

City of Tipton Board of Public Works and Safety meeting held on January 27, 2025, at Tipton City Hall, Council Chambers, Tipton.

Members: Mayor Schmicker, Clerk-Treasurer Clark, Councilmen Ehman, and Kring.

Others: Tim Richards, Dylan Dietrick, Jeff Stout, Sophia Phifer, Cliff Ragan, Joe Bitner, Judy Coker and Evan Piske.

Mayor Schmicker opened the January 27, 2025, BOW meeting.

Minutes: Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the January 13, 2025, BOW minutes, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Amend Agenda: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business:

Fire Dept. – New Hire: Chief Bitner stated we had an interview earlier, and he recommends offering a conditional offer of employment to Josh Vinson and Seth Hougeson, pending Public Safety Medical. Councilman Kring made a motion to send a conditional offer of employment to Josh Vinson and Seth Hougeson, pending Public Safety Medical, seconded by Councilman Ehman, with all in favor.

Park Closure (Entrance & Exit) – March 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. – B&G Club – Sophia Phifer: Ms. Phifer commented the B&G Club is having a 5K on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., there will be parking at the School, but we would like the entrance and exit closed at the Park. Councilman Kring made a motion to approve the Park Closure of the entrance and exit on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., seconded by Councilman Kring, with all in favor.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Schmicker stated he is working with a group quoting the list for the Public Safety Building improvements. The numbers are a tad high, so we prioritize the list and prepare it for bid. We hope to get it out for bid by the end of February. He also stated we hope to see improvements within 3 months and have it executed in 2025.

Fire: Chief Bitner asked if there were any questions on the December monthly report or the 2024 Annual Report. There were no questions. Chief Bitner commented that the block heater for the generator was replaced, and Brad Howell Ford fixed the exhaust leak on the medic truck. He also commented that two firefighters are leaving this month, and we are trying to get their replacement hired this morning. A question was asked about medic assist and EMS incident. Chief Bitner stated that a medical assist helps people get up, and an EMS incident is when they give treatment and are transported.

Police: Chief Stout handed out the stats and stated they were almost identical. He also stated they handed out year-end awards, and Officer Grant Tansy had the most arrest award, and

Officer Dalton Ludvigsen had the most traffic citations award. Chief Stout commented that Captain Nichols left in December to go to Westfield. We are currently hiring, and applications are due by Friday; so far, we have six applications, and he is aware of three good ones. He also commented they are hoping to do the physical agility test on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Chief Stout stated Officer Dalton Money is the new department PIO. Asst. Chief Lacy will help him with that. Officer Jackson Tunnell is in his last week of FTO, which is the ghost phase. Chief Lacy will ride along with him during this phase. Chief Stout also stated he would like approval to order the vehicle for this year. He requested quotes from Academy Dodge, Dan Young, and Tipton Ford, but we didn't receive one back from Dan Young. Chief Stout commented that he has two trade-ins, a Ford Taurus and a Ford Explorer. The Academy's Option 1 is \$41,883 each, and Option 2 is \$44,701 each, both with trade-in options. He also commented that he budgeted \$70K. Tipton Ford's quote would be \$43,942 each, with \$18,000 for the two trades for \$69,884. Chief Stout stated you must pony up money to get the Dodge. He also stated he has a Dodge coming to replace the wrecked one. Chief Stout stated he could have Ford order the vehicles. Mayor Schmicker asked that we take them under advisement. He also stated we are looking at City going with Fleet Management with Enterprise Fleet. There is a proposal for six vehicles with the same amount of \$70K. Chief Stout stated that the fleet program that was looked at before was not very good. The County looked at it and some other agencies, and they don't think it is worth the money. He said he knows Howard Co. Sheriff's Dept., Clinton County, and Tracy Powell looked into it. It was stated that this would be a program with our fleet management and that the miles would stay low. Chief Stout stated if we went the other way on my proposal, we would stay local, too. Councilman Ehman asked about Dalton, which has the most traffic stops. There was a brief discussion regarding Dalton having a 1/3 of the entire Dept. on traffic stops. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the truck ordinance and revising it. Mayor Schmicker mentioned you could revise to manage it through weight because if a truck is empty, it would still be overweight. He also stated Madison, Hobart, and Pendleton handle their truck traffic this way. Councilman Kring stated that to make the ordinance enforceable, and weight is the issue, we need to amend it. He didn't want to fight with the Ag community.

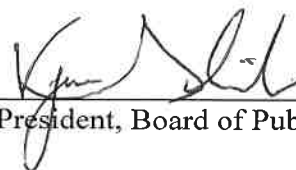
Mayor Schmicker stated he would talk with Cliff Ragan and the Planning Dept. after the meeting.

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

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.



Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer



President, Board of Public Works and Safety