

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
Special Meeting
May 20, 2024

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Frankfort, Indiana (hereinafter “BOW”) met in a special meeting on May 20, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, 301 East Clinton Street, Frankfort, Indiana.

The following action was taken: Mayor Sheets called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Mayor Judy Sheets, Greg Miller, and Megan Sheets. Also present were, Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley, City Attorney Alicia Albertson, Building Inspector Ryan Haynes, and Ronnie Dale Abbott and Amy Abbott.

APPEAL REGARDING BUILDING MATERIALS TO BE USED IN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Ms. Albertson explained that this is an appeal process by which both sides present their cases. The BOW will make a final determination.

Ronnie Dale Abbott and Amy Abbott (hereinafter “the Abbotts”), who reside at 53 Aughe Street, which is in the Christian Ridge Historic District, appeared to appeal a decision by Building Inspector Ryan Hayes. The Abbotts intend to build a garage addition to their current home. Mr. Haynes denied use of vinyl siding, citing the City of Frankfort Historic District Standards which does not list synthetic materials such vinyl as an acceptable building material.

The Abbotts presented information and requested the decision by Mr. Haynes to be reversed. The Abbotts’s primary argument was that a number of other homes in this district contain vinyl siding. They also stated that their house was built in the 1950’s and does not qualify for historic status. The cost of materials recommended to them to use are cost prohibitive for their project and require additional maintenance which is undesirable.

Mr. Haynes presented the Historic District Standards. He recommended the use of cement board in place of vinyl siding. Mr. Haynes agreed that there are many homes in this district that have vinyl siding. He also stated that this is a unique project (addition), and is technically not listed in the Standards which refer to preservation, reconstruction, and new builds.

Ms. Albertson stated that a review of the Historic Standards for revision after disbanding the Historic Preservation Commission could be done in the future. She stated that discussion could begin, but that revisions made too quickly could be determinantal.

Ms. Sheets commended all participants for their stances, and for their comments. She agreed that vinyl siding would be acceptable and that each project should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Miller commented that the City needs to improve our process of evaluation for homes in the district. He agreed that the City needs to look at each project individually keeping the historic value and type of construction in mind. He also agreed that vinyl siding is acceptable. Mayor Sheets commented about the complexities of living in a Historic District and agreed that vinyl can be used.

Megan Sheets made a motion to grant the Abbotts the ability to install the vinyl siding that they selected. Greg Miller seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, three ayes were recorded. Motion carried 3-0.

Greg Miller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Megan Sheets. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.