

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

Regular Meeting

May 30, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Shelbyville, Indiana, was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, at 8:30 A.M. All members were present, and Mayor DeBaun presided.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on May 23, 2017, and Mr. Finkel seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.


Mr. Williams moved to approve the claims as presented, and Mr. Finkel seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

There was no old business.

Under new business, there were two dog bite cases. On the first case, Jared West, 674 Van Ave., spoke first because it was his dog that bit his neighbor. He said his dog got under his fence to play with the neighbor's dog, like they usually do. However, the playing turned into fighting, and the neighbor tried to break up the fight. Jared's dog is nine months old, and Mr. Finkel said when visiting the Animal Shelter it is a very friendly and happy dog, and did not show any aggression. Over this past weekend, Jared said he put some stakes and cinder blocks where there was a gap under the fence. Mayor DeBaun asked if someone from the Animal Shelter could check the fence to see if it is appropriate, and they said yes. Jacob Day, 801 Carlin Drive, came up next to explain how he was bitten. When breaking up the fighting dogs, the neighbor's dog bit him on his hand. He went to the hospital to have it checked out, and he said he's seeing a surgeon tomorrow to see if he can get any feeling in his thumb. Jacob said he would like to see the dog returned to his owner, and he has insurance to cover the expenses. Mr. Finkel moved to release the dog pending successful inspection of the fence, and Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote.

On the second dog bite case, Cortney Denton, owner of the dog, spoke first and he lives at 600 Chestnut Street. Andy Baldwin introduced himself as an attorney, but said he might not be needed to say anything. Cortney gave his version of what happened, and felt the dog bit his dad because he was agitating the dog. After the bite, his dad grabbed a knife, and refused to leave. Cortney showed many pictures on a poster of his family with their dog all over the country. He has four children, ranging in age from six to eleven, and said the dog is very good with them. He also takes his four year old dog to different competitions all over the country, where obedience is worked on, with or without the owner present. In the competitions, he has a bite suit that he wears. Mayor DeBaun had concerns about the dog because his dad has been bitten three times by the dog, and a lady neighbor felt intimidated by the dog, feeling she couldn't leave the truck until Cortney could come get the dog. Mayor DeBaun asked Montel Giden, 808 Meridian St., to come forward to tell his side of the incident. He is Cortney Denton's father. After Montel was bitten on the leg, he grabbed a knife and wouldn't let go of it until the Police arrived. He released the knife, and the dog was put in its kennel. Montel felt it wasn't safe to have his grandkids near the dog. He gave examples how each of them were bitten or mistreated by the dog. Mayor DeBaun said he'd like more information from Officer Curry and any of the other Officers there that night. He also wanted the name and contact of the lady who had a comment about the truck incident on the Police report. Mr. Finkel said he went out to visit the dog at the Shelter, and in the six years he's been on the Board, he said this was the most vicious dog he's seen, and he's seen a lot of vicious dogs over that time. Since this was going to be continued, Mr. Finkel said he would like to arrange a time where Cortney, as owner and trainer, could meet with the Board to see what the demeanor of the dog is at that point. Cortney said he would be prepared to move, with the dog, if necessary, out of the City limits, and out of Shelby County. Mr. Finkel moved to continue this until next week; the dog shall remain quarantined until that time, and meet with the Board and Mr. Denton at a pre-arranged time. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was carried on a 3-0 voice vote. Mayor DeBaun said he wanted to observe the dog to see its demeanor before and after Mr. Denton arrives.

There being no further business, Mr. Finkel moved to adjourn.



Thomas D. DeBaun
Mayor

ATTEST:



Frank M. Zeir
Clerk-Treasurer