

**February 8, 2022**

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in person and via Zoom on Tuesday February 8, 2022, at 9:00am.

**Present:** Mayor Dermody, Mark Kosior with Jessica Romine via Zoom

**Absent:** None

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President of Board of Directors of Habitat of Humanity Jeff Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Minutes**

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the January 19, 2022, meeting, Mayor Dermody asked if there were any additions or corrections.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Romine moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody- Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

**Public Comment**

None

**Clerk-Treasurer**

**Claims Approval**

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun presented Payroll for January 23, 2022, in the amount of \$443,654.19.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Payroll 1-21-22**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Payroll for January 21st as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll for February 4, 2022, in the amount of \$436,811.20.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Payroll 2-4-22**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Payroll for February 4<sup>th</sup> as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$578,137.06.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$1,055,014.07. She noted these include Bond Payments for improved infrastructure.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$170,698.00.

**Motion/Vote -Approval of Water Claims**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Water Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

**OPENGOV Transparency Portal Annual Contract**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented an annual contract with OPENGOV for the Transparency Portal that is on our website. This allows residents to view our financials on our website at any time.

**Motion/Vote – Approve OPENGOV Annual Contract**

Ms. Romine moved to approve the OPENGOV Annual Contract as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

Executive Director of La Porte Economics Advancement Partnership Bert Cook introduced Keith Nichols. Keith Nickols is the new CEO of La Porte Northwest Health. He stated he is leading healthcare at Northwest Health and mentioned that they are going to love one another, welcome feedback and lead change.

Mayor Dermody and Board Members welcomed him to the Community.

**Department Head Reports**

**L.E.A.P.:** Executive Director of La Porte Economics Advancement Partnership Bert Cook stated the third house session will take place on Friday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am at La Porte High School in the Performance Art Center where six State legislatives will be there to take questions.

**Fire:** Fire Chief Andy Snyder noted they took delivery of half of their tack hose shipment.

**Planning:** Community Development and Planning Director Craig Phillips they are working on development for the Timba Bakery property and working on the Chessie Trail.

**Park:** Park Director Mark Schreiber thanked everyone for their help and participation in Winterfest. He thanked Brent Samford for putting together the Ice Fishing Derby that netted a \$1300 donation to the De Camp's Band of Brothers, Ice Rink is open until February 21<sup>st</sup>, Libido Funk Circus Concert at Civic on

February 18<sup>th</sup> and the Park Department has taken ownership of Senior Opportunities and are working on grants to get it funded.

**Water:** Water Director Tim Werner stated they finished the Scada Program update and working out some timing issues, Maintenance is reviewing the paving list so that they can do some valve replacement before paving starts, and they are doing some painting around the plant.

**Sewage:** Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson noted they had an equipment break at the Treatment plant and they did a nice job of making the repairs.

**Engineering:** City Engineer Nick Minich stated they have been meeting with INDOT regarding the US 35 Reconstruction Project (Indiana Avenue). They are looking at a 2024 letting and construction to take place in 2025.

**Central Services:** Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor stated the Street Department worked through the snow emergency and he thanked the residents for their help with moving vehicles. They are still moving snow, doing some patching and trimming branches. Code Director said they worked with the Police Department on moving and tagging vehicles.

**Police:** Police Chief Paul Brettin stated they will be swearing in four new officers at the next meeting.

**Communication:** Communication Director Jess Bruder apologized for some of the technical issues that they are happening doing this meeting. She noted that La Porte was featured in Travel Indiana Magazine and the Libido Funk Circus Concert will take place at the Civic Auditorium on Friday February 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

#### **Request Approval for Lease Agreement: Inspection Vehicle**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun asked the Boards permission to trade in the Building Inspectors 2010 Jeep and lease a new vehicle for 2 years with La Porte Chrysler Plymouth. The trade will pay for the first year of the lease.

#### **Motion/Vote – Approve Request for Lease Vehicle: Inspection Vehicle**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Request for a Leased Inspection Vehicle as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

#### **Job Description Update: Civic/Fire Department, Street/Police Department**

City Attorney Nick Otis presented the Updated Job Description for the Civic/Fire Department and Street/Police Department to include a change of status from nonexempt to exempt.

#### **Motion/Vote – Approve Job Description Update: Civic/Fire Department, Street/Police Department**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Job Description Update as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

### **Home Street Parcel Transfer to Habitat for Humanity**

City Attorney Otis this item is not ready however he explained the city acquired a vacant parcel of land through a Tax Sale on Home Street. We are going to transfer the vacant parcel of land to Habitat of Humanity so that they may have room for a driveway and shed.

### **Duneland Media Contract**

Communications Director Jess Bruder presented a renewal for the Duneland Media Contract. It is for 60 meetings and the cost is \$1440.00 a month.

### **Motion/Vote – Approve Duneland Media Contract**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Duneland Media Contract as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

### **Memorandum of Understanding with US Marshal Fugitive Warrant Team**

Police Chief Brettin stated they currently have an officer assigned to the US Marshall Fugitive Warrant Team. They come in to serve high risk warrants and will pay up to \$7,000 of his pay when off duty.

### **Motion/Vote – Approve Memorandum of Understanding with US Marshall Fugitive Warrant Team**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with US Marshall Fugitive Warrant Team as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

### **Request for Approval of Contract for Equipment-Emergency Response Team**

Police Chief Brettin requested approval of a contract to receive excess military equipment when they request it in the future for their Emergency Response Team

### **Motion/Vote – Approve Request of Contract for Equipment-Emergency Response Team**

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Request of Contract for Equipment for the Emergency Response Team as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

### **Request Approval for Vehicle Purchase**

Park Director Mark Schreiber stated the Board approved purchasing two Jeep Cherokee Latitudes using ARP Funds. La Porte Chrysler stated the Latitudes are not available and will upgrade to two brand new Jeep Grand Cherokees for the same cost. Mr. Schreiber asked the Boards permission to make the exchange.

### **Motion/Vote – Approve Request for Vehicle Purchase**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Request for Vehicle Purchase as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

**Request Approval for Dogwood Hills Tree Farm Contract**

Sustainability Program Manager Sarah Nimetz presented a Dogwood Hills Tree Farm Contract for 55 trees. This is a 50/50 DNR Grant. They will plant ½ in the Spring and ½ in the Fall.

**Motion/Vote – Approve Request for Dogwood Hills Tree Farm Contract**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Dogwood Hills Tree Farm Contract as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

**Industrial Pretreatment Program Wastewater Discharge Permit: Modification and Renewal: B&B Manufacturing**

Wastewater Director Jackson presented the Board with a Wastewater Discharge Permit Renewal for B&B Manufacturing. They have been a good customer and always compliance. We reduced the monitoring to reduce their fees.

**Motion/Vote – Approve Industrial Program Wastewater Discharge Permit, Modification and Renewal: B&B Manufacturing.**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Industrial Program Wastewater Discharge Permit for B&B Manufacturing as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

**Pay Application 1&2-Schneider Electric Civic Improvements Phase 1**

City Engineer Minich presented Pay Application 1 in the amount of \$54,004.14 and Pay Application 2 in the amount of \$141,566.13 for a grand total of \$195,570.27. This is for the Schneider Electric Civic Improvements (Lighting).

**Motion/Vote – Approve Pay Applications #1& #2- Schneider Electric Civic Improvements Phase 1**

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Pay Application 1&2 for Schneider Electric Civic Improvements as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

**Open CCMG 2022 Street Paving Bids**

City Engineer Minich opened the following Community Crossing Paving Bids:

Reith Riley            \$2,315,442.16

Asked the Board for to accept bid pending Engineer/Legal Review.

**Motion/Vote – Accept Street Paving Bid- Community Crossing 2022 Street Paving**

Mr. Kosior moved to accept the bid from Reith Riley for the CCMG 2022 Street Paving pending Engineer and Legal review; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye

**Unfinished Business**

None

**Other Business**

Mayor Spoke regarding affordable housing and wants to connect residents with higher paying jobs and enlisted the help of Eric Nelson, Bert Cook and himself to help residents out. Bert and Eric can be reached at 324-8584.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Mr. Kosior moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and motion passed with the following roll call vote: Mayor Dermody-Aye, Ms. Romine-Aye and Mr. Kosior-Aye.

**Approve:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Thomas P Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: February 23, 2022**