

October 4, 2022

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 9:02 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Pavey 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

Swear In New Police Officer: Tempest Miller

Chief Brettin swore in new Police Officer Tempest Miller; Officer Miller was previously with Westville Police Department.

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from September 30, 2022 in the amount of \$468,334.55.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 5/13 Payroll

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the September 30, 2022 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$681,834.35

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 Sewage Claims in the amount of \$92,180.34.

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 presented Water Claims in the amount of \$142,397.35.

Department Head Reports

Code/Street: Dan Drake reported there are current 2,950 violations for the year. They are currently working on cutting down trees as they are coming to the end of the cutting season in a few weeks. Mr. Drake reported the 1801 Monroe is down; it is currently a pile of wood.

Human Resources: Human Resources Director Andrea Smith reported November 2-4 is open enrollment; everyone must attend because you will be signing new dental, vision, and life insurance forms. You can call either Corinne or Andrea to schedule an appointment. In addition, Ms. Smith reported the Wellness event will be November 15-17 at WellPorte. There will be five appointments every 15 minutes that also must be scheduled. The wellness follow-up appointments will be in January. Flu shots are available starting today at WellPort in La Porte or Michigan City and will be available through March 2023; no appointment is necessary.

City Planner: City Planning Director Craig Phillips welcomed Officer Miller. Mr. Phillips reported the parking study continues; there is a meeting this week to go over the draft that was received and comments will be given back to the consultant. Mr. Phillips also reported the Trails, Greenways, and Blueways master plan had their first meeting, and they will be working on developing that plan over the next couple months. In addition, Mr. Phillips reported work continues on the public offerings; proposals for the 18th Street property will be presented at the first November meeting. Mr. Phillips stated work continues with the Monroe Streetscape project. Mr. Phillips encouraged everyone to take the community survey that was put out to gain input from the community regarding the use of trails, green spaces, lakes, and other blueways. The survey is available on the City's website in the Community Development Planning page in addition to being posted on the City's Facebook page and the Park Departments website as well.

Water: Water Director Tim Werner reported the department is finishing up their main project on Darlington around Fas-Pac. There were issues that arose once the water main was run. Hydraulic testing was done, and the decision was made to take it up to Lincolnway to tie it into the loop system for water quality and safety. There will be a road closure, Darlington will not be accessible from Lincolnway but all businesses will be accessible through the rear of the property. Mr. Werner stated he spoke with all the businesses, and they are aware of what will be happening. Mr. Werner reported they are finishing up the well line relocation project on 150. They are down to the biological testing right now and are waiting for test results to come back good in order to put the Kankakee well field back in service. Mr. Werner stated they will begin the fall flushing on October 23rd, a Sunday. The duration of the flushing will be three to four weeks and will take place during the hours of 8 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. Mr. Werner stated if any residents happen to be doing laundry and get rusty water in their washing machine, please reach out to the Water Department and they will provide rust out.

Wastewater: Lori Larson stated there is nothing new to report.

Mayor Dermody stated Lori Larson and Tucker King brought in the trophy that was won. As a reminder to Michigan City Mayor Dermody stated we will not participate in any further competitions unless a better effort is put forth from Michigan City.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich reported there are a couple more streets that are being wrapped up; they were able to add Tipton Street south of Lincolnway and a small block of I Street. Mr. Minich stated they are trying to add a few more streets onto the annual paving program. Mayor Dermody questioned when the next public meeting is for the Corridor. Mr. Minich responded by stating he is unsure if there is a public meeting scheduled; there is a public hearing that is scheduled as part of the process. Mr. Minich stated if there were to be a public meeting, that decision would come from the county who is the lead on the project. Mr. Minich stated the City chipped in some of the match funds to make sure there was a website; communication has been key to the City and we want to make sure people have the right information. Mr. Minich stated they are not looking to build some sort of super-highway, rather allowing trucks to access the east side of town more efficiently without having to go through downtown. This will not only be for trucks but for residents and those who live and work on that end of town will have easier access without having to travel through downtown. Mayor Dermody stated the two-lane road will be similar to Franklin and the dollars that are going to come to this potentially will go to other communities for future infrastructure if they do not come to La Porte. Mr. Minich agreed with Mayor Dermody's statement. Mr. Minich stated the programs they are looking at to fund this project are competitive Federal Grant programs, so that money will be going somewhere whether it comes to La Porte or elsewhere. Mayor Dermody questioned if they would be opposed to this new two-lane road would they be opposed to any new road in the County. Mr. Minich responded by stating one of the biggest changes that have been proposed is part of the project, being an extension of an existing road. Mr. Minich stated they are hoping to be able to change the discussion and make sure they are looking at the entire transportation network and making sure they are making the improvements that are needed throughout the City and County. Mr. Minich stated they are looking within the City as well, the Corridor is not the fix-all for all the transportation network needs, it will take multiple projects to ensure the most efficient network.

Street/Code: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor stated Code enforcement is about 1500 violations for the year. Street Department has started striping, fixing potholes and water cuts, and hauling concrete and millings. The tree crew is out working but there are three open positions.

Legal: City Attorney Nick Otis stated he had nothing for legal.

Police: Chief Brettin reported they are continuing to look for technology upgrades for next year and looking at flock cameras. Chief Brettin stated they had a meeting last week for parking violations for cameras on the cars, instead of someone out there with chalk. Chief Brettin reported they are interviewing and doing a background check on an officer that is

currently in the Police Academy in addition to two other applicants that will be run through agility before the weather gets bad.

Fire: Assistant Chief Burke reported they are having an open house this Saturday. Assistant Chief Burke stated this month will be busy for them; they have fire prevention week and will be teaching fire safety to kids. The boat is out of the water for the season and at the dock; it is still available if needed, it is just out of the water.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reminded everyone that we as we enter the Holiday season there will be more and more local events happening in and around La Porte; if you're looking for things to do this Holiday season, please check out livinthelakelife.org.

Ms. Romine questioned if there was Trick or Treat downtown this weekend. Ms. Bruder responded by stating yes, there is an event downtown on the 8th through the small business coalition.

TransPorte: Assistant TransPorte Director Heather Daley reported total ridership for quarter three was 10,220 riders; this is the best quarter TransPorte has had in three years. Ms. Daley stated this week begins their extended hours and they have already scheduled rides utilizing that additional time. The Holiday season pass sale begins October 17 and will run through November 5.

New Business:

Paul Brettin: Memorandum of Understanding with HealthLinc, Inc.

Assistant Chief Burke: Memorandum of Understanding with HealthLinc, Inc.

Chief Brettin stated this is the same thing that is seen every year, it is up for renewal; this is for Police Officers and Firefighters that respond to persons with addictions and help get people on the road to recovery. Chief Brettin stated there is payment for the Officers that do show up for this. Mayor Dermody stated this is important as we move forward and look for social workers to start addressing some of these issues as the police are not set up to deal with these situations and that is not what they are hired to deal with. Mayor Dermody questioned if this is making an impact and if people are following up with HealthLinc. Chief Brettin stated he does not have the numbers with him because they do contact the officers that respond directly. Chief Brettin stated the fire department more than likely receives more calls for these situations, even though they are non-arrest situations, it is sometimes easier to have the Fireman respond. Assistant Chief Burke stated they get more referrals because they also work with the County and because Michigan City Fire is not involved, they will take calls in Michigan City as well. These calls happen while the Officers and Fireman are off duty.

Motion/Vote - Approve Police and Fire Memorandum of Understanding with HealthLinc, Inc

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Police and Fire Memorandum of Understanding with HealthLinc, Inc. as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mary Ann Richards: Grant Agreement CDBG-CV State Street PY 2022

CDBG Director Mary Ann Richards presented a Grant Agreement with State Street Community Church for their food pantry at Pac Center. This is using CDBG COVID funds in the amount of \$15,000.00. The period begins October 1, 2022 and will go through September 30, 2023. Ms. Richards stated there is still an impact on residents in La Porte who are coming down with COVID and if they have to quarantine for five days and do not have paid sick leave, it creates a financial hardship and therefore the food pantry is still necessary. Mayor Dermody questioned the amount of COVID funds that remain. Ms. Richards responded by stating approximately \$160-170,000. Mayor Dermody questioned why we would only be giving \$15,000. Ms. Richards responded by stating this is the amount that was requested. Mayor Dermody stated the Salvation Army bus pantry was almost bare. Ms. Richards responded by stating the Salvation Army will be taken care of through another grant. Ms. Romine questioned the timeframe to use the remaining COVID funds. Ms. Richards stated the remaining funds will have to be used by December 31, 2023. Mayor Dermody questioned why we are not being proactive and reaching out to places to see how we can help now. Ms. Richards stated The annual action plan for next year there is grant money for the Salvation Army and the possibility of daycare subsidy. Mr. Kosior questioned if we have ever done a daycare subsidy before. Ms. Richards stated the daycare subsidy is something new. Mayor Dermody questioned what the range is these dollars can be used for. Ms. Richards stated there is a number of things these dollars can be used for including food assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance. There are three conditions the funds can be used under: prepare for, respond to, or prevent COVID. Mayor Dermody questioned if these funds could be used to help fund a daycare in the community due to the lack of childcare currently offered in the community. Ms. Richards stated she would have to get clarification on this. Mayor Dermody questioned if there has ever been a discussion in consolidating the separate food pantries. Ms. Richards stated to her knowledge there has not been a discussion on consolidating any food pantries.

Motion/Vote - Approve Grant Agreement CDBG-CV State Street PY 2022

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Grant Agreement CDBG-CV State Street PY 2022 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and passed 2-0. Ms. Romine abstained from the vote.

Nick Minich: Open Bids for 2022 ADA and 50/50 Sidewalk Improvement Programs

City Engineer presented BIDs for 2022 ADA and 50/50 Sidewalk Improvement Programs. Proof of publication was published on September 20, 2022 and September 27, 2022 in The Herald Dispatch. There were three bids opened. The first bid is from Selge Construction; division one

sidewalk improvements in the amount of \$189,293.40, division two in the amount of \$221,722.23 for a total project cost in the amount of \$411,015.93. Mr. Minich clarified division one is the ADA program and division two is the 50/50 program. The second bid opened is from Reith Riley Construction; division one ADA sidewalk improvements in the amount of \$146,097.10 and division two in the amount of \$163,909.90 for a total project cost in the amount of \$310,007. The third and final bid opened is from Pave Excavating; division one sidewalk improvement in the amount of \$116,478.93 and division two in the amount of \$147,081.34 for a total project cost in the amount of \$263,560.27. Mr. Minch stated the bids will be taken back to the Engineering Department and a recommendation will be made at the next meeting. Mr. Minch requested approval pending Engineering review to move forward with the apparent low bid from Pavey Excavating.

Motion/Vote - Approve 2022 ADA and 50/50 Sidewalk Improvement Programs Contracting Based on Review by Engineering and Legal

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve paving contractor based on review by engineering and legal as requested; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody stated we are not just looking at the lowest bid but rather the quality of bidder and time frames to get the projects completed.

Nick Minich: Request Payment INDOT for Local Des. No. 1700760

City Engineer Nick Minich stated the local match invoice has been received for Local Des. No. 1700760 in the amount of \$148,963.60 and is requesting payment. Mr. Minich stated the funds are generally taken from a combination of MVH or Major Moves depending on availability at this point in the year and they will be working with the Clerk Treasurer's office to ensure funds are in the proper account.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Payment INDOT for Local Des. No. 1700760

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Payment INDOT for Local Des. No. 1700760 as presented; motion was seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Pay Request #4 For 2022 Street Paving

City Engineer requested this be removed from discussion today because it needs more time for review. This will not delay any work.

Emergency Vehicle Preemption Quotes

City Engineer Nick Minich presented three quotes for the Emergency Vehicle Preemption; previously no quotes had been received. The first quote is from Midwest Electric in the amount of \$49,880. The Second quote is from Hawk Enterprises in the amount \$47,800. The third and final quote is from Michiana Contracting in the amount of \$59,628. Mr. Minich thanked United Consulting for a great job done; last time there was no interest and they found contractors to quote this. Mr. Minich stated he is recommended these be reviewed and a recommendation will be made at a future meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Dermody stated the next Board Meeting, October 18, 2022 is cancelled. The Board will meet on Thursday October 20, 2022 at 10 A.M. to approve claims. Mr. Kosior reminded everyone to fill out the survey for the Trails, Greenways, and Blueways project. Mayor Dermody reminded everyone there is also a survey out for the schools as well. Mr. Kosior stated they are in a strategic planning process so there are a couple of different surveys going on; they do take some time, but the feedback is invaluable. The surveys were emailed out to the parents of the students at the public schools.

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: October 20, 2022