or no or we simple are not going to do.

Ted Baker commented last week I made a statement and responded which I thought was in detail to your concern and our whole concern was not just to answer to you but it was to answer for anybody else that had questions. I thought we did great job really detailing and although at that meeting I did not have an opportunity to even know what you had asked and the way it was asked whatever. I took a lot of time to research of my own private time to make sure we provided you and the public with a good answer that was the whole intent it was not just to a check a box.

Kristopher Bilbrey appreciated and respect that answer but do you understand it was two weeks to late. Ted Baker replied it was when I could respond to it. I am having these questions as we are in real time so when I hear the Mayor come on and talk to

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MUNCIE, INDIANA

you people for a minute and fourteen seconds about this, the first thing that pops into my head is the public does not know how much the increase is in reference to. I do not know if you ever go back and look at the comments of these meetings. Thirty to forty other people that have the same question that he has and they might be off base too but it is your responsibility along with getting the claims paid and doing all stuff to help show that besides the City Council you are also the face of the City. You are seen more than anybody else is so I appreciate that you work every week up into the holidays. I appreciate everything that you guys do but you have a responsibility to the people out here I would highly recommend that you go back and listen to the first 25 minutes of this meeting it is embarrassing rude and that is my two cents worth.

14. **Audie Barber** mentioned during the Covid when the City was closed before, the City Council and the Board of Public Works and everybody decided to do emergency work only. Emergency to pay bills when the city was first closed down last year. Now that we had this Mayoral closing of City Hall you guys continued to do regular business without regular business without public input and when the public input was put into you as questions you don't get a week to answer them questions, when I they ask you them questions they want a reaction from you. I came in here a couple months ago with sidewalk concern on W. 11th Street and I want to thank the street department for replacing the sidewalk after six years of trying to get it that sidewalk replaced it finally was replaced. Then I am going to bring the concern of Prairie Creek Incident from last week I talked to Linda Gregory on the telephone a couple times and I was told that the Handicap Pier that is inside the campgrounds that it will be blocked off by these gates to be put there for \$30,000 dollars had been moved. I found out the moving of that just for seasonal move and they do not have a permanent place to put it yet. Therefore, when we voted on this last week to approve these gates I think we need to amend that and stop the cart so the horses can catch up. I am asking the board of works to rescind the vote for the security gates, which is supposed to be open during daytime hours but the Reservoir, has but out several statements in the last week because they cannot get a time figured out on it. Ted Baker asked Mr. Barber if has talked to anyone at the Park Board with his questions. Audie Barber replied he has not.
15. **Andrew Pop** came forward to thank Linda Gregory, Mr. Hotopp and Mr. Chambers with a concern from the neighborhood. I appreciate the response and hope we are moving towards a direction on that. Andrew also asked about the meeting where the claim was mentioned for **Innovation Connector** which I believe was in the amount of \$100,000 that Ted Baker voted approval for and there were only two board members present at the that meeting. President Gregory mentioned that Ted Baker abstained from voting.
16. **Craig Wright, City Controller** commented he would have three to five copies on the podium of the Register of Claims for anyone to look over before or during the meeting next week.
17. **Gretchen Cheesman, Community Development Director** wanted to let people know that we are getting ready to accept applications for our Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program for our 2020-2021 Program Year. Applications will be available on Friday on the City of Muncie website, Community Development Department page. Applications are due on February 1, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. We are also getting to move some money around from some programs to different programs based on some changes that were made with the Covid Cares Act Waivers that we were granted. We will be having a public meeting on that as well, which has not been scheduled yet all meetings will be via zoom. We will post notifications on our web page and in the Muncie Newspaper.
18. **Linda Gregory** mentioned that our ^{responsibility} ~~responsivity~~ is not policy and it is not procedure it's authorizing claims that had been submitted in good faith and appropriately and to approve bids and quotes and that is what we did. It is not our responsibility to delve into every impact that a contract letting might occur. In addition, while we are glad to listen to your concerns and there are certainly things that we need to consider when we make our decisions. Much of that it seems to me needs to go to Park Board because they are the ones in charge of Prairie Creek not us not the policy. I am not willing to take on the Park Board's decision-making. Jerry Wise came to podium with a suggestion to have the Park Department here at the next meeting so they explain their rationale we need to know the public needs to know. President Gregory mentioned not sure, this is the venue Mr. Wise that is my concern. For instance if Audie goes the Parks Department he knew is but the rest of us don't know, what would it hurt. President Gregory indicated that we could ask them to do that.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MUNCIE, INDIANA

19. **Adjournment:** There being no further business President Gregory adjourned meeting at 9:53 a.m.

We will meet next Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Board of Public Works and Safety



Linda Gregory, President



Ted Baker, Secretary



Lola Mauer, Vice-President



Linda Hayes, Recording Secretary