

May 3, 2023

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun 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 made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

None

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from April 28, 2023 in the amount of \$488,228.27.

Motion/Vote – Approval of April 28, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the April 28, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$513,624.77.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$333,311.64.

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 Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$23,194.20.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Department Head Reports

Park: Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported this Saturday there will be a community pop-up picnic at Allsee Park put on by the Kiwanis Club. They will be serving hot dogs, cookies, and chips. The Police Department and Fire Department will also be there to interact with the community. Mr. Schreiber stated there will also be free tennis lessons and a bike safety course during this time and encourage everyone from the community to join in on the fun. Mr. Schreiber stated there will be another one of these events later in the summer at Rumley Park as well. In addition, Mr. Schreiber reported they did have to reschedule their workday at the skate park due to weather, the new date is Saturday May 13, 2023.

Fire: Chief Snyder thanked everyone in the community that came out and supported their pancake breakfast. Chief Snyder stated they had a great turnout.

Police: Chief Brettin introduced Tony McClintock, the new Evidence Technician. Chief Brettin stated Mr. McClintock retired from the Michigan City Police Department and has 25 years' experience as an Evidence Tech. Mr. McClintock expressed his excitement to begin his role and spoke briefly about himself and his experience.

Street/Code: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor reported the Street Department is currently working on street sweeping, patching, and tree removal for the ADA and 50/50 sidewalk program. Mr. Batchelor reported Code is working over the next few weeks to take care of junk vehicles. Mayor Dermody recognized the department for a job well done cleaning up the LaPorte Pantry.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich reminded the public that Truesdale through Fox Park will be closed for the majority of the month. Mr. Minich stated they have alternative parking plans, and everything can still be accessed from McClung road. Mr. Minich reported the Letters and Numbers project will begin soon and information regarding this will be going out to the public soon. Mr. Minich stated work continues on Chessie Trail.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported D&M is currently working at the basin removing trees and building the new bay. Mr. Jackson stated HRP has their yard set up and a letter has been sent out to the residents to notify them of the construction.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported crews will be finishing up the Spring flushing this week. Mr. Werner stated they started running the plant differently during these flushing which has resulted in less complaints from the community regarding dirty water. In addition, Mr. Werner reported there are three operators that will be taking their WT3 tests. Mr. Werner stated this is a tough test with a 17 percent pass right in the State of Indiana right now and wished them luck.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reported the latest edition of Travel Indiana Magazine is out and includes the Friday Night Live 50s Cruise In, which is a little over a month away.

Human Resources: Human Resources Director Andrea Smith reported she attended the job fair last week at La Porte High School that was sponsored by LEAP. Ms. Smith stated Police and Fire were both there and 18 seniors took applications for the Police Department. Ms. Smith expressed her excitement for the interest shown for the Police Department.

New Business:

Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Dermody read Arbor Day Proclamation on behalf of the City of La Porte.

Request for Use: Plaza 618 Tunes at Noon

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Plaza 618 Tunes at Noon. Ms. Loeffler stated the request is from Ted Taylor and she has received a certificate of insurance. Ms. Loeffler stated they typically use the amphitheater at Fox Park, but it is not available for this specific day. Ms. Loeffler stated they have requested the use of a power outlet and she let them know they would need to speak with the Engineering department to make sure an outlet is available.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Plaza 618 Tunes at Noon

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Plaza 618 Tunes at Noon as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Corpus Christi Walk

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Corpus Christi Walk. Ms. Loeffler stated this is a walk from St. Joseph Church to Sacred Heart Church. They are not requesting to close any streets; they are just requesting permission for the walk as they all cross intersections at the same time. They have already spoken with the Police Department about the presence of an Officer when crossing streets.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Corpus Christi Walk

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Corpus Christi Walk as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

39N Annexation Agreement

City Attorney Nick Otis presented 39N Annexation Agreement. Attorney Otis stated this is an agreement with Tom Dent that the City will provide certain utilities within a specified timeframe. This agreement will be part of the formal petition for annexation that will come before Council within the next 60-90 days. Mr. Kosior questioned what the timeframe is from approval to when the utilities need to be provided. Attorney Otis stated six months from building permit.

Motion/Vote – Approve 39N Annexation Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve 39N Annexation Agreement as presented; motion was seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

WM Contract

Cit Attorney Nick Otis requested this be tabled as they are waiting on a response from Waste Management to okay the changes that have been made. Attorney Otis stated a vote is not required to table.

Permission to Sell Summer Passes

TransPorte Director Beth West presented Permission to Sell Summer Passes. Ms. West stated these are the same passes that have been sold previously. They are \$20 and will be for 10 rides with the 11th ride free. The passes will be sold from May 22 through June 10, 2023. The passes will be good until Labor Day and then they will expire.

Motion/Vote – Approve Permission to Sell Summer Passes

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Permission to Sell Summer Passes as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Advertising Contract

TransPorte Director Beth West Presented Advertising Contract. Ms. West stated this has been in the works for quite some time but has been delayed due to NIRPC being short-staffed and unable to send a contract until now. The buses technically belong to NIRPC, therefore their approval was required. Ms. West stated this contract is with the advertising company, Memorize. The contract states Memorize will solicit the advertisements and wrap the buses and will also change the advertisements when their contracts are up.

Motion/Vote – Approve Advertising Contract

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Advertising Contract as presented; motion was seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Fire Dept Vehicle Leases

Chief Snyder presented three Fire Dept Vehicle Leases. Chief Snyder stated this is the same lease they have been signing since 2003, the only change is this is a three-year lease.

Motion/Vote – Approve Fire Dept Vehicle Leases

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Fire Dept Vehicle Leases as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Police Dept Vehicle Leases

Chief Brettin presented Police Dept Vehicle Leases. Chief Brettin stated one of the leases is to replace a Dodge Durango, that was totaled, with a Dodge Charger and the second lease is for a '21 Jeep Cherokee for the new Mental Health Professional.

Motion/Vote – Approve Police Dept Vehicle Leases

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Police Dept Vehicle Leases as presented; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Outdoor Seating Application

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Outdoor Seating Application for Red Door. Mr. Minich stated they will go through David, the ADA Coordinator, to ensure an ADA path of travel is accessible through the outdoor seating area.

Motion/Vote – Approve Outdoor Seating Application

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Outdoor Seating Application as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Open Bids for 18th Street Auxiliary Transfer Property

City planner Craig Phillips presented Open Bids for 18th Street Auxiliary Transfer Property. Mr. Phillips stated this bid is for two small narrow pieces of land that comprise one parcel. Mr. Phillips stated no bids were received for this property.

Motion/Vote – Approve Accept Bids for 18th Street Auxiliary Transfer Property

Ms. Romine made a motion to Accept Bids for 18th Street Auxiliary Transfer Property as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote - Remove Previous Motion Approving 18th Street Bids

Ms. Romine made a motion to remove the previous motion approving 18th street bids; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Recommendations for CDBG Homeowners Repair PSY2020/21

CDBG Director Mary Ann Richards presented Recommendations for CDBG Homeowners Repair PSY2020/21. Ms. Richards stated no electrical bids were received and requests authorization to rebid. Ms. Richards stated she has spoken with two electrical companies that are interested in bidding and will reach out to a third. Ms. Richards also requests permission to rebid lead hazard reduction at 321 Niles St due to one of the companies not receiving the addendum that was sent. Ms. Richards stated new bids or quotes would be due on May 15, 2023, and be opened at the May 16, 2023, Board of Works meeting. Mayor Dermody questioned what would happen if the lead hazard reduction portion was not awarded. Ms. Richards stated none of the project can be done if the lead hazard reduction is not done due to federal rules and regulations with the program.

Motion/Vote - Approve Rebidding of Electrical Work

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve rebidding of electrical work as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote - Approve Re-Bid Lead Hazard Reduction at 321 Niles Street

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Re-Bid Lead Hazard Reduction at 321 Niles Street as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Ms. Richards recommends awarding a contract for concrete repairs at 210 Grandview to Salat Brickstone and Concrete in the amount of \$12,540. They were the lowest and most responsive bidder.

Motion/Vote – Approve Contract for Concrete Repairs at 210 Grandview: Salat Brickstone and Concrete

Mr. Kosior made a motion to Contract for Concrete Repairs: Salat Brickstone and Concrete as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Ms. Richards recommends awarding a contract to Greentree Environmental for general repairs at 210 Grandview in the amount of \$500.00 as the lowest most responsive bidder. General repairs in the amount of \$36,100.00. General repairs include a multitude of items to make the home ADA accessible. Plumbing repairs in the amount \$8,461. This includes removing the bathtub in the main bath and replacing it with an ADA compatible shower stall and new toilets. Roofing repairs in the amount of \$12,830. Ms. Richards recommends Pave Excavating as the lowest and most responsive bid for wastewater line replacement in the amount of \$5,850. Mayor Dermody questioned what the cost of the lead hazard removal is. Ms. Richards stated the lead hazard removal at 1710 K Street is in the amount of \$4,400. Ms. Romine questioned if there is a cap that can be spent on each house. Ms. Richards stated there is no cap. Ms. Romine questioned how much is available to spend and when does it have to be spent. Ms. Richards stated there is \$244,000 to be spent and it must be off our books by August 1, 2023.

Motion/Vote - Approval Pending Lead Hazard Approval Abatement

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve homeowner repairs pending lead hazard approval abatement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

The second 39N meeting is today from 12 P.M to 1 P.M. at the Civic Auditorium.

Other Business

The next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 9 A.M.

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 16, 2023