

February 23, 2022

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 9:02 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine and Mark Kosior

Absent: None

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 moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

None

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun presented Fire Special pay for attendance in the amount of \$2,130.35

Motion/Vote – Approval of Fire Special Pay

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Fire Special Pay as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun presented payroll in the amount of \$442,527.09

Motion/Vote – Approval of Payroll

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,069,379.34. She noted these included annual licensing payments for our accounting software, February's health insurance, several CDBG payouts for loans, ice rink, risk management software, and a CDBG claim for a lead removal project.

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 Water Claims in the amount of \$148,7092.22.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$305,504.61.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

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

Mayor Dermody stated the City of La Porte is committed to public safety and asked Police Chief Brettin to come forward to swear in four new police officers. Mayor Dermody believes this team of new officers is going to be a fantastic addition to our police force.

Police Chief Paul Brettin stated he will begin swearing in the Reserve Officer and explained what that entails. Several months ago, Fire Chief Andy Snyder heard the Police Department was going to be starting and Emergency Response Team (ERT). He asked if they would like a medic on the team. Chief Brettin stated that having a medic on the team is one of the most important aspects, not only for our team, but for the public. Fire Chief Andy Snyder recommended Anothony Ring, a current Firefighter and medic with the City of La Porte Fire Department.

Police Chief Paul Brettin swore in Anthony Ring as a reserve officer and member of the Emergency Response Team.

Chief Brettin swore in Alexander Mendoza, Peter Pienta, Dalton Pflughaupt, and Patrick Quail as Patrol Officers.

New Business:

Parking Ticket Appeals:

Annette Loeffler addressed the board regarding parking tickets appeals.

Ticket #62009: Mrs. Loeffler spoke on behalf of Mr. Henin who lives at the Rumley. There was confusion on where he needed to park due to the snow emergency. Mr. Henin parked where the Rumley told him, but was given a ticket. Mayor Dermody asked Chief Brettin if he was comfortable waiving the fine. Chief Brettin agreed. Ms. Romine suggested that in the future we may need to have a conversation with the Rumley so there is no longer confusion in a snow emergency.

Motion/Vote – Waive Ticket Fine for Ticket #62009

Ms. Romine made a motion to waive the ticket fine; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Ticket #61488: Ms. Loeffler invited Mr. Mainard to address the board. Mr. Mainard lives at 800 Michigan Apt #4. He has lived at this residence since June 1, 2021. He received a ticket his very first night at the apartment. The next morning he came to City Hall and explained to Leslie that he received a ticket. Leslie told Mr. Mainard to take his check back and she would take care of the ticket. The ticket was issued in June of 2021 and he just now received a letter stating that he had an unpaid parking ticket.

Motion/Vote – Waive Ticket Fine for Ticket #61488

Ms. Romine made a motion to waive the ticket fine; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Ticket #61981: This individual was in the hospital and unable to move his vehicle. He came in the next day with this hospital bracelet still on and explained his situation to Mrs. Loeffler.

Motion/Vote – Waive Ticket Fine for Ticket #61981

Ms. Romine made a motion to waive the ticket fine; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Signature: 4th of July Flyover Request

Annette Loeffler stated that every year we get a request for the Mayor's Signature on the form sent to the military for the 4th of July flyover.

Motion/Vote – 4th of July Flyover Request

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

Request for use for the YMCA Triathlon and Tour De La Porte

Mrs. Loeffler stated that we received the request for use from the LPYMCA for the Triathlon, which is June 11th and the Tour De La Porte held on August 27th.

Motion/Vote – Request for use for the YMCA Triathlon and Tour De La Porte

Ms. Romine abstained from the vote. Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

Attorney Otis - Quick Claim Deed for Habitat for Humanity

Attorney Otis stated the City acquired this property through tax sale when no one claimed the property. The property has been vacant, and Habitat for Humanity owns the adjacent property. We have gone through the legal process to transfer this to Habitat for Humanity. Attorney Otis stated the motion would be for the Mayor to be able to sign all the necessary paperwork for the transfer.

Attorney Otis noted Habitat was here today and Mayor Dermody invited them to come share a few words on what their plan is regarding Home Street. Sophia Coleman, Executive Director La Porte Habitat for Humanity. She is absolutely over the moon to partner with the City of La Porte and build homes for that neighborhood. She stated the homeowners will be part of the process. They will start building this summer. They are in process of applying for federal funds and working with the Health Care Foundation to boost funding. Ms. Coleman stated that the medium income in La Porte County is \$66,000 and they

are serving people that fit within 30-60% of that. Currently many are paying up to 50% of their income on housing and it is the goal of Habitat for Humanity to get that to 30%.

Motion/Vote - Quick Claim Deed for Habitat for Humanity

Ms. Romine abstained from the vote. Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

Timba Bakery Development Agreement:

City Planner Craig Phillips stated he is excited to announce he has been working with Habitat for Humanity on a Development Agreement for five homes to be developed on the Tibma Bakery Property for affordable housing as a step towards the Mayor's 30,000 people by 2030 initiative. In the Board of Works packet there is a concept agreement with types and styles of homes. Mr. Phillips thanked Sophia Coleman, Jeff Hilb, and the rest of Habitat Board and staff for the work they have done.

Motion/Vote – Tibma Bakery Development Agreement

Ms. Romine abstained from the vote. Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

Motion/Vote – Quick Claim Deed Tibma Bakery

Ms. Romine abstained from the vote. Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

Department Head Reports

Police: Chief Brettin stated that there are two more officers going through physicals and background checks right now and hopefully by March they will be swearing in two more officers and they should be full staff. The ERT will be coming before the board at the next meeting and will be presented by the Assistant Chief.

Park: Park Director Mark Schreiber wants to remind the community that the youth sports registrations are ongoing. Deadline is March 4th for boy's baseball and girl's softball. Tennis and t-ball have later registration deadlines but are open for sign ups now. Discussion was held on Recreation sports vs. travel sports.

Communications: Jess Bruder stated she is working with Think Tank on the process of how we store minutes and agendas on our website. Shamrock Shindig is coming up on March 19th.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson wanted to give the kudos to his department for repairing an old 30-inch valve that was frozen. They avoided hiring a contractor to do that job and were able to do it in house. Wanted to also mention that La Porte Wrestler was a two-time state champion this past weekend for the first time in La Porte High School history.

Engineer: City Engineer Nick Minich stated they have a contractor CBS electric working at the Banks project that is not providing information on employees as requested. Mr. Minich, as the City Engineer

can request that information to verify the employees are properly classified. They did issue a stop work order on February 1st as the contractor is not giving the information requested. City Engineer Nick Minich is requesting the board revoke their registration if they do not provide the requested information by noon tomorrow.

Mayor Dermody asked for a motion to revoke CBS Electric's Registration per our ordinance for up to three years as of 12:36 P.M. on February 24, 2022.

Motion/Vote – Revoke CBS Electric Registration

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

Planning: Craig Phillips stated that now that his work is complete with the Tibma property he is going to be working on putting together a proposal for the 18th Street Property that the City owns. He is continuing to work on the housing opportunities at Beechwood Lake. He will be asking the Redevelopment Commission later today for permission to do a parking study in the downtown area.

Transporte: Transporte Manager Beth West wanted to thank the public for their understanding during the last couple of snowstorms. We had to shut down early a few times and have drivers who live in the County and couldn't make it in so they worked with a very limited staff. Continuing to move forward with the grant process with the Health Care Foundation.

Fire: Fire Chief Andy Snyder stated Zach Kanney was elected to four-year term to the pension board last week. He also noted that they have put applications out on the City and Departments website. Applications will also be available at Station 1 to help formulate the hiring list for the next two years.

Street/Code: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor stated Code enforcement is just under 500 violations for the year. Street Department is out plugging the potholes so that we can be pole hole free La Porte.

Conflict of Interest – Tim Franke

City Attorney Nick Otis asked for acceptance of Mr. Franke's updated Conflict of Interest

Motion/Vote – Conflict of Interest Tim Franke

Ms. Romine abstained from the vote. Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

IPEP Grant Acceptance:

Human Resources Director Jen Noll introduced Kathy Henrich from General Insurance to discuss the IPEP Grant that our Water Department was awarded. IPEP is the City's workman's comp carrier. Ms. Henrich noted that Safety grants are award through IPEP each year. The grant was submitted by Jordan Snider of the City of La Porte's Water Department. Ms. Henrich presented the check to Jordan on behalf of the City of La Porte.

Mayor Dermody announced to the board that Jen Noll will be leaving us as HR director. She has done a great job for the city and wishes her well as she moves into the private sector.

Lease Proposal:

Police Chief Paul Brettin introduced a lease proposal to the board. They are getting rid of seven of their oldest cars and entering into a three-year lease agreement for new vehicles. Discussion was held.

Motion/Vote – Police Car Lease Proposal

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried. Ms. Romine made a motion to amend the motion to allow Clerk – Treasurer Parthun to sign the lease agreements when we get the vehicles; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Retirement Letter and Authorize Replacement:

Fire Chief Andy Snyder announced Mr. Rob Sabie has submitted his letter of retirement just short of 36 years of service. Chief Snyder noted he hasn't completely given up working as he has accepted a job with the County as the Assistant Director of the EMA. Chief Snyder asked the board to accept the letter of retirement along with allowing the Fire Merit to make the necessary promotions and hires

Motion/Vote -Retirement Letter and Authorize Replacement

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

Monroe Manor Construction Services:

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson asked the board to increase the amount of the contract from \$65,000 to \$105,00. He was hopeful that our engineering department would be able to do some work but because of their workload was not able to commit. He is asking that we use Abonnemarche full time.

Motion/Vote – Monroe Manor Construction Services

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

Payment for North South Corridor:

City Engineer Nick Minich asked the board to approve the first 30% payment of the project that was agreed upon with the County in the amount of \$66,000. Mr. Minich stated that it would be in our benefit to keep this project going. Discussion was held.

Motion/Vote – Payment for North South Corridor:

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve payment once verified with Clerk Treasures Office; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Civic Phase 2 Amendment: Schneider Electric

City Engineer Nick Minich stated that this is to finalize the design for the HVAC upgrades at the Civic. There is no upfront costs. Final cost would be included in the construction contract; should we choose to proceed. Design fees are only due to Schneider if we choose to not more forward with the project.

Motion/Vote: Civic Phase 2 Amendment

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

Ms. Romine had to leave the meeting and did not vote.

Purchase of Property Atwood/Marshall:

The Atwood property will be purchased for \$35,000 and the Marshall property will be purchased for \$29,000. These are commercial properties, and we will be reimbursed for 80% of the cost by NIRPC.

Mr. Minich would ask in the motion that the Mayor would be able to sign the agreements. This property will be used as right away for the Chessie Trail.

Motion/Vote: Purchase of Property Atwood/Marshall

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

Ms. Romine had to leave the meeting and did not vote.

An amended motion was made by Mr. Kosior to allow the Mayor to sign; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0. Ms. Romine had to leave meeting and did not vote.

Request to Re-Bid and set Special Board of Works Meeting:

City Engineer Nick Minich is asking the board for permission to reject the bids and retroactively authorize re-bid of project. Special Board of Works meeting to approve new bid is set for Friday at 2pm.

Motion/Vote: Re-Bid and set Special Board of Works Meeting:

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0.

Ms. Romine had to leave the meeting and did not vote.

Amended Operating Assistance for Grant #1 and Grant#2

Transporte Manager Beth West stated that two grants needed to be amended and signed by the Mayor and Clerk Treasurer.

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

Rezoning Application for 18th Street Property

City Planner Craig Phillips is asking for the 18th Street Property that was acquired from the School Corporation last year to be rezoned to R28 Townhouse zoning.

Motion/Vote – Rezoning Application for 18th Street Property

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody. Motion passes 2-0. Ms. Romine had to leave the meeting and did not vote.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Kosior moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody.
Motion passes 2-0.

Approve: _____
Thomas P Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: March 8, 2022