

April 18, 2023

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Mark Kosior

Absent: Jessica Romine

Pledge of Allegiance

Jeff Batchelor 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

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

Claims Approval

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$634,685.29.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Payroll from April 14, 2023, in the amount of \$467,844.29.

Motion/Vote – Approval of April 14, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the April 14, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Water Claims in the amount of \$299,060.26.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Water Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$315,004.51.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

Park: Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported the restrooms are open for the season. They are available from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. daily. Mr. Schreiber stated they have had some vandalism at some of the parks and are working on getting those things fixed. In addition, Mr. Schreiber stated on April 29, 2023, at 9 A.M. there will be a volunteer day at the skate park to paint the ramps that were recently inspected, weather pending. Mr. Schreiber stated the entertainment schedule for Lake Fest can be found on their website at laportelakefest.com

TransPorte: TransPorte Direct Beth West reported they are having electrical issues with the propane installation therefore it has still not been completed. They bring a truck every morning to fill the buses. Ms. West reported one of the drivers has given their resignation and will be leaving at the end of the month. Ms. West stated she is interviewing a replacement this week.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reminded the public that the opportunity to become a member of La Porte Events is still available and if you are interested in more information, it can be found at livinthelakelife.org

LEAP: Executive Director of LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook reported they would be having a small business round table tonight at 5 P.M. at Whole World of Goods. These are quarterly events to keep the downtown businesses engaged and aware of what is going on in the community. Mr. Cook also announced Royale with Cheese attended last night's City Council meeting to apply for their three-way liquor license and will be doing a soft opening tomorrow.

Fire: Chief Snyder reported on April 29, 2023 from 8 A.M. until noon they will be having a pancake breakfast at the fire station to support the JW Scholarship Fund at Station One.

Police: Chief Brettin reported Pete Pienta will be graduating from ILEA on Friday and he will be traveling down there for the ceremony with Commissioner Schalick. Chief Brettin introduced Caitlyn Kalisik, the new Mental Health Professional. Ms. Kalisik spoke briefly about herself and her experience in the field.

Code/Street: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor reported they had the opportunity to get someone certified as a CDL trainer to train CDL drivers for the City of La Porte. This was done through INDOT's Technical Assistance Program. Mr. Batchelor stated Brian has already completed the training and Mike will be attending training in a month, resulting in two certified CDL trainers on the Street Department. Mr. Batchelor requested Brian and Mike come forward and be recognized for their dedication and hard work. Mayor Dermody thanked Brian and Mike for their hard work and commitment.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich reported they had a pre-construction meeting last Thursday for the Clear Lake Loop and Truesdell Ave project. Work should begin in approximately two weeks. The goal is to have everything ready for the road portion by the end of May. Mr. Minich stated they have developed a parking plan that should accommodate folks for Arts in the Park events.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported they are currently in the process of testing a new phosphorus removal chemical. Because they have just started, he does not have any insight into how well it is working at this time.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reminded the public they are still working on flushing the hydrants. All 1100 hydrants in the city will be flushed. Flushing takes place during the hours of 8 P.M. and 5 A.M. Mr. Werner stated if anyone notices any water discoloration, run your cold water until it clears up. If anyone has any questions or concerns, you should reach out to the plant, and they can send people out to do tests. In addition, Mr. Werner stated this week is National Work Zone Awareness week and reminded the public to slow down and be aware of your surroundings. Mayor Dermody stated they have received and reviewed the NIES Engineering Independent study for 39 North and they have offered a copy to the 39 North President. Mayor Dermody stated 39 North is looking into doing their own study, but this could save them some money. Mayor Dermody stated the study confirms the concerns that have already been discussed involving residential and industrial fire, and work that needs to be done to bring the system up to expected standards. Mr. Werner stated one of the major points the study shows is for one of the factories it states fire flow should be a minimum of 2500 gallons per minute but 4000 gallons per minute is ideal. The current water flow is 1000 – 1200 gallons per minute.

Planning: City Planner Craig Phillips reported Thursday April 27, 2023, the first of three required public information meetings will be held at 6 P.M. at the Civic Auditorium. The second meeting will be the following Wednesday at noon at the Civic Auditorium and the third and final meeting will be Thursday May 4, 2023, at 6 P.M. at the Civic Auditorium. In addition, Mr. Phillips reported work continues on a number of bid offerings to be put out for consideration. Mayor Dermody questioned Mr. Phillips if it would be discussed at these meetings that elected officials are telling people not to sign and how they intend to pay for the infrastructure upgrades if the City of La Porte does not pay for them. Mayor Dermody stated if there is not a commitment by the end of May, it will be the conservancy and the resident's responsibility to pay for the infrastructure improvements. Mr. Phillips stated information about the improvements will be available for the residents. Mr. Phillips clarified that it is ok to sign the annexation paperwork without attending these meetings. Those that are spreading this are spreading misinformation.

New Business:

Resolution to Purchase Land from Michael Ganz

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Resolution to Purchase Land from Michael Ganz. Attorney Otis stated permission was given at the first meeting to purchase this land and the presented

documents are the formal resolution approving the purchase. Mr. Jackson stated the second appraisal came in as expected and they are ready to proceed. City Attorney Otis stated this gives Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson the authority to sign the documents to purchase the land.

Motion/Vote - Approve Resolution to Purchase Land from Michael Ganz

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Resolution to Purchase Land from Michael Ganz as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

CVB Civic Director Agreement 2023

Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber presented CVB Civic Director Agreement 2023. Mr. Schreiber stated this is the ongoing agreement that has been in effect for the past eight or nine years. Mr. Schreiber stated this agreement states the CVB pays 30% of the Civic Auditorium City Events Director's salary. This agreement has brought a closer relationship with the CVB as it does include some CVB related duties.

Motion/Vote – Approve CVB Civic Director Agreement 2023

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve CVB Civic Director Agreement 2023 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Child Passenger Safety Grant

Chief Snyder presented Child Passenger Safety Grant. Chief Snyder stated this is a grant that is received every year through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. This grant provides free child safety seats to be distributed to the public. Chief Snyder stated Fire Station One and their department is acknowledged as permanent fitting stations. There are seven firefighters that are currently certified and one going through the certifications process for certified technician for install. This grant provides up to 350 car seats per year and this is split with the Health Department.

Motion/Vote – Approve Child Passenger Safety Grant

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Child Passenger Safety Grant as presented; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

SAVE Grant

Chief Brettin presented SAVE Grant in the amount of \$12,100. This grant is used to pay the overtime for the officers working the school bus stop arms. Chief Brettin stated it has been very successful for them. Mr. Kosior questioned if the department has seen an increase in citations for stop arm violations. Chief Brettin stated they have seen a decrease in these violations, which means it is working.

Motion/Vote – Approve Save Grant

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve SAVE Grant as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Lease Agreement

Chief Brettin presented a lease agreement for a sedan.

Motion/Vote - Approve Lease Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Lease Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll stated the motion needs to provide her permission to sign this lease agreement as Clerk-Treasurer Parthun is currently unavailable to sign.

Amend Motion/Vote - Approve Lease Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to amend the previous motion and motion to approve Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll to sign the lease agreement; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Permission to Hire

Chief Brettin presented Permission to Hire. Chief Brettin stated they had an officer that failed to make it through FTO and the probationary period and requests permission to hire a replacement.

Motion/Vote – Approve Permission to Hire

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Permission to Hire as presented; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Home-Owner Repair Program Quotes

CDBG Director Mary Ann Richards presented Home-Owner Repair Program quotes. Ms. Richards opened three quotes for concrete repairs for 210 Grandview. The first quote is from Jim Lefebre in the amount of \$17,750. The second quote is from Clark Concrete Construction in the amount of \$15,500. The third quote is from Salit Brickstone and Concrete in the amount of \$12,540. Ms. Richards stated the forms were for two plumbing repair quotes because there are two separate program years. The first quote is from SLR Plumbing for work at 321 Niles and 210 Grandview for program year 2020 in the amount of \$8,719. SLR also submitted a quote for 1710 K Street for program year 2021 in the amount of \$8,461. Ms. Richards stated she did attempt to get more than one quote. Invitations to apply were sent to three plumbing companies and only one responded. Ms. Richards opened a bid from Pavey for plumbing repairs at 210 Grandview, installation of a sewer cleanout, in the amount of \$3,150. Ms. Richards opened a quote for 1710 K Street wastewater line replacement from Pavey in the amount of \$5,850. Ms. Richards opened a quote for roofing repairs at 321 Niles from JB West Roofing and Construction in the amount of \$12,830.84. Ms. Richards presented a quote for general repairs at 210 Grandview from Greentree Environmental in the amount of \$500. Ms. Richards presented a quote for general repairs at 210 Grandview from Langley Construction in the amount of \$3,000. Ms. Richards presented a quote for lead hazard reduction at 321 Niles Street from Greentree Environmental in the amount of \$28,983.58. Ms. Richards presented a quote for lead hazard

reduction at 321 Niles Street from Langley Construction in the amount of \$46,160. Ms. Richards presented a quote for lead hazard reduction at 1710 K Street from Langley Construction in the amount of \$4,400. Ms. Richards presented a quote for general repairs at 1710 K Street from Langley Construction in the amount of \$36,100. Mayor Dermody questioned why we are not going after Federal Funds to take care of the lead issues because Federal Funds are available for lead specifically. City Engineer Nick Minich stated the CDBG program is about keeping safe homes and keeping people in their homes as a whole and therefore other repairs cannot be done without the lead issue also being taken care of at the same time. Mayor Dermody requested the federal dollars for lead issues be looked into and an update be provided within a month. City Engineer stated the value of the work compared to the value of the home has been taken into consideration in order to meet the needs of the program and the residents to help do more projects and homes instead of spending all monies on one project.

Motion/Vote – Approve Home-Owner Repair Program Quotes

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Home-Owner Repair Program Quotes pending Engineering and Legal approval; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Phosphorus Pay Request #12

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Phosphorus Pay Request #12 in the amount of \$137,210. This brings the job to 93% and 1.3% for change orders. Mr. Jackson stated he recommends payment to KDM in the amount of \$137,210.

Motion/Vote – Approve Phosphorus Pay Request #12

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Phosphorus Pay Request #12 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

New Position Job Description – Property and Evidence Technician

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented New Position Job Description - Property and Evidence Technician. Ms. Smith stated this job description was introduced as the first reading to City Council last night. Ms. Smith stated this position will receive, process, and store confiscated evidence and property for the Police Department. Ms. Smith stated they do have someone for the position that has 25 years' experience in this position from the City of Michigan City in addition to working at the prosecutor's office. Ms. Smith stated this position will also provide body-camera video and photographs of evidentiary items to enhance criminal investigations. Ms. Smith stated this will be a civilian position and will get officers out of the evidence room and onto the streets.

Motion/Vote – Approve New Position Job Description - Property and Evidence Technician

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve New Position Job Description – Property and Evidence Technician as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

VOIP System Quote

City Engineer Nick Minich presented VOIP System Quote. Mr. Minich stated this is an update for our internal phone system for all City facilities. Mr. Minich stated the presented proposal does not include the Civic because they have already started the process ahead of the rest of the City. Mr. Minich stated the quote for implementation is in the amount of \$23,727.50. The equipment will be leased for 60 months with a monthly fee of \$3,001.99 with the option of a partner plan, which provides service, for \$850. Mr. Minich stated the \$3001.99 per month saves approximately \$800 per month over the current phone system. Mr. Minich stated the partner plan adds \$800 per month but includes service call which we do not currently have. Mr. Minich stated the partner plan can be cancelled later if it is felt that it is not necessary.

Motion/Vote – Approve VOIP System Quote

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve VOIP System Quote as presented; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Invoice #1 Emergency Vehicle Preemption Hawks Enterprises, Inc

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Invoice #1 Emergency Vehicle Preemption Hawks Enterprises, Inc in the amount of \$49,184. Mr. Minich stated everything has been installed and delivered. The truck units have been delivered to the fire station and will be installed this week.

Motion/Vote - Approve Invoice #1 Emergency Vehicle Preemption Hawks Enterprises, Inc

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Invoice #1 Emergency Vehicle Preemption Hawks Enterprises, Inc as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Chessie 2 Agreement with NS

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Chessie 2 Agreement with NS. Mr. Minich stated the Chessie 2 project has been split into two Des. numbers because of the delays they have had working with Norfolk Southern. Mr. Minich stated they now have an agreement with Norfolk Southern and stated this amount should be covered 80% by Federal Funds. Mr. Minich stated he has requested the project manager to verify this information and they have not yet received a response back from NIRPC. Mr. Minich stated he is recommending approval of the Chessie 2 agreement with Norfolk Southern pending the ability to use Federal Funds on the project.

Motion/Vote - Approve Chessie 2 Agreement with NS

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Chessie 2 Agreement with NS as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

INDOT Des. No. 2000613 ROW for INDOT's SR4 Resurface

City Engineer Nick Minich presented INDOT Des. No. 2000613 ROW for INDOT's SR4 Resurface. This is a request from INDOT to purchase 0.046 acres of temporary easement and 0.011 acres of permanent property. Mr. Minich stated consultants wrote up the agreement

as we would get approximately \$4,000 for this land. Mr. Minich stated we work with INDOT on a lot of stuff and recommends the land be donated as a goodwill gesture to INDOT.

Motion/Vote - Approve INDOT Des. No. 2000613 ROW for INDOT's SR4 Resurface

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve INDOT Des. No. 2000613 ROW for INDOT's SR4 Resurface as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Amendment #1 for Design Services: Truesdell Ave Reconstruction and Clear Lake Improvements-SEH

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Amendment #1 for Design Services: Truesdell Ave Reconstruction and Clear Lake Improvements. Mr. Minich stated the original contract was in the amount of \$450,000. Mr. Minich stated they have kept plugging away at the project but have exceeded this budget. The goal for a construction project is to keep design between 8 and 12 percent of the project, SEH came in at seven and a half to nine percent when the project had a budget of between five and six million. When the project was bid, it came back at 7.7 million. Mr. Minich stated SEH is requesting an additional \$90,000 to cover the overages they have already incurred. Mr. Minich stated even if the project can be reduced to 6.6 million, SEH is still at the low end of the design range cost.

Motion/Vote - Amendment #1 for Design Services: Truesdell Ave Reconstruction and Clear Lake Improvements – SEH

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Amendment #1 for Design Services: Truesdell Ave Reconstruction and Clear Lake Improvements – SEH as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Sale of Property: Parcel ID 46-10-11-226-014.000-061

City Attorney Nick Otis presented a request to sell two small pieces of land, 0.05 acres total, to an abutting landowner. The assessed value of the land is \$200 and the highest and best use of this tract is the sale to an abutting landowner. The cost of maintaining the tract equals or exceeds the fair market value of the tract, and it is economically unjustifiable to sell in the normal manner.

Motion/Vote - Approve Sale of Property: Parcel ID 46-10-11-226-014.000-061

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Sale of Property: Parcel ID 46-11-226-014.000-061 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business: Mayor Dermody stated as the transition continues to Waste Management for trash services the number of complaints continues to decrease. Residents that have questions or issues can reach out to the Utility Billing office at 219-362-3175 or by reaching out to Waste Management directly.

Other Business: Next regularly scheduled meeting: Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 9 A.M. due to Election Day.

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: May 3, 2022