

June 7, 2022

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Lisa Pierzakowski led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes. 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 Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

Lisa Pierzakowski 1108 W State Road 2, office address, 3511 W Johnson Road, home address, presented her concerns regarding residents of 39 North being scared into thinking they are unsafe because of talk of annexation. Ms. Pierzakowski stated they are aware they cannot use the hydrants and must contact the city to correct the flow so they can be used; residents should not be concerned because the Springfield, Coolspring, and Kankakee Fire Departments all have tankers to transport water in the instance it may be needed, without shutting off water to Portofino Grill and other areas. Ms. Pierzakowski questioned how shutting the water off in 2025, if a water tower is not built and the water issues are not corrected, is safe for the residents. Ms. Pierzakowski referenced the Board of Works meeting from May 17, 2022 where it was said that certain elected officials are putting lives at risk to save their elected positions. Ms. Pierzakowski stated she has requested a meeting with Mayor Dermody to speak about the annexation and asked to be invited to the meetings and has not been. Ms. Pierzakowski states Mayor Dermody agreed to meet with her once he has met with all the business owners. Ms. Pierzakowski questioned how it can be said that herself, and other elected officials, are against annexation if they are not invited to discuss the issues. Ms. Pierzakowski stated if annexation is what's best, and the community supports it, she will support it; but the truth should be told and not stories and threats to get it passed. Ms. Pierzakowski stated residents have contacted her regarding their taxes going down and she referenced her own taxes versus a similar sized home in the city and they are approximately the same, not less. Ms. Pierzakowski questioned how it would be safer and cheaper to use city fire if they cannot use the hydrants and do not have tankers. Ms. Pierzakowski asked that everyone work together, everyone be part of the discussion and not just some, and to be truthful and honest as to why we want the annexation; she just wants what is best for the residents of Center Township.

Mayor Dermody thanked Ms. Pierzakowski for her work with the homeless and Jeff Batchelor who has worked with the Center Township Board to make sure the residents have options. Mayor Dermody also stated, for public record, that he cannot control someone's ego when they believe he is speaking about them, and people should decide for themselves who they believe specific comment is directed toward. Mayor Dermody reiterated nothing has been done in this area for eight years with the infrastructure and the issues have been ignored and now that the city cares about the residents, everyone now cares about the residents. Mayor Dermody stated we should state the truth and facts and not try to protect current situations and address the real problems. Mayor Dermody asked Mr. Werner and Mr. Snyder to help provide clarity on the problem and understand options for solutions to keep residents safe.

Water Director Tim Werner stated the 39 North infrastructure is a tree system not a loop system, which means the water only comes from one direction. Mr. Werner stated with the limitations of the booster station they can supply 1,500 gallons per minute, which is all the pump and piping can handle, and the hydrants closer to the booster station can dispense approximately 1,000 gallons per minute and the closer you get to Hampton Inn it is high 800s low 900s gallons per minute. Mr. Werner stated this is one hydrant, and that is all you can open as there is no other source of water; there is only a single supply line from the city to the booster station and there are no more pumps that can be turned on. Mr. Werner confirmed that he has shown 39 North's engineering firm in an open meeting this to be addressed and has not heard anything back.

Fire Chief Snyder stated that this is not personal, it is logistical. Chief Snyder stated he has previously been a Volunteer Fire Fighter and has nothing but respect for them and therefore understands the differences between a volunteer and career department. Mr. Snyder stated if the water system worked correctly, tankers would not be needed; therefore, the city does not have tankers because the water system is equipped to accommodate the use of the hydrants rendering tankers unnecessary. Chief Snyder stated the turnaround time for one tanker, to get 2,000 gallons of water, is approximately 10 minutes whereas a hydrant can provide 2,000-3,000 gallons per minute. Chief Snyder stated an initial response time from a volunteer department can be as long as 10-15 minutes with a limited water supply and the city can respond within three minutes with ample water supply. Chief Snyder confirmed that with the current water system they do not have enough water suppression in order to put out a house fire at Briar Leaf. Chief Snyder made the offer for anyone that would like to reach him for further explanation may do so at 362-8417.

Mayor Dermody questioned Lisa Pierzakowski why the city would oppose the Ed Arnold Development, if there was enough water.

Lisa Pierzakowski responded by agreeing there is a water issues and is stating her department is being told they must contact the city if they need to use the hydrant.

Water Director Tim Werner responded by stating there is no more water that can be supplied at that point due to the choke point of the booster system; if it were within city limits more

pumps would be able to be turned at the filtration plants because the city has a loop system and can handle the waterflow. Mr. Werner reiterated the 39 North system is a tree system and only so much water can be pushed through with a pump rated for 1,500 gallons per minute. Mr. Werner stated they ask to be contacted in order to monitor the situation and let them know if the system is about to go dry because his concern is protecting the residents of the city; city residents are the ones that pay for the water and the infrastructure within the city not 39 North. In addition, Mr. Werner stated that in 2021 the District 39 North hired a new engineering company that understood the issues and realized the city was correct and then in January the District fired the new engineering company and went back to the original engineering company that created a lot of the problems that are currently being dealt with. Mr. Werner made the offer to anyone that would like further explanation of the restrictions and limitations of the water system to reach out to him at the water department, 326-9540.

Mayor Dermody stated the city is willing to pay for the \$11.5 million of infrastructure through several areas and we cannot do that for non-residents. Mayor Dermody also stated the city is looking to solve the problem that has been ignored for quite some time and trying to make sure residents of 39 North have an appropriate amount of water to fight a fire and therefore does not understand the opposition to the annexation of 39 North.

Lisa Pierzakowski stated she is not opposed to the annexation of 39 North; she is asking for a meeting to figure out the issue.

Mayor Dermody responded to Ms. Pierzakowski by stating they are speaking with the business owners and residents first to see if there is interest and if there is they will meet with the appropriate teams; if there is no interest then further discussion would be unnecessary.

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer presented Payroll from May 27, 2022 in the amount of \$455,876.02.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 5/13 Payroll

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the May 27, 200 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$989,108.19

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$355,173.74.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer presented Water Claims in the amount of \$92,586.14.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Police Officer Resignation / Approval of New Hire

Chief Brettin announced the resignation of Officer Tyler Knotts; his last day was June 3, 2022. Chief Brettin asked for acceptance of the resignation and approval to hire a replacement.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Resignation and New Hire

Ms. Romine moved to approve the resignation and new hire; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody thanked Tyler Knotts for his service and wished him well in Highland.

Police Officer Swear In

Chief Brettin swore in Officer Brett Fisher.

Acceptance of The Healthcare Foundation Grant

Chief Brettin announced he put in for a grant with The Healthcare Foundation for \$2500.00 to put toward an electric UTV that was awarded and asks for approval to accept the grant.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Acceptance of The Healthcare Foundation Grant

Ms. Romine moved to approve the acceptance of The Healthcare Foundation Grant; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Amended Motion/Vote

Ms. Romine moved to amend the Approval of Acceptance of The Healthcare Foundation Grant to state Mayor Dermody will sign off on the grant; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody, Ms. Romine, and Mr. Kosior thanked The Healthcare Foundation for their support of public safety.

Department Head Reports

Human Resources:

Director of Human Resources Andrea Smith reported a job fair is being held today at the Civic Auditorium from 3 P.M. – 6 P.M.; if your departments are in need of employees, please send Andrea an email.

Park: Civic Director Brett Binversie reported Park Director Mark Schreiber is currently at the Civic Auditorium doing a walk-through to evaluate the electric needs for an HVAC upgrade next year. Additionally, he reported they will be discussing an amendment to the roof contract with Schreiber and Korellis regarding roof cutouts for roof replacement and the HVAC upgrade.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reported Beth West is not present, but Transporte will be running a free Saturday this upcoming weekend; from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. residents can get a free ride to the Farmers Market, the small business coalitions, Second Saturday Event at Plaza 618 or any of the lakes or parks. This does not necessarily get them a ride home, but it is a free ride to these events. You can call to schedule a ride at 219-362-6565. Additionally, Ms. Bruder reported she is working with HR Director Andrea Smith on an employee digital cookbook which was posted in the employee newsletter.

LEAP: Executive Director of the La Porte Advancement Partnership Bert Cook reported there is a hiring even going on today from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Civic; there are 45 companies that will be there. Mr. Cook congratulated Workforce Coordinator Erik Nelson on a job well done with this event. Additionally, Mr. Cook reported there were approximately 30-40 people that registered prior to this event and three to four times this amount are anticipated to attend; information about this even was provided to the High School for graduating Seniors who may be seeking employment. Mr. Cook also reported himself and others were taken on a tour through The Banks and Mr. Cook stated it is a very nice facility; there are currently 80 units that are being rented with approximately 10 people a day coming in to view the location and get applications.

Fire: Fire Chief Andy Snyder reported the Merit Commission is expected to certify the applicant hiring list tomorrow, which will set up the department for the next two years. In addition, Chief Snyder reported COVID is still present but will hopefully be back to full staff.

Police: Chief Brettin reported residents have noticed an increase in traffic enforcement, prior to the meeting they were at 40 stops; the intention is to do this once per week throughout the summer due to an increase in the number of accidents. Additionally, Chief Brettin reported during the cruise night there were two DUIs, an accident that knocked out power causing Lincolway to be shut down that did result in an arrest; the next cruise night will include officers and those that do not follow the rules will be reprimanded.

Mayor Dermody stated the public does need to clear away from the police to allow them to handle any situation, not engage themselves in the situation.

Street/Code: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor reported last week they started milling on Kingsbury, Andrew Ave, and 16th Street and should do the paving today on Kingsbury and Andrew Avenue and then Kingsbury if time permits. On Monday they will begin milling on Wright, Graceland, and Richard Street in addition to being out patching and street sweep. Mr. Batchelor reported there are currently approximately 1,750 violations for the

year: down approximately 10% from previous years. The current violations are mostly due to tall grass.

Mayor Dermody stated the residents are taking ownership within the community and reporting violations and it is appreciated.

Engineer: City Engineer Nick Minich reported street paving is moving forward and they are almost complete with the curb ramps. Mr. Minich thanked everyone for their patience during their office renovation; their normal office location should open on Monday. Additionally, Mr. Minich reported they had a very positive meeting regarding the Quiet Zone Project and should be able to roll out quickly once a few minor improvements are complete including signage, striping, and safety improvements at one location. Mr. Minich stated they engaged Patrick Engineering to move forward with this project; the Quiet Zone Project will allow trains to travel through the city on the Norfolk Southern line without blowing their horn unless it is necessary to do so.

Mark Kosior questioned if the work to be done would require the gates to be down at the railroad crossing.

Mr. Minich responded by stating each railroad crossing has been evaluated for safety; the overall safety number must be at a certain level and each intersection has to have certain basic safety measures. The crossings that do not have two gates, a barrier will be required in the middle to prevent crossing through the gate. Mr. Minich stated that we have not moved as quickly as they would have liked to accomplish the quiet zone, however, it has proven to be cost effective because the railroads have had to make improvements that the city would have had to pay for if a quiet zone was initiated sooner. Mr. Minich also noted that Northwest Health La Porte has been a great financial partner in these efforts.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported the Northern Indiana Operators Association met at the treatment plant last week with representatives from Michigan City, Gary, Chesterton and several others; this is a great opportunity to earn continuing education credits. Mr. Jackson announced he will have a Basement Backup Grant at the next meeting and recommends the amount of the grant be increased from \$1,500 to \$3,000 and will provide information before the next meeting to be reviewed. In addition, Mr. Jackson stated he will also have proposals for Engineering for the Headworks Project, screening, and grit improvements in a couple meetings. Lastly, Mr. Jackson reported Nicole Messacar is the MS4 coordinator for the county, we have pulled out of the county wide MS4 membership but are still considering using educational services from the county. Mr. Jackson stated they are currently working on a list of those services that would be provided and the cost; if they decide to move forward a memo for the board to review and consider will be made.

Water Department: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported the water department crews are caught up on any structures that needed to be replaced before the paving crew finishes, except for 3rd Street; there is still quite a bit of work left to be done including broken valves and hydrant replacements. Mr. Werner stated they will be doing their annual chlorine service to make sure the feed rates are safe and working on their water audit with the State.

In addition, Mr. Werner stated they are currently working on cross training someone for the lab as Jordan King will be leaving on maternity leave. Mr. Werner also reminded everyone to still be vigilant with COVID, the water department currently has two employees out with COVID.

Mayor Dermody thanked Jerry Jackson, Tim Werner, and Andrea Smith for their meeting where they discussed consolidating services and equipment that will improve efficiency.

New Business:

Request For Use: Farmers Market

Civic Director Brett Binversie presented a request to the board for the closure of Monroe Street from Lincolway North to State Street on Saturdays from Saturday May 28, 2022 through Saturday October 22, 2022 from the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Benversie noted moving the Farmers Market to the street and opening up the parking lot has been well received by both the public and the vendors.

Motion/Vote – Approve Request For Use: Farmers Market

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Request For Use: Farmers Market; motion was seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

WWTP Roofing Quotes Recommendation

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented roofing quotes for the screened building, trickling filter pumphouse, and bio tower pumphouse at the treatment plant. Quote requests were sent out to four companies and two quotes were received. The low quote was AA Raintight in La Porte for \$108,948.

Andrea Smith: First Amendment to Employee Health and Wellness Center Service Agreement

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith introduced Jennifer Colvin from Northwest Health to discuss some of the minor changes made to this agreement; City Attorney Nick Otis has already looked this over.

Jennifer Colvin reported a few minor changes that have been made to the agreement between Wellporte and the City. First, notice 11.2 they are requesting to replace the client Jennifer Noll with Andrea Smith. Secondly, exhibit A they would like to add the Michigan City Clinic address that was opened in December 2021, which is also available to La Porte City employees. Thirdly, exhibit A bullet point one, where it states the clinic will be open for a minimum of 40 hours per week; they request to add “excluding weeks where a nationally recognized holiday falls” and change where it states “the clinic has a minimum of one full time medical assistant and a minimum of one full-time advanced care provide” to and or. In addition, the second bullet point, where is states online appointment scheduler and electronic medical records they request the online appointment scheduler be replaced with patient portal. Lastly, the first bullet point under variable costs, consumable supplies and non-medical materials, is requested to be removed as they no longer bill this out to their clients. Ms. Colvin stated clarified there will always be a provider at the clinic whether it is a medical assistant or advanced care provider; if there is only a medical assistant available and a walk-

in patient needs to be seen by an advanced care provide the clinics Medical Director can step in and provide those services.

Motion/Vote – Approval of First Amendment to Employee Health and Wellness Center Service Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the First Amendment to Employee Health and Wellness Center Service Agreement; motion was seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Jet Dental Service Agreement

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented Jet Dental to the Board of Works. Ms. Smith stated the dental is one of the most unutilized benefits and poor oral health can cause other health issues. Ms. Smith stated Jet Dental is a popup dental clinic that requires a minimum of 25 employees to sign up or 25 services to be provided. Ms. Smith shared an informational video on Jet Dental. Ms. Smith stated this will be scheduled for August 23, 2022 at the Civic Auditorium; as soon as approval is received a notice will be sent out to employees. Ms. Smith stated Jet Dental would bring in a dental provider from Northwest Indiana at the popup clinic.

Mr. Kosior agreed with the importance of maintaining proper oral care to help prevent other health issues.

Motion/Vote to Approve Jet Dental Agreement

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the Jet Dental Agreement; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Updated Job Description

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented a job description update for City Planner; the new job descriptions fall more in line with duties of an Assistant Planner. These changes were made in conjunction with Craig Phillips and Nick Minich. Mr. Smith stated many things have been added to the job description including serving as ADA Coordinator; this individual will work more closely with Craig Phillips and receive more in-depth training. Engineering Director Nick Minich stated the position originally started as an administrative position and has changed over the years and they have finally homed in on the best job description for the role they need to help keep Engineering and Community Development projects moving forward.

Motion/Vote – Approve Updated Job Description

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Updated Job Description; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Equipment Trade-In

Fire Chief Andy Snyder presented a request to trade in the current lawn equipment with a \$500 trade in value offered from K Tool and Fire to go toward the new equipment.

Motion/Vote – Approval Equipment Trade-In

Ms. Romine moved to approve Equipment Trade-In; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Tim Werner: Station Price Quotation

Water Director Tim Werner presented a price quotation from Flowpoint for a self-sustained water fill up station. There are currently a lot of contractors that purchase bulk water from the city and fill up from a hydrant that creates problems with the hydrant being shut down too fast. Mr. Werner stated this fill station will have a two-inch water fill up and each contractor will be issued a pin to enter in order to use the station. This will allow for better accuracy for water dispensed for billing purposes. Mr. Werner stated we are currently using an honor system when receiving water which may be causing some revenue loss. Mr. Werner stated the city of Highland is also looking to purchase one of these units and if we purchase at the same time, we will receive approximately a 15% discount. The water department will install the unit, the only thing they will have to hire out is the pad it will sit on. This unit will streamline the billing for these services by bills automatically generating to a cloud service.

Mayor Dermody questioned how they would keep this unit from being damaged.

Water Director Tim Werner responded by stating it would be a sealed unit; the only parts accessible would be the kiosk pad and the fill nozzle and it will be located across the street from the water department that is already monitored by cameras.

Ms. Romine questioned if the quoted price included the 15% discount and what the cost of the cloud service would be going forward.

Mr. Werner responded by stating the quoted price did include the 15% discount and the cloud service was quoted at \$479 per year in addition to a \$25 data connection fee per month.

Mr. Kosior questioned the amount of revenue we could expect to receive from this unit.

Mr. Werner responded by stating that approximately \$5,000 - \$8,000 is earned each year and he is estimating we are missing approximately 25% due to not accurately tracking the amount of water dispensed.

Motion/Vote – Station Price Quotation

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Station Price Quotation; motion was seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Request for Approval-Ordinance Review Services Agreement

Craig Phillips presented a request to review the zoning ordinance from time to time because it is important to look at statutory changes and industry changes. Mr. Phillips stated they have a proposal from GRW Incorporated; the request is for \$10,400 to be paid for out of legal services. Mr. Phillips stated Deb Luzier from GRW to answer questions.

Mayor Dermody questioned if this could also be used for removing ordinances.

City Attorney Nick Otis responded by stating yes. He also stated it is important to use a firm that specializes in this area because it is so complex. Mr. Otis asked for examples in other communities where ordinances were changed.

GRW Representative Deb Luzier responded by stating she has worked on more than 30 ordinances throughout the state of Indiana, which is her primary focus. The big items are procedures for subdivision approvals and sign standards in addition to rules and procedures for the operations of the plan commissions should be separate from ordinances. Ms. Luzier stated she will provide a report stating where things can be improved and updated and then the decision is for the city to decide what their priorities are to change and then they will help with those changes.

Mr. Phillips stated that our housing ordinances are currently inadequate, especially with the housing initiative to provide more housing within the city.

Ms. Romine questioned when the last time a review done, how frequently it is recommended to do, and what the timeline is.

Mr. Phillips stated there was a major overhaul to the zoning ordinance in 2011 and then amendments made in 2017 but it has been quite some time since there has been a wholesale review of the ordinances to make sure we are compliant. In addition, Mr. Phillips stated the ACLU looks for reasons to go after zoning ordinances and has been very active lately and recommends avoiding this.

Ms. Luzier stated a review depends on the community but recommends doing a review about every five years and a written report will be provided within three to four months.

Motion/Vote – Approve Ordinance Review Services Agreement

Ms. Romine moved to approve Ordinance Review Services Agreement; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Approval for Electrical Work for Mixing System Primary Digester Number One

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented a quote for electrical work to complete the work on the mixing system for primary digester number one. Mr. Jackson stated they solicited quotes from the three main motor control center manufacturers, ABB, Square D, and Eaton. After looking at the options offered, Mr. Jackson recommends Eaton with a quote of \$110,465.37 with passive filters, which are sufficient. The filters keep debris from causing problems with the controllers, PCs, and other components connected to the electrical system. Mr. Jackson did state that it may be a year before we receive these things because it is hard to get the equipment needed.

Mr. Kosier questioned the work potentially reaching \$250,000 and when this will be paid.

Mr. Jackson responded that the budget amount is \$250,000 with the capital plan.

Ms. Romine responded by stating she assumes this will go into some sort of construction and progress if it is paid for now, the price will not increase, and it will be an asset.

Mr. Jackson stated every year with Baker Tilly we have our capital plan or five-year plan and often projects are not always completed in the year planned; sometimes they are completed slow and sometimes they are completed quickly. Mr. Jackson stated this whole project started at \$400,000 for the cleaning and instillation and we are currently down to \$250,000; the funding will be there out of the capital budget. Mr. Jackson stated it will be close, but they will be within budget.

Motion/Vote – Approval for Electrical Work for Mixing System Primary Digester Number One

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the request for Electrical Work for Mixing System Primary Digester Number One; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Approval of Septic and Wastewater Hauler Discharge Permit

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented a request for a septic and wastewater hauler discharge permit renewal from FreeFlow Environmental out of Valparaiso. Mr. Jackson stated this company is in good standing and recommends renewal.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Septic and Wastewater Hauler Discharge Permit

Ms. Romine moved to approve the request Septic and Wastewater Hauler Discharge Permit for FreeFlow Environmental; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

First Pay Application for 2022 Street Paving

City Engineer Nick Minich presented the first pay application for 2022 street paving in the amount of \$129,370.50. Mr. Minich this amount is mostly for the concrete work at ramps and some sidewalk work and recommends approval.

Ms. Romine questioned what percent of completion this was.

Mr. Minich responded by stating he does not have a percent complete but believes it is less than 10%, approximately 8% complete.

Motion/Vote – Approval of First Pay Application for 2022 Street Paving

Mr. Kosior moved to approve First Pay Application for 2022 Street Paving; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Schneider Electric

City Engineer presented change order number six for Schneider Electric in the amount of \$31,900 to put in roof curbing. Mr. Minich stated the roof curbing will allow roof access for the future HVAC upgrade without having to cut into the roof once the roof is completed. Mr. Minich stated this should hopefully save us time and money in the end.

Ms. Romine questioned if this was a cost that would have been inquired regardless of the situation.

Mr. Minich responded by stating the cost would have ultimately been rolled into the larger HVAC program cost to get the equipment into the building by cutting into the roof that had recently been completed, ultimately saving money on that end of the project.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Change Order Number Six for Schneider Electric

Ms. Romine moved to approve Change Order Number Six for Schneider Electric; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Approval of Quote for Seating at The Civic

City Engineer Nick Minich stated they have received a quote for seating at The Civic that does still need to go through the Park Board and City Council to be approved. Mr. Minich is requesting that due to the current state of equipment and materials, the quote be approved to lock in the price. Mr. Minich stated there is no risk until August 26, 2022 if the Council decides not to upgrade seating or to do it in a different way.

Mayor Dermody clarified that two sample seats were received and then we requested to look at an upgraded version, this quote includes the upgraded version.

Mr. Minich stated they asked some questions and were able to find a padded seat; the seats are the same seats that were installed in the Boston Middle School auditorium except they will be vinyl not fabric. Mr. Minich noted an important aspect of the seat upgrade is the opportunity to make the Civic an ADA appropriate facility. Mr. Minich stated this quote was for the seating and did not include anything else. Mr. Minich stated they are looking at using our membership with Sourcewell, an organization that does all of the leg work to make sure you can meet your state bidding requirements and we then can go to those companies directly and purchase the seats. Mr. Minich stated the non-reverting fund is what helps the Civic continually make improvements and the new seats have cup holders which should help with concessions.

Ms. Romine asked how many seats there are currently and questioned if we would be losing seating.

Brett Binversie responded by stating there are currently 1382 seats, and the quote is for 1160, losing roughly 10%, however the number we need to stay above is 1,000 seats. Mr. Binversie reiterated the most important thing, aside from increased comfort, is the added ADA and safety with lighting and handrails. Mr. Binversie stated their goal is to close the gap and make the Civic as self-supporting as it can be and the added amenities and the more comfort, they can provide will ultimately increase revenue.

Mayor Dermody recognizes you must have a facility that people want to come to in order to continue to generate revenue and these upgrades will essentially pay for themselves.

Ms. Romine questioned the longevity of the seats.

Mr. Minch stated the seats at Boston were installed a decade ago and they are still currently in great shape.

Mr. Binversie stated with the new seating they will be able to get parts for repairs, which is not something they are currently able to do.

Mr. Kosior questioned if there any difference in these seats that would provide less room for your knees when sitting.

Mr. Binversie stated some of the framework is slightly different but there will not be a big difference. Mr. Binversie also stated they are hoping to be able to auction off some of the current seating in order to offset some of the cost of the new seating.

Ms. Romine questioned the time frame for completion.

Mr. Binversie stated the seat upgrade will coincide with the HVAC upgrade and there will be a temporary suspension of events from July 1 – August 31, 2023, if things proceed with Park Board and City Council approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Quote for Seating at The Civic

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Quote for Seating at The Civic; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody reminded everyone of the career fair today from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. and the Veterans Brick Dedication Saturday at 2 p.m. at Soldier’s Memorial Park.

Ms. Romine stated the Y triathlon is going on this Saturday so there will be road closures.

Unfinished Business

None

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: June 21, 2022

