

August 8, 2023

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Mark Kosior, Jessica Romine

Absent:

David Heinold 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 July 21, 2023 in the amount of \$522,298.52.

Motion/Vote – Approval of July 21, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the July 21, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from August 4, 2023 in the amount of \$534,635.99.

Motion/Vote – Approval of August 4, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the August 4, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$659,652.50.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$698,724.83.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

Mr. Kosior made a motion 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 \$273,395.86.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Ellis Hardwood Invoice: Emergency

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Ellis Hardwood Invoice: Emergency in the amount of \$18,000. This invoice is for two trees that were removed during an emergency storm situation. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated this item did not make the docket but is requesting permission to pay the invoice right away. Mayor Dermody thanked Ellis Hardwood for their quick turnaround and for making the city a priority. One of the two trees had the potential to crush a house. This job required two cranes and Ellis Hardwood was the only available company that had two crane availability.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Ellis Hardwood Invoice: Emergency

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Ellis Hardwood Invoice: Emergency as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Water Bill Appeal: 1408 Lincolnway

Utility Billing Office Manager Eman Fokianos presented Water Bill Appeal: 1408 Lincolnway. Mr. Fokianos stated this is a similar situation to the one that was presented at the last Board of Works meeting. Mr. Fokianos stated this request is from Carissa Ebert. She notified the Utility Billing Office when she realized she was being charged for two garbage bins and she lived in a single-family home. Mr. Fokianos stated that he did inform Ms. Ebert that he could go back one year to credit her account \$124.92 but anything further would need to be approved by the Board of Works and based off the last decision, it was unlikely that she would receive any credit beyond one year. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated Mr. Fokianos did reach out to the current billing provider, MuniLink, and they are currently working on a solution to include the number of units of trash that are being billed, however, a solution has not been reached yet. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stressed they are as transparent as they can be by posting all costs and fees associated. The trash-fund is essentially a pass-through account as the money collected for trash fees from the residents is then paid to the trash company for their services. Mayor Dermody stated he would like Attorney Otis to draw up an agreement, if it is decided to give the credit, that the resident must sign stating they agree to the one-year credit and will not try to come back for an additional credit.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Bill Appeal: 1408 Lincolnway

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve a one-year credit for trash service, if an agreement is signed by the resident stating they will not come back and try for credit beyond one year; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

City Planning: City Planner Craig Phillips reported they are currently busy with the finishing touches to the 39 N annexation in addition to wrapping up the 18th Street project. Mr. Phillips stated they are working on finishing the downtown streetscape pattern book in conjunction with the Bid District long-term planning committed. Work continues with David and the consultants on the Trails, Greenways, and Blueways masterplan. Mayor Dermody expressed his appreciation for Mr. Phillips and his leadership with housing opportunities with the coke building and converting that into Ivy Flats.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported crews are out taking care of problematic hydrants and things that need to be complete before winter. In addition, Mr. Werner stated they are continuing to work on the I Street project.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported there was over three inches of rain over the weekend but thankfully it came in slow. There were no overflows and they have not received any calls regarding basement backups. In addition, Mr. Jackson reported they are testing Alum for aluminum sulfate removal. Mr. Jackson stated we are currently in compliance and have been using Ferric and are trying to see if cost savings are possible by using Alum.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich reported visible work has slowed down on Truesdell as the next phase, utility work, begins. The crew that was working on that project has transitioned to Darlington Street. This is a holdover project for Community Crossings. Mr. Minich stated we do not have a dedicated paving program this year as we try to rebuild matching money for Community Crossings. Mr. Minich stated although we do not have a dedicated paving program, we are getting projects done through other ways. Although you will not see a lot of resurfacing going on this year, you will see a lot of quality projects going on as roads are being reconstructed, not just resurfaced. The focus is reconstruction of local streets and maintenance of streets that have been recently paved. In addition, Mr. Minich reported ADA and 50/50 Sidewalk programs are moving along well.

Streets/Code: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor addressed an issue that came up at last night's council meeting. Mr. Batchelor stated a gentleman stated he walked the city and there was a vehicle on jacks at 707 Niles. Mr. Batchelor stated he went over to Niles Street and there were no vehicles found in the street and if there were more concerns to please reach out to him in his office. Mr. Batchelor reported the street department is currently picking up sticks, hanging the banner for Cheeseburger in Paradise, cutting grass, trimming trees, and they will soon begin their painting program.

Police: Chief Brettin reported they have received several calls reporting shots fired. This week begins their week of combat course on their range. You may hear a lot of volley shooting, several shots at one time, and then a pause and then more rounds. In addition, the county is out there as well. Chief Brettin stated they currently have one of the canine trucks out and some complaints have been received from citizens stating they will use more gas. Chief Brettin stated these trucks get three more miles to the gallon than the previous vehicles in addition to being a less expensive vehicle. Chief Brettin reported there is a graduation at ILEA on August 18, 2023 and then they will bring another officer on for field training.

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported the activity center for older adults located at 901 Lincolnway will be hosting an open house on Monday August 21, 2023 from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. This is a great opportunity for families or seniors to come take a look at the activity center. Mr. Schreiber thanked everyone that made Lakefest possible, especially the sponsors. Mr. Schreiber stated 80% of the cost of Lakefest is covered by sponsor dollars and we could not do it without the support from the community. Mr. Schreiber thanked the community partners that put on or assisted with events, in addition to thanking the committee that put in a lot of work as this is an eight-to-nine-month planning process. Mr. Schreiber thanked all the volunteers and everyone that was involved in a successful Lakefest this year.

TransPorte: TransPorte Director Beth West reported last week there were over 800 riders. Ms. West reported they were just shy of 3,000 riders for the month of July. Ms. West stated the numbers usually drop slightly during the summer, but ridership is anticipated to increase once school is back in session. Ms. West reported they had to terminate one driver but have found a replacement and she has been doing an excellent job. Ms. West stated NIRPC will be there this week for their annual bus inspection.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reminded everyone that the final Friday Night Live Event will be Cheeseburger in Paradise and takes place this Friday. Ms. Bruder thanked the Street Department for getting the banner up. There will be live music and different vendors competing for best cheeseburger.

LEAP: Lindsay stated she was filling in for Bert Cook. Lindsay stated they had their small business roundtable on August 1, 2023 where outdoor dining, parking, and the riverfront liquor licenses were discussed. LEAP is currently preparing for new teachers starting school and are preparing welcome bags. If there are any business that would like to contribute to those bags, they can call the LEAP offices at 219.324.8584.

New Business:

Request for Use: Pop Warner Parade

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Pop Warner Parade. Ms. Loeffler stated this is not a full closure, this request is to close each street as they walk through it from Kiwanis to Kesling. The police have always been cooperative and helped with the

rolling closure. Ms. Loeffler stated she did send all of these requests to Fire Chief Snyder as he could not be here today, and he has no opposition to any of these requests.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Pop Warner Parade

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Pop Warner Parade as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Dunebrook-Dragon Boat Race

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Dunebrook-Dragon Boat Race. This request is for Grangemouth to be closed between Waverly and Stone Lake Boulevard from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. Mayor Dermody stated this is for Dunebrook, which is a great organization.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Dunebrook-Dragon Boat Race

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Dunebrook-Dragon Boat Race as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

La Porte High School Football Games

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented La Porte High School Football Games. This request is for La Porte High School to close two small sections on two separate streets to allow people to walk from the High School to Kiwanis on home football nights. It is usually from 5:30 P.M. until the game is over. This is for five Friday nights.

Motion/Vote – Approval of La Porte High School Football Games

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve La Porte High School Football Games as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Deserving Children Roof Sit Information

TransPorte Director Beth West presented Deserving Children Roof Sit Information. Ms. West stated there is no road closure, however, is has been requested to bring this before the board as they will be impeding traffic. This event will be on Friday September 8, 2023, from 5 A.M. until approximately 6 P.M. People will be out in the street collecting funds. No motion is needed as there are no street closures, this is for informational purposes.

Request to Accept Resignation

Chief Brettin presented Request to Accept Resignation from Officer Tempest Miller. Chief Brettin is requesting permission to accept the resignation and permission for the Merit Commission to hire a replacement. Mayor Dermody thanked Officer Miller for her work with the city and wished her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request to Accept Resignation

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request to Accept Resignation as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Romine and unanimously carried.

Outdoor Dining Application: 706 Jefferson Ave

City Planner David Heinold presented Outdoor Dining Application: 706 Jefferson Ave. This request is for Fresco. Mr. Heinold stated they have an existing patio that is within their property, but they would like to extend that out. Mr. Heinold stated he consulted with City Engineer Nick Minich to make sure this was possible, and it was determined they are required to have five feet of space from where their dining space ends and the curb. Susan with Fresco expressed her appreciation for everyone in the city being wonderful to work with.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Outdoor Dining Application: 706 Jefferson Ave

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Outdoor Dining Application: 706 Jefferson Ave. as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Approval: Purchase Offer Bid 18th Street

City Planner Craig Phillips presented Request for Approval: Purchase Offer Bid 18th Street. This is for a property that was previously discussed: a ten-foot strip and a twenty-foot strip on the east and west sides of the property on the 18th Street property that they are working on with Steiner Homes. This is an effort to provide some setback for the property owner that sits in the middle of those two parcels that are intended for development. This property was previously put out for bid and no offers were received, which opened the opportunity to work directly with others to purchase the property. Mr. Phillips stated they received a purchase offer from Russ Jensen, the property owner that is in-between these parcels, in the amount of \$3,000. Mr. Phillips recommends approval of this purchase.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Approval: Purchase Offer Bid 18th Street

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Purchase Offer Bid 18th Street as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Waverly Channel Dredging 8/28/23

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Waverly Channel Dredging. This request is to close Waverly Road to dredge the Waverly Road Channel. This is done every two to three years, depending on how much sand has washed in. This is primarily to ensure boat traffic can continue to make it through. Mr. Jackson stated he has acquired the necessary DNR permit. The request is to close the road for three days. The road will be closed during the day and open at night. Water Superintendent Tim Werner stated it is important for the public to know that there will not be any boat traffic allowed during this period as they will have hoses and tubes that will remain in the water until the job is done. Mr. Jackson stated he will let the Lake Association and the marinas know of the closing in addition to putting out signage.

Motion/Vote – Approval Waverly Channel Dredging

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Waverly Channel Dredging as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Letters and Numbers 2B-Streets Pay Request #4

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Letters and Numbers 2B-Streets Pay Request #4 in the amount of \$107,421.25. This brings the project to 12 percent.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Letters and Numbers 2B-Streets Pay Request #4

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Letters and Numbers 2B-Streets Pay Request #4 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Letters and Numbers 2A-Water Main/Storm Sewer Pay Request #4

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Letters and Numbers 2A-Water Main/Storm Sewer Pay Request #4 in the amount of \$245,046.32. This brings the project to 38 percent. Mr. Jackson stated HRP has stepped it up and has done great work with this project.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Letters and Numbers 2A-Water Main/Storm Sewer Pay Request #4

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Letters and Numbers 2A-Water Main/Storm Sewer Pay Request #4 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request Permission to Quote Pump Replacement at Oakwood

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Request Permission to Quote Pump Replacement at Oakwood. This is for the Oakwood sewage lift station. This is a heavily used station. The pumps are from 2011 and reaching the end of their life in addition to the wet well having corrosion due to hydrogen sulfide. The project involves replacing the pumps and piping inside, coating the wet well after repairs are made, and replacing the lid. Mr. Jackson stated they would do the bypass pumping and assist with some of the cleaning of the wet well and a mechanical contractor would do the pump work and a separate contractor would do the spraying of the coating of the wet well. Mayor Dermody questioned how this would be funded. Mr. Jackson stated this would come from their capital budget. There is a continuing line item every year for lift station maintenance.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request Permission to Quote Pump Replacement at Oakwood

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request Permission to Quote Pump Replacement at Oakwood as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Acceptance of Energy Savings Proposal: Well Proposal

Water Superintendent Tim Werner presented Acceptance of Energy Savings Proposal: Well Proposal. Mr. Werner stated a City Team was put together and went over the qualifications of the contractors and scored them. Mr. Werner stated only one contractor, Bowen, applied but it was the consensus that they are the best fit for the job. Mr. Minich stated even though only one proposal was received they are still going through the motions and maintaining a file of Bowen with their evaluated scores and relevant documents as they go through this process. Mr. Minich stated the request to the board is to be able to accept the Bowen proposal and move forward into the contracting phase.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Acceptance of Energy Savings Proposal: Well Proposal

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Acceptance of Energy Savings Proposal: Well Proposal as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay Application #2 Rieth-Riley Truesdell Ave Improvement

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Pay Application #2 Rieth-Riley Truesdell Ave Improvement in the amount of \$1,298,753.43. Mr. Minich stated this phase of the project is going well and recommends approval. Mr. Kosior questioned what this brings the project to. Mr. Minich stated this brings the project to just under 50 percent.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay Application #2 Rieth-Riley Truesdell Ave Improvement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Pay Application #2 Rieth-Riley Truesdell Ave Improvement as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Request to Bid Stone Lake Trail Phase 2 & 3

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Request to Bid Stone Lake Trail Phase 2 & 3. Mr. Minich stated phase two is the section that goes from where it ends by the parking lot at the beach to Waverly parking lot. Phase three begins where phase two ends and will go all the way out. The design for phase three is not completely done but they would like for them to be bid out together.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request to Bid Stone Lake Trail Phase 2 & 3

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request to Bid Stone Lake Trail Phase 2 & 3 as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Dermody stated they are still trying to work with RTS to get the old garbage cans picked up. Mayor Dermody expressed his frustration in trying to achieve this. Attorney Otis stated there was a question at last night's council meeting from Chris O'Keefe and he would like Mayor Dermody and Clerk-Treasurer Parthun to address the question. Attorney Otis stated Ms. O'Keefe stated the city has doubled their debt since Mayor Dermody and the new Council have taken office and can barely afford a fire truck. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated all of the debt that has been acquired since taking office has been from either Redevelopment Commission, which is tiff funds, not taxpayer funds. One bond that was refinanced was a 2012 bond, that lowered the interest rate and saved six figures. This bond is the only bond that touched tax-based funds. In addition, the fire truck is financed from revenues from the Public Safety LIT. Attorney Otis stated the funds expended thus far on the annexation have been tens of thousands, not hundreds of thousands, and have been for things like the fiscal plan. Future expenditures regarding annexation are typically funded through utility payments or the Redevelopment Commission. Mayor Dermody invited Ms. O'Keefe to come to a public meeting to share her facts and concerns. Mr. Kosior commended Mayor Dermody for even allowing commentary on social media comments as that is not always addressed in an open public forum. Mayor Dermody expressed his excitement for Geminus for opening a family

resource center next to the Dollar General on West side. They offer great resources for families in need.

Other Business:

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday August 22, 2023 at 9 A.M.

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: August 22, 2023