

Board of Works OKs Stellar Hire

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The Crawfordsville Board of Public Works and Safety approved a contract between the city and HWC Engineering for the hiring of Jim Rice, who will serve as project manager for Stellar projects.

“He has tremendous experience with other communities doing this,” Mayor Todd Barton said. “He will do a very good job for us keeping construction under budget and on time.”

The four-and-a-half-year contract outlined that Rice would be paid only when the city uses his services at a rate of \$201 per hour, not to exceed \$260,000.

“I will say, we probably will utilize him less than most communities have ...” Barton said, “because we’ll have the in-house person working much of this.”

The city will hire a director of operations in January. Though it will not be he or she’s only job, this person will be the point person for all things Stellar-related in the city. Barton wants to get as much out of the Stellar designation as possible, so he decided hiring someone in-house would be cheaper and more effective in the long-run. He is still deciding whether he wants to appoint someone to the position or if he will open it up for applications.

During Wednesday’s meeting, the board also approved the demolitions of 809 and 810 S. Walnut St.

“They are definitely an eyesore in that area for sure,” Barton said.

Walks for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Post were also approved. On Nov. 4, the National Commander of the American Legion will be in town, so an Awareness Walk will take place from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. On Nov. 11, the VFW will host its Veterans Day Program, so Main Street from Green Street to Washington Street will be closed from 10 a.m. until noon.

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