

January 18, 2023

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in special session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 9:03 A.M.

Present: Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior, Mayor Dermody

Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance

Chae Uhleman 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

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Payroll from January 6, 2023 in the amount of \$481,229.25

Motion/Vote – Approval of January 6, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the January 6, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$474,680.40.

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.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$330,668.23.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

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

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Water Claims in the amount of \$248,492.37.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Department Head Reports

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported the Phosphorus Project is going slower than needed for the March deadline to be in compliance. Mr. Jackson stated he is pushing the contractor to meet this deadline but is also working on a plan b in case the deadline is not met. Ms. Romine questioned what the issue is for the slow progress. Mr. Jackson stated the issue is that this is a small company and they are slower due to lack of manpower; they are doing great work, it is just slow work. Mr. Kosior questioned if there are any compliance or safety issues with this project taking longer. Mr. Jackson stated there were measures that could have been taken with the company being outside of the contract date with their work but those measures were not taken because the company has had issues getting things they need to complete the project.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported the water department is working with NIES Engineering and well design companies and the well design for Soldier Memorial Park is nearing finalization. Mr. Werner stated there have been a few hiccups along the way, but they hope to have that out for bid soon. Mr. Werner reported crews have been out working on problematic hydrants throughout the city that do not drain properly and can freeze in addition to working on leaks. Mr. Werner stated they will be working with NIES Engineering to replace SCADA hardware. Mr. Werner stated himself and Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson will be meeting with water solutions to look at different and more cost-effective processes.

City Planner: City Planner Craig Phillips reported they are busy working on the 39 North Annexation, kicking that effort off over the next year. Mr. Phillips reported they are beginning the process for the development of the city's new comprehensive plan, which will look at future growth and development in addition to other priority areas within the city. Mr. Phillips stated work continues on the Trails, Greenways, and Pathways master plan. Also, there are several development agreements that are currently being worked on including the 18th Street Greenway infill project, the firehouse project, and the Beechwood Lakes project. Appraisals for the Beechwood Lakes property are currently being worked on in order to get the property out for public bid.

Mayor Dermody commented on the 39 North Annexation. Mayor Dermody stated they met with the largest industrial landowner yesterday, who is supportive of upgrading the water system, and informed them Scottsdale Arizona had shut the water supply off to a neighboring community. Mayor Dermody stated that shutting off the water is not the goal, the goal is to fix the problems and move forward.

Park: Park Director Mark Schreiber reported next Tuesday and Thursday, January 24 and January 26, 2023, there will be youth sports registration nights at the Civic from 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. This is the kickoff to the spring/summer youth sports registration including baseball, fast

and slow pitch girls' softball, t-ball and tennis. Mr. Schreiber stated that the staff will be in attendance to answer any questions. Following these registration nights, online registration will be available as well as registration being available at the Park Office on January 27 through January 29, 2023. Mr. Schreiber reported Winterfest will be held next weekend; there are 10 events. Ice fishing will not be possible due to no ice on the lake. All the information can be found on the Park Department website, laporteparkandrec.com. Mayor Dermody recognized Mr. Schreiber and his team for the great job done on the NIBC Tournament. Mr. Kosior stated he received positive feedback from some individuals who had watched the tournament on TV; they were impressed with the facility.

LEAP: Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook reported on February 24, 2023 at 8 A.M. they will be having their third house session at the Performing Arts Center. This is an opportunity with state and local legislators, if you're interested in the legislative process or issues that are before our local and state elected officials. Mr. Cook stated this is a free event and you can register at laportepartnership.com or by calling the office at 219-324-8584. City Attorney Nick Otis read a question posted online: "What is the news on Newport Landing North and the EPA testing being done?" Mr. Cook responded by stating the City has been working for 20 plus years on cleaning up the area of the old Alice Chalmer's factory and that cleanup is not something that has a definitive start and stop date. This is likely something that will be on-going for a long time and testing will be done when work is completed to ensure the cleanup that has been done was successful to make sure the area is ready for development. Each parcel in this area requires different work to remediate some of the issues; before anything can be built, significant approvals through IDEM are required. The cleanup process for each parcel is different depending on the type of development going onto the parcel. Mr. Otis stated the same individual asked how much affordable housing will be included in the Beechwood Lakes project. Mayor Dermody stated the Healthcare Foundation funded a study that will be shown to the City Council at the first meeting in February. Mayor Dermody stated he believes this will show that housing of all types is needed.

Fire: Chief Snyder reported the Fire Commission met and made the appropriate promotions to take the place of the retired firefighters. Tom Lusco was promoted to Captain, Eddie Wineland was promoted to Captain, Steve Klimczack was promoted to Battalion Chief, and Mike Boardman was promoted to Fire Inspector.

Police: Chief Brettin reported Northwest Health donated tourniquets to all the patrol officers and thanked them for their donation. In addition, Chief Brettin stated they are still hiring. Mayor Dermody asked Chief Brettin to speak about people walking up to people's homes and reminded the public to call 9-1-1. Chief Brettin stated they have been called for individuals walking up to people's homes, one individual they were able to find had previous burglary charges. Chief Brettin reminded the public to call 9-1-1 if they encounter anyone around their home, do not confront anyone yourself.

Street/Code: Jeff Batchelor reported they have been working on the tree stumps and have taken down 116 of them; there are approximately 500 that need to be taken down. Mr. Batchelor reported they are also fixing potholes and water cuts today as long as the weather cooperates. The Code department is currently working on getting boarded up houses from fires cleaned up, including the American Rubber factory that had the fire.

New Business:

Tour De La Porte

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented a request from the YMCA for their annual Tour De La Porte half marathon, 5k walk and run, and a 1.5 mile fun walk/run. Ms. Loeffler presented their liability insurance and their map, which is the exact same map that has been used previously.

Motion/Vote – Approve of Tour De La Porte

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Tour De La Porte as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and passed 2-0. Member Romine abstained from the vote.

Request for Use: Plaza 618 Winterfest

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Plaza 618 Winterfest for the Park Department. Ms. Loeffler stated they are not asking to close Plaza 618 or any streets, just requesting permission to use the plaza for the ice sculptures.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Plaza 618 Winterfest

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Plaza 618 Winterfest as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Grangemouth Street

Park Director Mark Schreiber presented a Request for Use: Grangemouth Street. Mr. Schreiber stated the request is to use the street for the horse-drawn wagon rides on January 29, 2023 from 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., not to close the street

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Grangemouth Street

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

Parking Ticket Appeal: #62255

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Parking Ticket Appeal: #62255. Ms. Loeffler stated the ticket was issued on December 27th, 2022 in the 600 block of Jefferson, ticket number 68985. Ms. Loeffler stated the gentleman that is appealing the ticket is present and his reason for appeal is because he was unable to park on the correct side of the street due to snow blocking it.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Parking Ticket Appeal: #62255

Ms. Romine made a motion to void parking ticket number 68985; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Real Property Purchase Agreement

City Attorney Nick Otis requested Real Property Purchase agreement to be tabled. Attorney Otis stated he looked at the statute and the Council does have to pass a resolution first on this purchase agreement.

Motion/Vote – Approval to table Real Property Purchase Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to table Real Property Purchase Agreement until the next meeting; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Contract: Flock Cameras

Chief Brettin presented a contract for flock cameras. Chief Brettin stated the contract was provided to City Attorney Nick Otis to review. Chief Brettin stated this is the system discussed in previous a previous meeting that will read license plates as they go by, if there is a want on the vehicles it alerts law enforcement of the location of the vehicle. Chief Brettin stated the intention is to put 11 of the flock cameras at all of the entrances of the city. These cameras will work in conjunction with flock cameras located in other towns and cities as well. Chief Brettin stated the cameras are maintained by the company; the city does not have to insure them and is not responsible for replacing them in they are damaged. Chief Brettin stated the cameras will be installed 6-8 weeks after the contract is signed due to needing INDOT permissions. Chief Brettin requested permission to sign the contract, once completely reviewed by legal.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Contract: Flock Cameras

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Contract: Flock Cameras after review by legal; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Specialty Pay for Lateral Transfer

Chief Brettin presented Request for Specialty Pay for Lateral Transfer. Chief Brettin stated the Merit Commission has offered a conditional offer of employment to Richard Simpson. He has eight years of experience and will come with a canine that still has a couple years of service left. Chief Brettin requests to start this officer at specialist pay for his years of service.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Specialty Pay for Lateral Transfer

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Specialty Pay for Lateral Transfer as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

GreatNews.Life Annual Agreement

Communications Director Jessica Bruder presented GreatNews.Life Annual Agreement. Ms. Bruder stated they have been an incredible partner to the City of La Porte, they do a lot for the City. Ms. Bruder stated they meet with us quarterly to talk about things that upcoming in

the City in order for their writers to write pieces about them. In addition, they do a lot in terms of social media and spreading awareness about City events and recently came and did free headshots for all city employees.

Motion/Vote – Approval of GreatNews.Life Annual Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve GreatNews.Life Annual Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Project Swaddle MOA

Chief Snyder presented Project Swaddle MOA. Chief Snyder stated they were approached by Franciscan Health about a grant that they had received called Project Swaddle, which is not a full community paramedicine program. This program deals includes prenatal and postpartum visits to homes of mothers and expectant mothers. Chief Snyder stated there is more that will be coming for this program but this first step is to equip the department with a vehicle for this. The MOA presented is to purchase a truck in the amount of \$49,990. Chief Snyder stated the MOA is from Indiana Rural Health, the governing body for the grant. Franciscan felt it would be better for the truck to be purchased directly by the City of La Porte and for the MOA to come from Indiana Rural Health. Future ones will come from Franciscan. Chief Snyder stated the department does have five individuals, two paramedics and three EMTs that are excited for this program. Chief Snyder asked for approval to accept this MOA and to purchase this vehicle for \$49,990.

Mr. Kosior questioned if future maintenance of the vehicle would be included in the MOA or who would be in charge of future maintenance. Chief Snyder stated the department would take on the responsibility of future vehicle maintenance. The vehicle, once purchased will be city property. Mr. Kosior questioned if there is training that will be involved for the individuals that are involved. Chief Snyder stated there will be extensive training that will be received and this will not affect manpower as this will be done off duty and compensation will go through Franciscan.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Project Swaddle MOA

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Project Swaddle MOA as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Hauled Wastewater Permits

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Hauled Wastewater Permits. Mr. Jackson presented permit renewals from K-Fex INC, Johnson Septic, D&M Excavating, Jagged Trucking, Delta Industrial, and Sudlow Excavating. Mr. Jackson stated all of these companies are in good standing and provide a good source of income for the city and recommends renewal for their permits.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Hauled Wastewater Permits

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Hauled Wastewater Permits as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Permission to Bid Letters and Numbers

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Permission to Bid Letters and Numbers. Mr. Jackson stated this is the sewer separation project initiated for drainage but it a joint project between water, sewer, and engineering. This project will be funded by the 2021 Sewer and Storm bonds, water department capital funds, and Community Crossing Paving Grants. Mr. Jackson stated they would receive bids and award in February for Spring construction.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Permission to Bid Letters and Numbers

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Permission to Bid Letters and Numbers as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Permission to Solicit Quotes for Scum Pump Improvements

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Permission to Solicit Quotes for Scum Pump Improvements. Mr. Jackson stated the board approved the purchase of the new scum pump last year and this is for bidding the installation.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Permission to Solicit Quotes for Scum Pump Improvements

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Permission to Solicit Quotes for Scum Pump Improvements as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Phosphorus Pay Request #9

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Phosphorus Pay Request #9 in the amount of \$80,960 and brings the project to 76%. Mr. Jackson reiterated that they are doing good work and his trying to speed them up and does recommend approval of payment.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Phosphorus Pay Request #9

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Phosphorus Pay Request #9 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

NIES Proposal for General Engineering Services

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented NIES Proposal for General Engineering Services. Mr. Jackson stated the board passed this same agreement last year, it is only good for a year. This agreement is for miscellaneous engineering work. This agreement is not to exceed \$2,000 per month.

Motion/Vote – Approval of NIES Proposal for General Engineering Services

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve NIES Proposal for General Engineering Services as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and passed 2-0. Member Romine abstained from the vote.

Propane Bid Recommendation

TransPorte Director Beth West presented Propane Bid Recommendation. Ms. West stated because over \$50,000 is spent per year, NIRPC has to be involved because of the

reimbursement from FTA. Ms. West stated two bids were received and recommends going with Feral gas as they came in much lower per gallon. Jamie Novak read the recommendation of City Engineer Nick Minich. Mr. Minich stated he would recommend to award Feral Gas for the fixed price of \$1.79 per gallon or \$52,200 for the thirty thousand gallons that will be supplied. Feral Gas was the most responsive bidder with only a nine cent difference between fixed price. Mayor Dermody questioned if TransPorte had ever used Feral Gas before. Ms. West stated not that she is aware of, Co-Alliance has always been used. The current equipment belongs to Co-Alliance and will be replaced by equipment from Feral Gas.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Propane Bid Recommendation

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Propane Bid Recommendation as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Accept Bids and Award Recommendation for City Refuse and Yard Waste

Jamie Novak presented Accept Bids and Award Recommendation for City Refuse and Yard Waste on behalf of City Engineer Nick Minich. Ms. Novak stated on January 11, 2023 at 10 A.M. in the Council Chambers bids were received and opened, a total of five bid responses were received and two companies submitted letters declining interest in bidding. Four of the five bids submitted included base bid amounts and the fifth bid submitted specifically for alternative bid, essentially a la carte services. Ms. Novak stated Mr. Minich's is requesting the board to accept the submitted bids for review and recommendation at the next scheduled meeting. Ms. Romine questioned when the new contract would start. Ms. Novak responded by stating she believes it is March.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Accept Bids and Award Recommendation for City Refuse and Yard Waste

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Accept Bids and Award Recommendation for City Refuse and Yard waste as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Tabled: Loniewski Annexation Agreement

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Loniewski Annexation Agreement. Attorney Otis stated this is a short agreement with the Loniewski's as part of the annexation of Pine Lake North. Attorney Otis stated the parcels that the Loniewski's own, one was part of the annexation and one was not and this formalizes the agreement in terms of what they are allowed to do on this property. Mayor Dermody stated he had met with the Loniewski's and they have been very helpful and supportive of this process and they have an understanding of the water issue.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Loniewski Annexation Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Loniewski Annexation Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and passed 2-0. Member Romine abstained from the vote.

Other Business:

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 9 A.M. Mayor Dermody reminded everyone that Monday February 6, 2023, the Healthcare Foundation will be providing the Housing Study Report during the Council Meeting at 6 P.M. in Council Chambers. Attorney Otis stated Mr. Miller commented online that he wants to understand why developers that get tax abatements or incentives do not have to offer affordable housing. Mayor Dermody responded by stating there is always an interesting thought on what is affordable but the City will continue to work with developers on all types of housing. Mayor Dermody stated that one thing the housing study is going to show is that those individuals with higher incomes are the ones occupying the moderate cost housing. Mayor Dermody stated they are excited to provide housing of all kinds. Mayor Dermody reminded the public if you are aware of individuals that are in need of housing to reach out to City Hall as we continue to help places people in housing every day. Mr. Kosior stated it is important to have the right blend of housing types at a variety of income levels in order to maintain a diverse community; the supply of housing should match the demand not just focusing on low income housing or high income housing.

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: February 7, 2023