

August 2, 2022

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine

Absent: Mark Kosior

Pledge of Allegiance

Congresswoman Walorski 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 Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Congresswoman Walorski

Congresswoman Walorski spoke in front of the Board of works to thank them, first responders, police law enforcement, and fire first responders for all that they do for the City of La Porte. Congresswoman Walorski expressed her concerns regarding the drugs that are being trafficked, not only in this district but nationally as well. Congresswoman Walorski stated she has filed a Bill that allows anyone who has lost someone due to poison fentanyl to have a standing in U.S. Federal Court to sue China and Mexico and start holding people accountable for the poison fentanyl. Congresswoman Walorski stated the raw ingredient is being sent from China to Mexico through an open fluid border where it is not being controlled. This Bill will also empower the States Attorney General to be able to file on behalf of victims. Congresswoman Walorski recognizes this will not end the problem, but it allows us to stand up and say we will not stand for this anymore. Congresswoman Walorski stated, in Washington, they are just as frustrated with these problems, and they have the back of the local governments trying to fight it as well. Congresswoman Walorski thanked everyone for the services they provide to the community of La Porte and encouraged everyone to continue to work together at the local, state, and federal level to fight this fight.

Mayor Dermody recognized Congresswoman Walorski's office as being instrumental in the railroad depot. There will be a meeting regarding the depot, in the middle of August, with Norfolk Southern.

Police Merit Awards

Chief Brettin presented awards to Officer Kajer and Officer Atkinson for a job well done during a difficult situation in June, where lives were saved. Chief Brettin stated because of this

situation, Officer Kajer will be attending Hostage Negotiation School. Officer Kajer spoke of his experience during this situation and how he used his personal background to relate to the individual involved in the situation and build his report with him. Officer Atkinson also spoke of his experience in this situation.

Mayor Dermody expressed his appreciation for both officers and thanked them for all they do and acknowledged how lucky the City is to have them.

Public Comment

None

Claims Approval

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer presented Payroll from July 22, 2022 in the amount of \$491,453.44

Motion/Vote – Approval of 7/22 Payroll

Ms. Romine moved to approve the July 22, 2022 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$515,103.54

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer presented Sewage Claims, including two bond payments, in the amount of \$682,767.93.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

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

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer presented Water Claims in the amount of \$95,170.32.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Department Head Reports

Human Resources:

Director of Human Resources Andrea Smith reported 10 more participants are needed for the Jet Dental clinic to happen. Ms. Smith stated there will be two \$25 gift cards offered to those that sign up in addition to a catered lunch for the department with the highest percentage of participation.

Fire: Chief Snyder reported the new applicant list is in place and they are currently working with a new applicant to bring the department back to full staff. In addition, Chief Snyder reported the scuba team has been certified as rescue divers and should be up and running once policies are put in place.

Police: Chief Brettin reported the mandatory active shooter training is at the end of this month. Chief Brettin stated Lakefest went great and there were no incidents. In addition, Chief Bretton reported Dalton Pflughaupt will be graduating the Academy in two weeks and next week four more will be going. Chief Brettin also stated there will be a pension meeting today for an experienced officer with the hopes of swearing them in at the next Board of Works meeting.

Street/Code: Director of Code Enforcement Jeff Batchelor reported a request for bid will be sent out this week for the demolition of 1901. Mr. Batchelor reported there are currently around 2400 violations in code enforcement. In addition, Mr. Batchelor stated they are out doing trees, filling potholes, and picking up sticks.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson requested the closing of the 800 block of 3rd street. Mr. Jackson stated everyone on this block has a lateral sewer, instead of connecting straight to the public sewer. Mr. Jackson stated waterworks has most of their valve work done on 3rd street and should be ready to pave in about two weeks. In addition, Mr. Jackson reported the loop work being done on Ottoson should be done in the next week and a half.

New Business:

Request For Use: Pop Warner Parade

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented a request for the Pop Warner parade. Ms. Loeffler stated she did not have a lot of information, other than the parade will be like last year. They do not intend to do a hard close of the street, it will be a rolling close. Chief Brettin stated typically the on-duty officers escort the parade; the duration is only a few minutes.

Motion/Vote – Approve Request for Use: Pop Warner Parade

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the Request for Use: Pop Warner Parade as presented; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Andrea Smith: Approval to Update Employee Manual

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented a request to update the entire policies and procedures manual. Ms. Smith stated the policies and procedures need to grow and adapt with each organization. Although the core elements of policies and procedures may stay the same, the details will change according to industry standards. Ms. Smith stated policies and procedures should be reviewed every 1-3 years. Ms. Smith stated Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele, the company hired to do this, will have the entire policy manual updated by the end of the year. Ms. Smith stated 1/3 of the cost will be paid by her department and the remainder will be paid by CEDIT.

Ms. Romine questioned when the last time the policy manual was updated. Ms. Smith responded by stating she believes previously the manual was just pieced together, when a policy was needed it was just made or changed.

Motion/Vote: Approve to Update Employee Manual

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Update Employee Manual as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Pay Request #2 for KLM/Phosphorous Project

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented pay request number two in the amount of \$130,500, which brings the job to 21%. Mr. Jackson stated the project is moving slower than anticipated, however, the contractor is doing great quality work.

Ms. Romine questioned why the project was not moving as quickly as anticipated. Mr. Jackson stated it is mostly equipment that is causing delays, there are no issues with the contractor.

Motion/Vote to Approve Pay Request #2 KLM/Phosphorus Project

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Pay Request #2 KLM/Phosphorus Project; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Approval of Lease for Native Seed Harvesting on City Owned Property

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented a request for native seed harvesting on the wetland at Boyd and Jefferson. Mr. Jackson stated Cardinal harvests the seeds and then resells them to people who are restoring or building wetlands. Mr. Jackson stated the lease is in the amount of \$2500 and will go through September 15th.

Motion/Vote – Approve Lease for Native Seed Harvesting on City Owned Property

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Lease for Native Seed Harvesting on City Owned Property as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

3rd Street Closure

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented a request to close 3rd Street for a week and a half to install a public sanitary sewer, August 4 – August 12. Mr. Jackson stated the residents will still have access to their driveways, except in the instance that heavy machinery may be working in front of their driveway.

Mayor Dermody questioned if the homeowners will need to be notified. Mr. Jackson responded by stating they have notified the homeowners.

Motion/Vote – Request to approve 3rd Street Closure

Ms. Romine moved to approve 3rd Street Closure as presented; motion was seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Basement Backup Grant Funding

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented a request to increase Basement Backup Grant Funding from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Funds are available within the budget. Mr. Jackson stated there are currently seven basement backup grant requests, including two pending applications, with a total expense to the City in the amount of \$22,074.25: 904 Plain Street, 105 David Ct, 1104 F Street, 1818 Michigan Avenue, and 1622 Richards Street.

Motion/Vote – Approve Basement Backup Grant Funding

Ms. Romine moved to approve Basement Backup Grant Funding as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody questioned how many homes that have utilized the basement backup grants have continued to have issues. Mr. Jackson responded by stating none.

Motion/Vote – Approve Basement Grant Requests

Ms. Romine moved to approve Basement Grant Requests as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Bidding Sidewalk Programs

City Engineer Nick Minich presented a request to bid our three sidewalk programs: ADA program, 50/50 program, and CDBG program.

Motion/Vote – Approve Bidding Sidewalk Programs

Ms. Romine moved to approve Bidding Sidewalk Programs as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Dermody thanked Mark Schreiber and his team, sponsors, volunteers, Jess Romine, and everyone that made Lakefest an outstanding event. In addition, Mayor Dermody reminded everyone that COVID is still present and there are shots, masks, and other safety measures and precautions to take to keep yourself and your families safe.

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: August 16, 2022