

February 7, 2023

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in special session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mark Kosior, Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine: Present for trash bid consideration only.

Absent:

Matt Drangmeister 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

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermo and unanimously carried.

Swear In New Police Officer: Richard Simpson Jr.

Public Comment

None

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from January 20, 2023 in the amount of \$504,417.44

Motion/Vote – Approval of January 20, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the January 6, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented January 25, 2023 Fire Special Pay – 2022 Attendance for two Firefighters in the amount of \$1,420.30.

Motion/Vote – Approval of January 25, 2023 Fire Special Pay – 2022 Attendance

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve January 25, 2023 Fire Special Pay – 2022 Attendance as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from February 3, 2023 in the amount of \$463,710.03.

Motion/Vote – Approval of February 3, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve February 3, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parhtun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,247,388.18.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$1,323,984.71.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$289,004.40.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

La Porte City BTMA Scope P 2024

Clerk Treasurer Parthun presented La Porte City BTMA Scope P 2024. Clerk Treasurer Parthun stated this is renewed on an annual basis and asked the board to renew the engagement letter with Baker Tilly for assistance with budget and other consulting services. Mr. Kosior questioned who pays for the services Baker Tilly provides. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated they are paid for out of CEDIT Consulting Services.

Motion/Vote – Approval of La Porte City BTMA Scope P 2024

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve La Porte City BTMA Scope P 2024 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Invoice Cloud Change Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Invoice Cloud Change Approval. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated there is currently a payment cap of \$150 with a \$3.95 per transaction fee. This will remove the cap but will keep the \$3.95 minimum fee and anything over this amount will be a 2.65% charge or convenience fee. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated this came about because the city currently pays the convenience fee for the individuals that utilize their checking account to auto pay their utility bill and there are approximately 12 customers that utilize the phone system to pay their utility bill. The phone system cannot differentiate between a credit card and ACH so both are receiving the fees. Education will be passed along to the residents in the hopes of more individuals utilizing the auto debit feature and eliminating residents paying these fees.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Invoice Cloud Change Approval

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Invoice Cloud Change Approval as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

Park: Park Directory Mark Schreiber thanked the staff for the Winterfest activities. Mr. Schreiber reminded the community that youth sports registration is ongoing, and the Civic Auditorium will have 10 Band, a Pearl Jam tribute band, this weekend.

City Planner: City Planner Craig Phillips reported there is a meeting tonight at 5 P.M. immediately following the Traffic Commission meeting, for the presentation of the parking study that was recently completed. Mayor Dermody requested Mr. Phillips to briefly touch on the housing study. Mr. Phillips stated a presentation was given at last night's City Council meeting of the recently completed housing study. This study looks at housing from a comprehensive standpoint as far as needs and recommendations for housing for the community going forward. This study will be available on The Healthcare Foundation of La Porte's website as well as the City's website.

Code: Dan Drakes reported they are at almost 400 violations and are currently work with Nick Owens in the Engineering Department to get open gov set up for fines and reporting violations.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reported the Healthcare Foundation has already uploaded the housing study to their website and a link to that study will be added to the City's website today. In addition, Ms. Bruder reported they are doing a ticket giveaway for the 10 Band concert at the Civic Auditorium this weekend: two groups of four floor tickets. To enter to win these tickets, all you have to do is go to the Facebook page and comment your favorite Pearl Jam song. A sweetheart package was just released for the Civic Concert series, just in time for Valentines Day. This package includes two floor seats to Jump, a VanHalen tribute band, and two floor seats to Grand Illusion, a Stix tribute band. This is a \$130 value for \$75.

Street: Street Director Mike Frazee reported they are out stump grinding, patching, and crumb rubber.

TransPorte: TransPorte Director Beth West provided an update on the propane switchover. Feral Gas has ordered all the parts for the propane, and they will not be in until the end of February or beginning of March. The transition is expected to be seamless. Mayor Dermody questioned if Ms. West could foresee any potential issues with the transition. Ms. West stated she does not and Feral Gas has stated if there are any issues, they will provide a truck on site they will be able to use to fill so there is no interruption or disruption to services for the community.

LEAP: Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership thanked Mayor Dermody and Julie West. Last week they had approximately 40 downtown businesses at a Whole World of Good for a downtown round table where there was discussion of a variety of issues the downtown businesses face, including the truck traffic. Mr. Cook also thanked County Councilman Randy Novak who came to this meeting to listen to the concerns of the downtown businesses. 100% of the downtown businesses are in support of truck traffic finding and alternative route, other than traveling Lincolnway.

Fire: Fire Chief Snyder reported Cameron Watt accepted a position with the department and will start with the Regional Academy on Monday February 13, 2023. In addition, Patrick Roy accepted a position with the department and will start on February 27, 2023. Chief Snyder stated the position Cameron is filling has been vacant for almost a year.

Police: Chief Brettin reported they are moving ahead with hiring; the Merit Commission has offered a conditional offer to an officer that is currently going through the PERF process and another individual with Academy. In addition, Chief Brettin reported the Flock Cameras are moving along, everything is waiting on INDOT now, it is approximately eight weeks out.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner stated he wanted to make the public aware, maintenance crews are working on planning projects that are done in-house to correlate with the paving list, so new roads are not being torn up. Maintenance crews were busy over the weekend with three active main breaks and are currently working on a main break on East Lincolnway. Mr. Werner asked the public to drive carefully through those work sites.

New Business:

Parking Ticket Appeal: #8342XE

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Parking Ticket Appeal: #8342XE. Ms. Loeffler stated the appeal is for ticket number 6255. Ms. Loeffler stated the appeal form states the ticket that was written was not for their car, nothing written on the ticket matches their car; their car was not parked anywhere near where the ticket states, the ticket was sent to the individual with a different name. Ms. Loeffler stated she sent this information to the officers and the officer responded by stating he apologizes and believes he made an error and asks that the ticket be voided.

Motion/Vote – Parking Ticket Appeal: #8342XE

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Parking Ticket Appeal: #8342XE as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Purchase Agreement – Barr Property

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Purchase Agreement – Barr Property. Attorney Otis stated this purchase agreement is for the city to purchase 1.39 acres from Rhoda farms. This was passed by resolution at last night's City Council meeting. Attorney Otis stated two appraisers were appointed on this, per statute, and the average of the two appraisals was \$45,500 and the city has agreed to pay Rhoda Farms \$35,000. Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson stated

this parcel of land will be used to handle the solids from the VAC trucks and potentially the street sweepers.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Purchase Agreement – Barr Property

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Purchase Agreement – Barr Property as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

239 Factory Street Easement for Parking, Ingress & Egress

City Attorney Nick Otis presented 239 Factory Street Easement for Parking, Ingress & Egress. Attorney Otis stated this is not a sale and the city has worked with Crossroad Holding LLC on this. This is simply for a property owner to use a city easement for parking.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 239 Factory Street Easement for Parking, Ingress & Egress

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve 239 Factory Street Easement for Parking, Ingress & Egress as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Update Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Update Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mayor Dermody requested Matt Drangmeister to speak on behalf of the changes made to the police CBA. Officer Drangmeister stated the changes that were made include adding a second tier to the physical agility; tier one being the entrance standards with some alternatives to get more cooperation. This will be done twice per year with a payout of \$350 with each successful passing. The second tier is the exit standards of the police academy and is more difficult to pass. This will be done twice per year with a payout of \$500. The second change is officer in charge pay. Officers that fill in for a captain or corporal that is absent, they will be compensated for that pay level with a minimum of four hours being worked before compensation begins. The third and final change discussed was clothing allowance. Mr. Kosior questioned the level of participation from the departments prior to the changes. Officer Drangmeister stated the Police Department has on average nine to twelve participants. Chief Snyder stated the Fire Department has on average 30-35 participants.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Update Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Update Police Collective Bargaining Agreement; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Update Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Update Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement. Chief Snyder stated the changes are similar to the police changes, including a second tier on physical testing. The clothing allowance does not include turnout gear, the city is federally mandated to replace turnout gear due to the potential high cost of replacement.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Update Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Update Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Job Descriptions

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented five job descriptions. The first four are new positions: Mental Health Professional for the Police Department, Resource Specialist with the Police Department, Water Quality Supervisor, Senior Center Assistant. Ms. Smith stated the Water Quality Supervisor is a modified position and an original job description could not be found so she worked with Water Superintendent Tim Werner to create the job description. The Senior Center Assistant position was in the budget and Ms. Smith worked with the Park Department to create the job description; this is not a new position but a new title and new duties, therefore essentially a new position was created. Ms. Smith thanked HealthLinc for providing the cost for Mental Health Resource position, the city will be covering the health coverage portion.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Job Descriptions

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Job Descriptions as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Ms. Smith presented a fifth and final job description, Civic Auditorium part-time laborer. This is not a new position; it is an update as the last update was done in 2015. Ms. Smith stated this position is just being up to date to 2023 standards.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civic Auditorium Job Description

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Civic Auditorium Job Description as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Memorandum of Understanding: HealthLinc - PPD

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented Memorandum of Understanding: HealthLinc – PPD. Ms. Smith stated this is for the Mental Health Professional position with the Police Department paid for by HealthLinc. This lays out the qualifications that need to be met in order to keep the position. Ms. Smith stated this has been reviewed and approved by City Attorney Nick Otis.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding: HealthLinc - PPD

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding: HealthLinc - PPD as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Engagement Letter: CS&Z

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented Engagement Letter: CS&Z. Ms. Smith stated this letter of engagement is to help assist with worker's compensation issues. Ms. Smith stated City Attorney Otis has reviewed and approved this.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Engagement Letter: CS&Z

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Engagement Letter: CS&Z as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Engagement Letter: Waggoner Irwin Scheel & Assc

Human Resources Director Andrea Smith presented Engagement Letter: Waggoner Irwin Scheel & Assc. This agreement is for a job classification and compensation study; this does not include Police and Fire at this point, but it can be included if they desire. This will begin March 2023. Mr. Kosior questioned if this is a one-time thing or if this is ongoing. Ms. Smith stated it will be a one-time agreement but they will come back and help tweak job descriptions if needed.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Engagement Letter: Waggoner Irwin Scheel & Assc

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Engagement Letter: Waggoner Irwin Scheel & Assc as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Sale of Excess Property

Street Director Mike Frazee presented Sale of Excess Property. Mr. Frazee stated they have excess equipment, including pickups and two electric cars that are unrepairable. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated the memo provides the VIN for each vehicle and the intention is to scrap the vehicles.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sale of Excess Property

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Sale of Excess Property as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Monroe Manor Pay Application 013 and Pay Application 014

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Monroe Manor Pay Application 013 in the amount of \$206,364.37.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Monroe Manor Pay Application 013

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Monroe Manor Pay Application 013 and Pay Application 014 presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Monroe Manor Pay Application 014

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Monroe Manor Pay Application 014 in the amount of \$73,169.95. This brings the overall project to 99.5%. The remaining balance is retainage.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Monroe Manor Pay Application 014

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Monroe Manor Pay Application 014 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody questioned Mr. Jackson how the Phosphorus Removal project was coming along. Mr. Jackson stated it is moving along and they anticipate its completion in time to be compliant. Mr. Kosior questioned if there would be an interruption to service. Mr. Jackson stated there would be none. Mr. Jackson also stated there was a gas leak at the treatment

plant. NIPSCO did have to shut off the gas for a day and the leak could not be located. Mr. Jackson stated there is a crew that will be out tomorrow to start work as this is an emergency. Mr. Jackson stated they will be spending the money in order to include valves in the replacement to be able to isolate potential future leaks.

C.H.A.A.P.C. Contract 39n Annexation

City Planner Craig Phillips presented C.H.A.A.P.C. Contract 39n Annexation in the amount \$8,450 due to the extensive work involved. Mr. Phillips stated this contract is to develop the legal description for the annexation of 39 N. Mr. Phillips states the description involves a lot of railroad right of ways and state highway right of ways. Mr. Phillips states this is a critical first step in this process.

Motion/Vote – Approval of C.H.A.A.P.C. Contract 39n Annexation

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve C.H.A.A.P.C. Contract 39n Annexation as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Baker Tilly Contract 39N Annexation

City Planner Craig Phillips presented Baker Tilly Contract 39N Annexation. Mr. Phillips stated this is for help with developing the fiscal plan; State Statute requires the development of a fiscal plan document that looks at fiscal impacts of annexation on the city. This will take a detailed look at every city department and service and the financial impacts that are associated with the proposed area. The estimated amount is to not exceed \$8,000.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Baker Tilly Contract 39N Annexation

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Baker Tilly Contract 39N Annexation as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Grant Agreement with Attachments SALP PY21

CDBG Director Mary Ann Richards presented Grant Agreement with Attachments SALP PY21. This is a grant agreement for the Salvation Army in La Porte for Community Development Block Grant COVID Dollars in the amount of \$20,000. This money can only be used to prepare for, respond to, or prevent COVID. This money will go toward the Salvation Army Food Panty for those individuals that are directly affected by COVID.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Grant Agreement with Attachments SALP PY 21

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Grant Agreement with Attachments SALP PY21 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Open Quotes for: Fairway Mower, Aerator and Rough Mower

Kyle Cashmer presented Open Quotes for: Fairway Mower, Aerator, and Rough Mower. Mr. Cashmer stated they currently have two fairway mowers from: a 2010 with 3500 hours and a 2013 Toro that has 4500 hours. Two of the rough mowers have 4600 and 5600 hours and there is currently no working aerator, this is hired out at the cost of \$4,000 per year. Mr. Cashmer stated the last used equipment was purchased in 2018 and typically you look for

used equipment to last 4-5 years. The first quote is for 2013 John Deere fairway mower in the amount of \$19,995 plus transportation. The second quote is for a 2013 John Deere terrain cut rotary mower, a rough mower, in the amount of \$14,995. The third quote is for John Deere Aerator in the amount of \$32,800.49.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Quotes for: Fairway Mower, Aerator and Rough Mower

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Quotes for: Mower, Aerator and Rough Mower as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Member Romine joined the Board of Works meeting via Zoom.

Bid Recommendations: 2023-26 Waste Contract

Jamie Novak presented Bid Recommendations: 2023-26 Waste Contract on behalf of the City Engineer Nick Minch who was not present. Ms. Novak read Mr. Minich's recommendation that stated based on factors received at this time he would recommend the Board to award the 2023-2026 Refuse and Yard Waste Collection Contract to Borden Waste-Away Services. Mayor Dermody asked that both groups present to the Board to get clarification.

Matt McCoy, Borden Waste-Away Services, thanked the board for getting them this far in the bidding process. Mr. McCoy stated it is great the city is going with carted trash; it will be a big improvement for the residents. Mr. McCoy stated their base bid is for carted trash and manual pickup for yard waste with a base bid of \$13.69 and \$8.55. Mr. McCoy stated their base bid included picking up yard waste in a separate truck. Mr. McCoy stated because they knew they had an alternate opportunity, this is not their preferred number for the City but they bid it the best way they thought it was to spec it. Mayor Dermody clarified that for refuse collection and disposal only it is \$13.69. Mr. McCoy confirmed this amount. Mayor Dermody asked Mr. McCoy to explain 3A option one, which is the 15 cents. Mr. McCoy stated this additional 15 cents is an alternate to include yard waste in regular refuse collection, where residents would dispose of their yard waste in their trash cart. This would eliminate separate yard waste collection and the \$8.55. Mayor Dermody questioned if yard waste would need to be bagged in order to be disposed of in the cart. Mr. McCoy stated they do recommend bagging all refuse and yard waste, however they will still pick it up even if it is not bagged. Adding yard waste to refuse collection would bring the month cost to \$13.84, which includes one 96 gallon refuse cart. Residents that may need a second cart can purchase one for an additional fee: 96 gallon cart for \$8.00, 65 gallon cart for \$6.00, or a 48 gallon cart for \$4.00, which would be paid directly to the company by the resident. Mr. McCoy stated what is asked in the base bid is for a 96 gallon cart in addition to three large bags of yard waste, which is essentially the equivalent to a second 96 gallon cart. Mr. McCoy stated this is above and beyond what they believe is standard in a Municipal Solid Waste Contract. Mayor Dermody asked what if residents would like to have their own container. Mr. McCoy stated they would recommend using their carts, not carts from another company or carts residents already utilize. Mr. McCoy stated their recommendation, if the City would like to have a separate yard waste program, is to have it collected separately and recycled. Ms. Romine questioned if there was an option to start with one option and then move to another yard waste option in the future. Mr. McCoy

that moving to an alternate yard waste option in the future is a possibility. Mayor Dermody asked what the cost would be for residents for separate yard waste removal. Mr. McCoy stated he was having trouble reading the numbers on his copy of the proposal but he believes it would be approximately \$3-\$4 per household for per household for weekly or \$2.50-\$3 for bi-weekly yard waste removal per household. Weekly or bi-weekly yard waste removal would be decided during contract negotiations. Mayor Dermody asked what the price would be for each resident to have an additional 96 gallon cart for yard waste. Mr. McCoy stated it would be an additional \$2.77 per household, for bi-weekly pickup, in addition to the \$13.84. Mr. McCoy stated there is a 2.5% inflation rate each year. Mayor Dermody questioned how many communities do a separate yard waste program. Mr. McCoy stated it is not very common for communities to do a separate yard waste program. Mayor Dermody questioned what the quality of the customer service is for the company. Mr. McCoy stated they take great pride in their customer service. They currently have 10 full-time and four part-time customer service reps and he believes they take great care of their customers. Mayor Dermody asked what the hours of residents would be able to call and speak to a live person. Mr. McCoy stated their hours of business for customer service reps are Monday – Friday 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. and Saturday 8 A.M. to 12 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. Mayor Dermody questioned if there is GPS capability to determine if someone was missed or where a truck has been. Mr. McCoy stated each truck is equipped with high-tech equipment and each customer service rep has the ability to see where the truck is currently and where it has been at a particular time during its route, in addition to taking photos if things are not out for pickup. Mr. McCoy stated they will return and pick up the trash if a resident insists on pick up and cannot wait for the next scheduled pick up but there will be a callback charged to the resident. Mayor Dermody questioned if there were any exemptions that were not shared that the city can expect if they were to get the bid. Mr. McCoy stated it was disclosed by Nick Minich that trash pickup does not start until 7 A.M. as a courtesy to residents but would like to discuss this as a 6 A.M. start time would be better for the company but nothing more in terms of exceptions or conditions to their bid. Mayor Dermody questioned where the refuse would be taken once collected. Mr. McCoy stated they typically take it to the landfill but would consider taking it to the local transfer station if requested. Mayor Dermody questioned where the recycling would go. Mr. McCoy stated they have a recycling facility where everything is sorted and then market it to the mills where it is turned into new things again. Mayor Dermody questioned how prepared they would be to start with the March 1, 2023, deadline. Mr. McCoy stated they have the trucks and the manpower to start refuse collection on March 1, 2023, however it would not be carted at that time as the carts would not be ready. Mayor Dermody asked Mr. McCoy for a hard deadline when he believes they could be ready for carted refuse removal service. Mr. McCoy stated April 1, 2023 would be pushing it but is a possibility but would be more comfortable stating May 1, 2023. They could start March 1, 2023 with manual pickup but no carts would be available. Mr. Kosior questioned if someone were to call after customer service hours and they had an issue or emergency are they able to leave a message. Mr. McCoy stated they have an after hours service that answers their calls and if it is a true emergency, they are able to reach out to the supervisor that is on call; there is a supervisor on call 24/7. There are several options to leave messages including online services to leave messages.

Kirby Dunagan with Waste Management thanked Board for their consideration. Mayor Dermody asked Mr. Dunagan to expand on their base bid amount of \$13.95, which includes yard waste. Mr. Dunagan stated the yard waste would be included in refuse removal, going into the same container and picked up at the same time. The only exceptions are, they ask no leaves are included and large branches do need to be broken down so nothing is sticking out of the cart. Yard Waste does not need to be bagged. Mr. Dunagan stated they did not include any separate yard waste removal. Mayor Dermody questioned, from a recycling perspective, where the refuse is taken once collected. Mr. Dunagan responded by stating it is taken to their transfer station and then is taken to Freecycle and trash and yard waste is taken to Prairie View Landfill in Elkhart County. Aaron Johnson, Waste Management Area Vice President, stated Waste Management has a 40 year history of servicing the residents of the City of La Porte and they have come in with the lowest bid to show their determination to get back in with the City. Mr. Johnson stated they come in at 23% cheaper than Borden. Mr. Dunagan stated their base bid includes street sweepings that will be disposed of in a landfill. Mr. Johnson stated he believes they were the only bidder to propose a natural gas fleet option which will reduce air emissions by 90% in the community. They have brand new trucks on order that will arrive within the next 60 days. The landfill is currently under construction, building a renewable natural gas plant that will utilize the gases produced by the yard waste mixed in with the refuse creates a natural gas. The carbon dioxide and some of the CO₂s are removed which produces a pipeline quality gas that is fed back into the line, making this the most sustainable option. Mayor Dermody questioned what happens with customer service. Mr. Dunagan stated their customer service hours and Monday – Friday 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturday 8 A.M. to 12 P.M. Mr. Dunagan stated they are currently working on transitioning to a self-service portal online. They can submit any issues online that will be taken care of within 24 hours. After hours there is a voicemail set up where messages can be left and are required to be responded to within 24 hours. Ms. Romine questioned Mr. Johnson if he knew why the City has switched from Waste Management to the current provider. Mr. Johnson stated it was a similar situation as the current one, they were underbid by approximately 10 cents per home. Mayor Dermody stated their offer did have a custom logo option. Mr. Dunagan stated that option is available with the seven-year deal. Mr. Johnson stated the carts have a 10 year life and after four years of use, they would not be reusable if the contract were not renewed. Mr. Dunagan stated they do have an alternative option for \$13.75 that offers the transfer station to be opened up for one month of Saturdays in the spring and one month of Saturdays in the fall for residents to bring in their own large or heavy items for disposal instead of Waste Management providing Spring and Fall cleanup. This is a 20 cent savings per household. Ms. Romine stated she believes it is better for residents to be able to dispose of these items at the street because not all residents have the ability to get these items to the transfer system. Mayor Dermody asked the reasons for the approximate 26% increase from our current rates. Mr. Dunagan responded by stating it is just the cost of doing business. They are raising rates for drivers in order to keep drivers and expenses to maintain trucks. Mayor Dermody questioned if they would be able to provide carts by March 1, 2023. Mr. Dunagan stated they have the similar concerns as Borden, they will be ready for service by March 1, 2023 but will not be able to provide new carts at that time. They are currently at an eight week turnaround time for new carts. Mayor Dermody asked Member Kosior and Member Romine if they were

comfortable without making a motion and voting on this today. Both Member Kosior and Member Romine both stated they would be comfortable without making a motion today. Mr. McCoy reiterated what he stated earlier by stating again their base bid is not their best bid and on their alternate bids, they should be the clear low bidder without the street sweepings. Mr. McCoy stated they have recently acquired an excavating company and he believes they can turn the street sweepings back into fill for commercial areas. Mayor Dermody questioned Attorney Otis if they were permitted to contact each provider separately with questions outside of a public meeting. Attorney Otis stated because this is not a bid it is a contract for services, they are able to contact them with questions. Mr. Kosior questioned if the city will continue to have trash services until the new service providers are taken care of. Mayor Dermody stated he has a meeting with RTS to extend the contract 30-60 days and does anticipate an issue.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 9 A.M.

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: February 22, 2023