

City of La Porte Business Improvement District
City Hall
La Porte, IN 46350
April 18, 2024

President Ward called the April 18, 2024 meeting of the City of La Porte Business Improvement District Board to order at 5:05 p.m. The meeting was held at City Hall at 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN. Roll call of members of the Board was shown to be present or absent as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Adamsky, Vice-President Robin Clark, Courtney Dickman, Jim Kaminski, John Spiggle, President Lizz Ward, Clinton Worthington, Tommy Viere

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brad Adamsky, Tommy Viere

GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Feikes, Charity Hlavsa, Craig Phillips, Councilwoman Julie West

MINUTES: President Ward asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made on the March 11 minutes. Worthington made a motion to approve the March 11 meeting minutes and Kaminski seconded. Motion passed.

GUEST COMMENTS: Amy Feikes presented a few proposals. The first was for the watering of the planters at the same rate as last year. She mentioned the water department is currently operating the same as last year, but that could change. Worthington motioned to approve the watering that is the same as last year and Clark seconded. Motion passed.

The second was in regard to the benches and trash receptacles that require repair. Feikes said they could use what is available at the street department to begin the repairs at \$55 an hour. If they need to purchase the cedar planks, they could do the 18” ones at \$30 per slat or the 26.5” ones at \$45 per slat. This quote includes painting and cutting the boards to size. They have not quoted the replacement for a new receptacle lid, but they can do that as well if needed. Worthington motioned to approve the quote as presented and Clark seconded. Motion passed. Spiggle motioned to spend up to \$2,500 on the slats and Worthington seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Spiggle recapped the financials for January, February, and March which included receiving interest in the amount of \$750 and one insurance check for \$5,500. Expenses included snow removal in February totaling \$14,000 and a few planter repairs by Paul’s Construction totaling \$16,000. The city allocated the insurance for the year and the BID portion was \$4,139. Spiggle noted that the budget listed on the report is incorrect and does not include the funds carried over from 2023. There is about \$95,800 still left to spend for 2024.

There was one claim from Paul’s Construction for a planter cap repair in the amount of \$5,500. Worthington motioned to approve the treasurer’s report and Kaminski seconded. Motion passed. Kaminski motioned to approve the claim to Paul’s Construction and Spiggle seconded. Motion passed.

Maintenance: Phillips presented a packet of maintenance items to the board. The first item was for a tree at 704 Jefferson Avenue. The city arborist has looked at the tree and recommends its removal because it is dead. Clark motioned to approve the removal of the dead tree at 704 Jefferson Avenue and Kaminski seconded. Motion passed.

The city is still waiting on insurance for the planter that was hit by the uninsured underage driver in front of the courthouse. They are also waiting on insurance for the light pole that was hit in front of Flagstar and the light pole in front of Plaza 618.

Phillips will be working on an inventory of areas that need repair. There are some places that need replacement pavers and the inventory will help determine what areas are the most needed. Spiggle asked if it would be possible to get information from Paul's to see if they could do stamped concrete like what is in front of the Heritage Building.

Phillips is also looking at the planters to see which ones can be removed to cut down costs next year. He mentioned bringing it to the Long-Term Planning committee. He also said he is still working on returning the irrigation control box but has not had any luck reaching the company.

Phillips also mentioned the city has been approached through the Lubeznik Center in Michigan City and other partners to secure a grant from the Lily Foundation to identify locations in the BID district for the installation of murals. They are also focusing on putting together a possible test block of alley improvements.

Leaf & Snow Removal: There was no report.

Flowers: Ward reported everything is going well and on target with Perennials Galore. Flowers should be planted in about a month. Spiggle asked if Perennials Galore was going to add more dirt to the planters since the board tabled the discussion and Ward answered in the negative.

Trees: There was no report.

Long-Term Planning: There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:

There were no announcements/observations.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

There being no further business, Worthington entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. Clark seconded. The next board meeting will be on May 13, 2024. ***If unable to attend this meeting, please contact Lizz Ward by email at lizzward@gmail.com***

Respectfully submitted by: Lindsay Kneifel