

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2023**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety convened at 9:02 a.m. on Thursday, October 12, 2023, in the Council Chambers of Hammond City Hall. A roll call was taken: Mr. Long – present; Ms. Greenwell – present; Mr. Kalina – present.

Motion by Ms. Greenwell to defer the Minutes of the meeting of October 5, 2023; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried.

Under Correspondence, correspondence received from Gariup Construction requesting to do a partial lane closure on Calumet Avenue, just south of River Dr. The closure will take place October 24th & 25th with October 26th as a backup in case of poor weather. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-918)

Correspondence received from William Stewart requesting the No Parking sign on Beverly Avenue for 7850 Northcote Avenue to be moved from its present location approximately 30 feet East of its current location. The area where the sign is located will be replaced with concrete. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to deny and forward to Public Works for follow up; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-919)

Correspondence received from the Controller's Office requesting the approval of the renewal of amusement device license for Pepe's Mexican Restaurant and Rainbow Crane. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-920)

Correspondence received from New Zion Church requesting to block Tapper Street from Merrill to Morris on October 31, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for a community event. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-921)

Matters from Board Members, Ms. Greenwell presents two requests from Mayor's Night Out. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to forward to Engineering; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-922)

Under New Business, Funding Allocation Request Form received requesting \$44,383.25 of the 4th District Gaming Fund to be allocated for the lighting in the 4th District with NIES Engineering. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-923)

Funding Allocation Request Form received requesting \$5,980.93 of the 3rd District Gaming Fund to be allocated for the lighting in the 3rd District with NIES Engineering. Motion

by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-924)

Authority to issue Requests for Proposals for Competitively Sourced Solid Waste Disposal. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-925)

Authority to issue Requests for Proposals for Bulk Fuel Service. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-926)

Garage Sale permits submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-927)

Right of Way Permits (2) received from Engineering submitted for approval. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve; seconded by Mr. Kalina. AYES ALL. Motion carried. (Ins. No. 23-928)

SeeClickFix – Request to add signs where the bike path crosses over to Northcote Avenue. Motion by Ms. Greenwell to approve and forward to Engineering for follow-up. (Ins. No. 23-929)

Business Exception Hearings. Luke's - 10770 Indianapolis Blvd. Mr. Terrence Fife appears. Proper notice to surrounding neighbors has been confirmed.

Mr. Fife sworn in. This location is a 24-hour location usually staffed with 2-3 employees throughout the night. Luke has made upgrades with LED lighting and around the building, new camera system overhaul. They are next to the toll road, all licenses are current. They were one of the first to add the FUSUS program at two other Hammond locations. Do not tolerate loiters on property, employees are to call if they see something. Mr. Fife would like the city to consider this location to be an exemption. There is a Dunkin Donuts at the location.

Mr. Smith has a few questions. Mr. Fife does not know if Dunkin Donuts are properly licensed, not aware of citations, zoning issues. Regarding the call out history, Mr. Fife is only aware of the information given by employees as to when the police are called and any reports are made. There are only 9 at this location this year. Emails are sent forwarding the incident reports of any police activity. Not currently on FUSUS with this station but in the process of getting it.

Mr. Smith presents on behalf of the city. Exhibit 1 – police call history. Sgt. Christopher Gootee sworn in. Luke's has many locations in the city and Mr. Fife is very cooperative when needed. Two other locations have FUSUS installed and are in process of ordering new devices for this location. Many calls to this location, very busy location with many

gas pumps, extra patrol. Does not know why this location doesn't have FUSUS installed yet. Other locations have more criminal activity. New systems with Alert Alarm are compatible with FUSUS and are adequate for investigations.

Mr. Smith states there are 16 pages of call logs. Fueling station is not part of the FUSUS yet but hopefully be in the near future. There is adequate security presence overnight at the station. Fueling station is commercial/industrial area. Easily accessible to toll road.

Exhibit 2 – Summary of Mr. Thomas Novak. Mr. Novak sworn in. Report created based on visit of October 10, 2023 with photos. Safety concerns are signage in windows and doors which cover more than 25% of windows, no ADA parking, address numbers are too small, exposed electrical wiring hanging from the sign on north end of building, shipping container stored on site which contains fireworks. Containers should only be temporary.

Exhibit 3 – Report of Mr. Farrell. Mr. Farrell sworn in. Document was missing so no current license. Dunkin Donuts as not had a valid license to operate since 2012. Appears to have a Citgo advertisement and Luke, if two separate entities, would need their own license. Any abandoned or non-in use signage needs to be removed. Fireworks operation has not had a license issued for that site. Property owners are to maintain around the donation boxes and are requirements to be labeled, contact information and clean around the area.

Mr. Fife – closing. FUSUS cameras, two different locations were recommended, State Line and Sheffield, that is why they went with them. Will give the inspections reports to maintenance and company president to address the issues. Citgo is an unbranded site partnership at the location.

Mr. Smith – closing. All issues Mr. Novak brought up are important, remove graffiti, fireworks container, creates a potential hazard, windows need to be addressed and request business license need to be up to date.

The Board will take this matter under advisement and notify the petitioner in writing by regular, certified and electronic mail within 10 days. (Exhibits – Ins. No. 23-930)

Nice & Easy, 4508 Calumet Ave. Proper notice to surrounding neighbors has been confirmed. Mr. Witham presents the city via email 6 photographs, 1 page of map, 1 page of call log and business license. Mr. Jim Witham sworn in. Pictures shows different views, across street, inside counter and cashiers behind bullet proof glass. Photo of security system screen, photo of what cashier can see to the left as well to the front. Has a good view of the outside as well as inside. Next, map 1 ½ miles south of the Toll Road exit on Calumet Ave. Purchased property in 1995, improved location, update on the POS system to newest technology. Cashiers working after midnight, has ability to look outside, has cameras, well in control of situation. Incident report midnight to 5:00 a.m. minimal calls which warrants a lot of consideration.

FUSUS system has been delivered and installed Friday. Does have reservations with security, credit card fraud.

Mr. Smith has a question. Wants to verify the owner for 2849 169th Street, Nice and Easy Mart, shows owner as Jaegeth Singh. Mr. Singh is present and states he owns other gas stations.

Mr. Smith presents on behalf of the city.

Exhibit 1 – police call history. - 2023 there has been 30 calls, 2022 – 30/45 calls, 2021 – 25 calls, and 2020 – 35 calls.

Sgt. Gootee visited the station yesterday October 11, 2023. Summary of visit, met with Mr. Witham and Mr. Singh. Discussed FUSUS system, Sgt. Gootee does not share same concern regarding credit card fraud as well as skimming, not an issue with FUSUS. Cameras are adequate, lighting is good. No incidents with violent activity.

Exhibit 2 – Summary of Mr. Thomas Novak. Report created based on visit of October 11, 2023 with photos. Safety concerns are signage in windows which cover more than 25% of windows, no ADA striping, a lot of advertising, no permitted signs, and address numbers lack size.

Exhibit 3 – Report of Mr. Farrell. Business license is up to date since 2005, alley lines accumulation of garbage and debris. Complaints over the property behind station for overgrowth vegetation. However, station does not own grassy area but they do clean it to make it look nice.

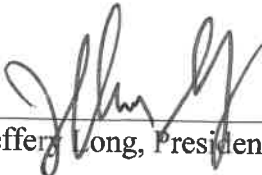
Mr. Singh / Mr. Witham – closing. No closing argument.

Mr. Smith – closing. Look at factors within the ordinance. Testimonies from Sgt. Gootee, Thomas Novak, and Mr. Farrell. Exhibit 1 Mr. Smith presented to the Board a more accurate detailed police calls list. FUSUS is moving forward. Only 1 clerk at night, backed up traffic from train tracks. Based on the notices, this is more of a residential area. Mr. Singh owns the home next to it. First or second southbound station from the toll road, adequate lighting, license is up to date. Request issues be addressed if exception is passed. Mr. Smith's major concern is that it is not close to interstate.

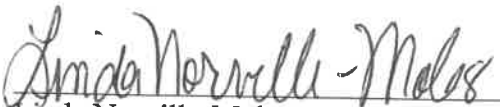
The Board will take this matter under advisement and notify the petitioner in writing by regular, certified and electronic mail within 10 days. (Exhibits – Ins. No. 23-931)

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Ms. Greenwell to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Kalina. The regularly scheduled meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

APPROVED:

BY: 
Jeffery Long, President

ATTEST:


Linda Norville-Moles, Board Secretary