

April 4, 2023

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine

Absent: Mark Kosior

Pledge of Allegiance

Beth West 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 made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from March 31, 2023 in the amount of \$467,261.17.

Motion/Vote – Approval of March 31, 2023 Payroll

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the March 31, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Quarter One Quarterly Payroll in the amount of \$1,926.88.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Q1 Quarterly Payroll

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Quarter One Quarterly Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$680,515.94.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

Ms. Romine 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 \$118,183.68.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

Ms. Romine moved 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 \$35,499.10.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Conflict of Interest Forms

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Conflict of Interest forms, an annual process for anyone with a conflict of interest with the City of La Porte, for the following individuals: Councilman Paul Vincent, Mayor Dermody, Arno Pressler, Bid President Thaddeus Cutler, Councilwoman Laura Cutler, and Councilman Tim Franke. These forms are available to the public and are filed with the county and posted on the State of Indiana Gateway website.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Conflict of Interest Forms

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Conflict of Interest Forms as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Vehicle Inventory

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Vehicle Inventory. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated this will be updated after today, as there are leased vehicles that will be added as they are approved and then throughout the year as vehicles change. State Statute requires the vehicle inventory list to be approved by the board of works.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Vehicle Inventory

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Vehicle Inventory as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Credit Card Inventory

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Credit Card Inventory. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated this is also required by State Statute. The changes made for 2023 are phasing out Wells Fargo credit cards and issuing 1st Source credit cards. The previous credit limit with Wells Fargo was \$125,000 and has been lowered to \$67,000 with 1st Source because at this time there is not a need for the credit limit to be that high.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Credit Card Inventory

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Credit Card Inventory as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reported there are a lot of upcoming events and they have recently launched the La Porte Events Memberships for 2023. This is something new that is being tried and will help fund the Civic Concert Series, Friday Night Live events, LaPour, the Santa Parade and potentially a few others. The membership comes with exclusive benefits including notoriety access to pre-sale tickets among other things. Information regarding these memberships can be found at livinthelakelife.org

TransPorte: TransPorte Director Beth West reported the propane replacement that was supposed to happen today will be pushed to tomorrow.

Park: Superintendent of Parks and Rec Mark Schreiber expressed his condolences to the family of Chris Miller, a mechanic at the department that passed away. In addition, Mr. Schreiber stated the restrooms will be open to the public starting April 15, 2023; this is the date that they are always open.

Mayor Dermody initiated a moment of silence for Chris Miller and his family and requested Mr. Schreiber to let him know if the family needed anything.

Code/Street: Director of Central Services Jeff Batchelor reported the street department is currently patching potholes and asks for the public's patience as this is going to take time. Mr. Batchelor also stated they are hanging banners on Lincolnway and asked drivers to be aware and careful of the crew. Mr. Batchelor also reported this month they will be targeting abandoned houses within the Code Department.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich reported the Chessie Trail Phase II project is going well. People will notice they are skipping blocks; this is to be able to keep an ADA path of travel with minimal diversion. In addition, Mr. Minich reported work should start within the next couple of weeks on the repaving of Truesdale Ave.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported they had issues with NIPSCO transformers during Friday night's storms that burnt up a couple of pumps on Lane Street causing approximately \$16,000 worth of damage. Mr. Jackson stated he is going to try and get reimbursed for the repairs. Mr. Jackson reported they have received a grant for two Ford Lightnings but is not sure when they will receive them. Mr. Jackson stated they have finally figured out the right dose in the right place for the phosphorus chemical and have been in compliance since last week. Mayor Dermody questioned Mr. Jackson if there were any calls with basement backups from Friday's weather. Mr. Jackson stated there were none. Mayor Dermody reminded the community about the basement backup grant program and to take advantage if needed.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reminded the public that they are starting the spring flushing program that will run for approximately three to four weeks and will take place during the hours of 8 P.M. and 5 A.M. Mr. Werner stated that if any residents happen to have

a load of laundry going during this time that they should contact the Water Department at 219-326-9540 to request a bottle of iron out. Mr. Werner expressed the importance of those clothes not being placed into the dryer before they are rewashed as the dryer will set the rust in and it may not come out.

New Business:

Amend Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Approved February 7, 2023

Attorney Jim Kaminski presented Amend Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Approved February 7, 2023. Attorney Kaminski stated one minor change needed to be made to the lower tier fitness bonus with the 300-yard dash. The contract remains the same other than this minor change.

Motion/Vote – Approve Amend Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Approved February 7, 2023

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Amend Police Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

State Street Parking Lot – Parcel ID: 460635412002000043

Attorney Jim Kaminski presented State Street Parking Lot – Parcel ID: 460635412002000043. Attorney Kaminski stated the Board of Works has the option under the code to have as its best use to an adjoining landowner. Attorney Kaminski stated at the request of City Attorney Nick Otis the request is to let the property out for sale to an adjoining landowner.

Motion/Vote – Approve State Street Parking Lot – Parcel ID: 460635412002000043

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve State Street Parking Lot – Parcel ID: 460635412002000043 as presented; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Officer Resignation

Chief Brettin presented a letter of resignation from Officer Erin Jenkins and requests the Board accepts the resignation and give the Merit Commission permission to fill the vacancy. Chief Brettin stated there is already someone in queue that has police academy and experience.

Motion/Vote - Approve Officer Resignation

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Officer Resignation and permission to fill vacancy as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Vehicle Leases

Chief Brettin presented four vehicle leases. Chief Brettin stated this is a continuation of the leases that will be coming in and there are no monetary changes. Chief Brettin stated some of the vehicles are going from SUVs to sedans because they are cheaper and better on gas.

Motion/Vote – Approve Vehicle Leases

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Vehicle Leases as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Contract and Invoice for Purchase of La Porte K9 Kennel

Chief Brettin presented Contract and Invoice for Purchase of La Porte K9. Chief Brettin stated Officer Rico that came from North Judson and brought his K9 only has a few more days of training and then he will be on his own. A new dog kennel, poppers, and everything that is needed costs approximately \$4500. The North Judson police department is willing to sell their new dog kennel and everything for \$1500. Chief Brettin requested permission to purchase from North Judson Police Department. Chief Brettin stated the cost will come from the K9 fund which is 100% donations.

Motion/Vote – Approve Contract and Invoice for Purchase of La Porte K9 Kennel

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Contract and Invoice for Purchase of La Porte K9 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

FMK9 Contract

Chief Brettin presented FMK9 Contract. Chief Brettin stated this contract is for a new dog and training. There is a discount being offered because they have gone through FMK9 before. Chief Brettin stated Officer Feldmeier will pick up the dog on the 16th and then training will begin. This will be purchased through the K9 account, which is all donations.

Motion/Vote - Approve FMK9 Contract

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve FMK9 contract as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Generator Maintenance Agreement

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented two generator maintenance proposals. The first proposal is from Buckeye in the amount of \$5,445 and the second proposal is from Herrman and Goetz in the amount of \$8,396.26. Mr. Jackson stated Herrman and Goetz has been a long-term contractor and Buckeye has been doing maintenance for the past year on the generator on Truesdale and then one on Lane as well. Mr. Jackson stated they have done good work and their proposal is cheaper and he feels comfortable and therefore recommends approval for the generator maintenance agreement should go to Buckeye.

Motion/Vote – Approve Generator Maintenance Agreement

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Generator Maintenance Agreement as presented; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Sewer Vac Truck Bids

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented two standalone sewer vac truck bids from Sourcewell. Mr. Jackson stated Sourcewell has equipment that has already been bid and if you choose Sourcewell equipment, you have satisfied the required bid process and purchase.

Mr. Jackson stated he got a bid for Vactor brand truck in the amount of \$565,395.30 and one for a Vac-Con truck in the amount of \$556,130. Mr. Jackson stated the Vac-Con truck can only source a Freightliner Chassie and they had a lot of issues with the Freightliner Chassie on their previous truck and would not like to have another one. Mr. Jackson recommends the contract go to Vactor. Mr. Jackson stated it is the more expensive option, but the crew has tested both trucks and the entire crew felt the Vactor truck is the best option.

Motion/Vote – Approve Sewer Vac Truck Bids

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Sewer Vac Truck Bids as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Basement Backup Grant: 815 Eason Ct

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson stated the plumber has not yet submitted their quote and therefore he does not have any numbers. Mr. Jackson requested approval of the 815 Eason Ct backup grant not to exceed the stop/loss amount of \$5,000.

Motion/Vote – Approve Basement Backup Grant: 815 Eason Ct

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Basement Backup Grant: 815 Eason Ct, not to exceed the stop loss of \$5,000.; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Monroe Manor Pay Request #15

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Monroe Manor Final Pay Request in the amount of \$41,303.60. This brings the project to 100% less retainage.

Motion/Vote – Approve Monroe Manor Pay Request #15

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Monroe Manor Pay Request #15 as presented; motion was seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Monroe Manor Pay Request #16

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Monroe Manor Pay Request #16 in the amount of \$169,968.80. This is 100% retainage. Mayor Dermody questioned Mr. Jackson if he was pleased with their work. Mr. Jackson stated he has been pleased with their work and noted they will be doing work with the Letters and Numbers Project.

Motion/Vote - Approve Monroe Manor Pay Request #16

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Monroe Manor Pay Request #16 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Torino Lot Purchase

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented Torino Lot Purchase. Mr. Jackson stated this would enable access for the contractor to the parcel traded from the school system. Mr. Jackson stated he has received one bid and is waiting for the second bid to come in. Mr. Jackson requests the board's approval for the purchase contingent on the second bid coming in under \$25,000. Attorney Kominski clarified for the Board that the request would be that

the purchase price be based on the average of the appraisal received and the second one so long as it is under \$25,000 for the average of the two appraisals.

Motion/Vote – Approve Torino Lot Purchase

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Torino Lot Purchase as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Other Business

The next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 9 A.M. Mayor Dermody thanked the residents for their support and understanding during the transition from RTS to Waste Management. Mayor Dermody urged anyone with questions or concerns to call City Hall.

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: April 18, 2022