

April 19, 2022

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday April 19, 2022, at 9 AM.

Present: Mark Kosior and Jessica Romine

Absent: Mayor Dermody

Mr. Kosior noted that Mayor Dermody was on a mandatory call with the DLGF regarding the property tax situation and would not be with us for the first initial part of the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mark Kosior led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the April 5, 2022, meeting, Mr. Mark Kosior 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 unanimously carried.

Public Comment

Lisa Rosenbaum, President of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary addressed the board regarding Child Abuse Awareness Month. She introduced Diane Mott, district President and member of the La Porte Unit, Kathy Miller Vice President, and her grandson. The Auxiliary will be donating to Dunebrook by selling blue pin wheels. The Month of May is Poppy Month; The auxiliary will be taking donations to promote the memory of those who have lost their lives fighting for our freedom and those who are currently serving. Throughout the month of May, the Ladies Auxiliary will be around town selling poppies. The poppies are made by Veterans in our local prisons.

Clerk-Treasurer

Claims Approval

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Payroll for April 15, 2022, in the amount of \$442,575.86

Motion/Vote – Approval of Payroll 4-1-22

Ms. Romine moved to approve Payroll for April 15th as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$766,304.72

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$463,779.50

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$337,514.99.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Water Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll asked the Board for Approval for a Temporary Loan from Credit; \$100,000 for Police Pension and \$175,000 for Fire Pension. These amounts will be paid back when we receive the June Property Tax Settlement.

Motion/Vote – Temporary Loan

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Temporary Loan as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

Fire: Chief Snyder reported we received twenty-eight applications for our new hiring process. The mental aptitude test was given this past Saturday. Twenty-one of those applicants showed up for the test. We will now wait to see how many of those applicants are about the 70% to schedule oral interviews to compile a test for the year. April 30th the Fire Fighters Union will hold a pancake breakfast from 8 A.M until 12 P.M. to raise money for the annual scholarship fund. Tickets are \$8.00 per person.

Park: Park Director Mark Schreiber stated they are still taking sign-ups for many of their youth programs. The Park Department is hiring for concessions and maintenance.

Water: Water Director Tim Werner noted the spring flushing has started as of April 17th from 8 P.M. to 5 A.M. The Warnke Well passed all its tests and is back in service. The Water Department is working with the Fire Department as well as the Sewage Department for interdepartmental safety training.

Sewage: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson stated their Phosphorous Project is going well and crews have been out doing work on the letter and number streets. Supply chain issues

have arisen but should not hold up the project. The backup generator was started up at the Truesdell lift station and went well.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich stated the sidewalk work has begun. Curb ramps are required to be replaced as a part of the Community Crossings program. We are limited because the money is geared towards paving. Sarah Nimitz is still taking applications for the tree crew which is a partnership between the Health Care Foundation, Engineering Department, the Street Department. 18th Street Greenway project is wrapping up. The goal is to be complete by the beginning of May.

Transport:

Transport Manager Beth West stated that have had over 11,000 riders. She has been talking with NIRPC about the mask mandate changes and what that means for riders on the Transport. Currently riders will still be wearing masks and they will be available on the buses.

Plan: Community Development/Plan Director Craig Phillips noted they are working on the parking study and a public information session will be held Thursday at 6:00 P.M. The Indiana Department of Health along with the planning department, will be holding an active living workshop on May 12th.

Code/Street: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor stated the Street Department has been doing street sweepings and started doing patching. The Code Department has had 1,050 violations YTD. The dumpsters will not be available next week for spring cleanup which will happen on residents' regularly scheduled garbage pickup day.

Police: Police Chief Paul Brettin stated Dyngus Day went off without any problems. The Department still has two officers to swear in. He is just waiting for approval from the State and hopes to have them at the next Board of Works Meeting.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder stated she has been working on a solution for the website on the minutes and agenda issues we have been having.

L.E.A.P.: Executive Director of La Porte Economics Advancement Partnership Bert Cook stated they will be holding the L.E.A.P. Corporate Olympics. Sign-ups are happening now.

Human Resources: The Mayor's Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler introduced The City of La Porte's new Human Resources Director Andrea Smith. Ms. Smith comes to La Porte from The City of Michigan City where she served as their HR Director for nineteen years. Before that she spent five years as the Deputy Auditor for La Porte County. Human Resources Director Andrea Smith addressed the board and expressed her excitement to be part of the City of La Porte team. Ms. Smith stated that she has big shoes to fill with Jennifer Noll's departure. The employee handbook will be one of the first projects that she tackles. It has

not been updated in its entirety since 2015. She will work with City Attorney Nick Otis and will be coming to the board in phases for approval.

New Business

Arbor Day Proclamation – Sarah Nimitz

Sustainability Program Manager Sarah Nimitz presented the Arbor Day Proclamation. This is the City of La Porte's nineteenth year as a tree city. There are some upcoming tree plantings happening this spring with the DNR grant that the Board approved earlier this year. Earth Day is Friday April 22nd.

Request for Use: Krazy Kidz Day-Family Advocates/YMCA

Mayors Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented the Request for Use for the Krazy Kidz Day-Family Advocates/YMCA. The request is to close each intersection between Maple and Osborn on Saturday April 30th.

Motion/Vote – Approve Request for Use- Krazy Kidz Day-Family Advocates/YMCA

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Request for Use for the Krazy Kidz Day as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Collective Bargaining Agreement-Professional Firefighters – City Attorney Nick Otis

City Attorney Nick Otis stated there are a couple of minor changes to the collective bargaining agreement that were required in light of some updates to state law on how pensions are calculated. Chief Snyder stated under the new state statute clothing allowance cannot be figured into the base pay so that wording needed to be removed from the CBA. State Statute requires both Fire and Police to be paid a \$200 clothing allowance each year and needs to be separated from base salary.

Motion/Vote – Collective Bargaining Agreement-Professional Firefighters

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Professional Firefighters Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Phosphorus Removal Project Pay Request #1 – Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson asked the board for approval for the Phosphorus Removal Project Pay Request #1 from KDM Services in the amount \$102,093.75. 6% of the overall job and materials. KDM will have as many materials on site as possible to avoid any supply chain interruptions.

Motion/Vote – Phosphorus Removal Project Pay Request #1

Ms. Romine moved to approve the pay request as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement – Beth West

Transport Manager Beth stated NIRPC is getting caught up on all their paperwork. This grant was put on hold due the CARES ACT money. They extended the dates the monies can be used.

Motion/Vote – 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the 5307 Fund Conveyance Agreement as presented; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request to Solicit Quotes for Demo – 708 Kingsporte Ln – MaryAnn Richards

CDBG Program Manager MaryAnn Richards asked the board for approval to solicit quotes for demolition of 708 Kingsporte Lane. Ms. Richards stated the home is vacant and currently owned by Housing Authorities. Last fall the City entered into an agreement with Housing Authorities to use CDBG funds to demolish the home. The end result will be construction of an affordable owner-occupied home by Housing Authorities to be sold to someone in their program. Quotes will be due May 2nd to be opened at the next board of works meeting on May 4th.

Motion/Vote – Request for Demo 708 Kingsporte Ln

Ms. Romine moved to approve the request to solicit quotes for demolition at 708 Kingsporte Ln as presented; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Street Sweeping – Jeff Batchelor.

Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor asked the board for approval to get quotes for trucking the street sweepings to an offsite location.

Motion/Vote – Request for trucking street sweepings

Ms. Romine moved to approve the request to solicit quotes for trucking of street sweepings to an offsite location as presented; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody briefly stepped into the meeting. He stated he was on an urgent call with the Department of Local Government and Finance and all elected bodies (or someone from their office) regarding the tax billing situation for La Porte County property taxes. Mayor Dermody stated he expects the solution will happen as soon as possible and hopes to hear more from the Auditor.

Suspension of Contractors License – Pro Paint – City Engineer Nick Minich

City Engineer Nick Minich would recommend we suspend the license for Pro Paint and Finish LLC, a subcontractor at The Banks project for two years. Evidence shows they are misclassifying employees.

Motion/Vote – Suspension of Contractors License – Pro Paint and Finish LLC

Ms. Romine moved to approve the suspension of contractor’s license for Pro Paint and Finish LLC as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried 3-0. Mayor Dermody was present for this vote.

Unfinished Business

None

Other Business

Spring Clean-Up will be April 25-April 29... Items that are upholstered need to be shrink wrapped.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Ms. Romine moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Approve: _____
Thomas P Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: May 4, 2022