

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
FEBRUARY 02, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Public Works and Safety met on Monday, February 02, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers on the first floor of City Hall, located at 301 S. Branson St., Marion, IN 46952.

1. ROLL CALL

President Alex Huskey called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present.

Members present: Alex Huskey, Vickie Nevels, Bart Smith, and Virginia Drake

Members absent: Mario Speed

Also present: Administrative Support Whitney Gilbert; City Attorney Michael Hotz, Chief Curtis Garr, Luke Thompson, Chief David gilbert, Sgt Biddle, Lt. Tittle, Lt. Ridgeway, Rose Cadena, Jeremiah Horvath, Joe Murphy, Keenan Davis, Erika Devine

Public present: Thompson family, Dave Homer with S.O.S. and Paul Hayden with IN Landmarks

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Approval of January 5, 2026, regular meeting minutes

Alex Huskey asked whether there were any corrections to the January 5, 2026 minutes. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve.

Motion: Vickie Nevels

Seconded: Virginia Drake

Motion Carried

3. BUILDING DEPARTMENT – UNSAFE STRUCTURE – 917 S. ADAMS ST.

Michael Hotz spoke on behalf of the Building Department regarding the unsafe structure at 917 South Adams Street, a home designed by Samuel Plato. He summarized the property’s condition and the ongoing communication among the owner, the Building Department, and Indiana Landmarks.

Mr. Hotz informed the Board that the owner could not attend the meeting but has expressed an intent to donate the historic property to Indiana Landmarks. Paul Hayden addressed the Board and stated that Indiana Landmarks plans to acquire and renovate the structure, estimating a \$200,000 project supported by a \$50,000 donation. Mr. Hotz explained that while the Building Department is seeking a demolition order, it is willing to stay the demolition to allow Indiana Landmarks the opportunity to proceed with its proposed renovation plan.

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to approve the demolition order and to stay the demolition.

Motion: Vickie Nevels

Seconded: Virginia Drake

Motion Carried

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT – SWEAR IN

Chief Garr introduced Luke Thompson to the Board and commended him for his exemplary performance over the past year. He noted the proud legacy of the Thompson family within the Marion Fire Department, with Luke, alongside his brother Blake, continuing a third generation of service, following their father, Paul Thompson III, and their grandfather, Paul Thompson Jr. Chief Garr then administered the oath of office, after which Luke was ceremonially pinned by his father using his late grandfather's badge.

5. POLICE DEPARTMENT – UPDATED TASER SOP

Sgt. Joe Biddle explained that, following its recent approval to purchase new TASER devices, the department has begun issuing the equipment and conducting training, which is progressing well. Due to operational differences between the new devices and the previous models, updates to the department's Standard Operating Procedures are necessary. The revision also provided an opportunity to reorganize and clarify the language and format, making the policy easier to read and helping officers quickly understand the parameters for appropriate use. Sgt Biddle offered to answer any questions about the updated materials that were provided to the Board in advance of the meeting; none were raised regarding the material. The Board confirmed with Sgt. Biddle that the updated SOP had been approved by MPD Administrative Staff and the City Attorney.

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to approve the updated SOP.

Motion: Vickie Nevels

Seconded: Virginia Drake

Motion Carried

6. POLICE DEPARTMENT – UPDATED K9 SOP

Lt. Brian Ridgeway explained that the department reviewed its existing policies, noting they were originally drafted when the unit consisted of only two K-9s and has since expanded to six. He advised that changes in operations, evolving use-of-force standards, and developing case law made it necessary to update the SOP to ensure it reflects current practices and fully addresses the growth of the unit. Lt. Ridgeway further stated that the revised SOP had been reviewed and approved by Administrative Staff. No questions were raised by Board members regarding the materials that had been provided in advance of the meeting.

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to approve the updated SOP.

Motion: Vickie Nevels

Seconded: Bart Smith

Motion Carried

7. POLICE DEPARTMENT – UPDATED GROOMING SOP

Lt. Drew Tittle presented the revised Grooming SOP. He advised the updates primarily consist of clarifying language and incorporating adjustments to existing standards. Lt. Tittle noted the SOP was reviewed by executive staff, amended as recommended, and approved. He then opened the floor for questions about the material provided to the Board prior to the meeting; no questions or concerns were raised by the Board.

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to approve the updated SOP.

Motion: Vickie Nevels

Seconded: Virginia Drake

Motion Carried