

July 6, 2023

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mark Kosior, Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine

Absent: None

Dan Steiner 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 Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

None

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from June 23 2023 in the amount of \$517,076.01.

Motion/Vote – Approval of June 23, 2023 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the June 23, 2023 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Q2 Quarterly Payroll in the amount of \$1926.88.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Q2 Quarterly Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Q2 Quarterly Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$57,439.96.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$95,335.06.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,897,165.17. This includes several semi-annual bond payments.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

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

New Business:

Request for Half Day for Employees to Attend La Porte County Fair

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Half Day for Employees to Attend La Porte County Fair. This is a half day paid for all full-time employees. Mr. Kosior questioned if this had been done before. Ms. Loeffler stated that she requests a half day each year for all full-time employees and to her knowledge, it has always been approved.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Half Day for Employees to Attend La Porte County Fair

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Half Day for Employees to Attend La Porte County Fair as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Steiner Homes Development Agreement

City Planner Craig Phillips presented Steiner Homes Development Agreement. The development agreement states that Steiner Homes will pay \$171,700, which is the average of two appraisals, in exchange for the improvements shown on the site plan. The site plan is the development of 22-24 paired homes. Mr. Phillips stated that we have agreed in exchange for the purchase price and development of the property, to extend the sewer utilities to and within the development in order to service the proposed residential units. Dan Steiner of Steiner Homes spoke before the Board and expressed his excitement to begin work on the development. Mr. Steiner stated their intention is to dig the first building farthest west and work their way east. Mr. Steiner expressed his appreciation for the city's negotiations with the alley behind the house and with the School Board. Mr. Phillips stated the request today is for approval, pending the approval of the swap and easement by the School Board on the 10th of July, 2023 and pending legal review. Ms. Romine asked for clarification on the parcels. Mr. Phillips stated there is a swap of a parcel, which is part of the discussion with the Transportation Center and the Coke Building at 205 Rumley and the easement. It is recognized that concessions have been made with the owner that is located between the two parcels to help facilitate this. City Engineer Nick Minich stated the goal is to retain as much of the tree line as possible and protect the existing property owner in the middle from being pushed out by the development. Ms. Romine questioned if it is typical to extend utilities at the cost of the city. Mr. Phillips stated it is common to incentivize development if there have been no developments like this in a long time. Ms. Romine

questioned what the anticipated cost to extend utilities could be. Mr. Phillips stated the estimated cost is between \$300,000 and \$500,00 depending on the location from which the utilities are run. The intention is to run the utilities to the rear of the site and come from one of three possible locations. Mr. Kosior questioned where the money to pay for this would come from. Mr. Phillips stated part of it would be the purchase price, \$171,700, and the mayor has identified additional funds that are available.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Steiner Homes Development Agreement

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Steiner Homes Development Agreement pending School Board approval and legal review; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Amended and Restated Real Estate Exchange Resolution

Bert Cook Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership presented Amended and Restated Exchange Resolution. Mr. Cook stated this goes with what was just presented in the Steiner Homes Development Agreement. The map provided to the board members shows the red easement area and yellow parcels were amended into the agreement in addition to items the school corporation requested. This amendment, if approved, will go to the school board on the 10th for approval. Ms. Romine questioned if there is any conflict of interest with the attorneys that are from the same firm, representing both the city and the school? Mr. Cook stated that typically in this type of situation, there are documents that are approved that allow the attorneys to continue to work as long as both sides are comfortable.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Amended and Restated Real Estate Exchange Resolution

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Amended and Restated Real Estate Exchange Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder reported Taco Fest is this Friday from 6 P.M. to 10 P.M. at the corner of Lincolnway and Monroe. There will be more vendors this year and they will be competing for best taco.

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported Kiwanis Club will be having another pop-up public picnic on July 15, 2023 from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. at Rumley Park. Police and Fire will be in attendance, in addition to tennis lessons and other youth activities that will be available. Mr. Schreiber also reminded everyone that coming up, July 28 – 30, Lakefest will be back for the third year. All activities throughout the weekend can be found on laportelakefest.com.

TransPorte: TransPorte Director Beth West reported that TransPorte is at 22,250 riders for the year, this is 3,300 more than last year at this time. Ms. West reported they were closed last Tuesday for an all-day passenger assistance training. The training was received well by the employees, and everyone passed. In addition, Ms. West reported their propane switchover is now complete and everything has been installed. The feedback from the drivers

is this system is easier to use than the previous one. Ms. West reminded everyone that TransPorte will be running stops to the fair and dropping individuals off at the north end by the horse and pony area.

Street: Street Superintendent Mike Frazee reported they are currently patching potholes, street sweeping, removing trees, and they will begin road painting next week. Mayor Dermody recognized the Street Department and their street sweeping for having Lincolnway essentially spotless after the parade.

Code: Phil Gushrowski reported the dumpsters have been moved inside at the street department and they have received a few complaints due to this but overall, it is going well. They switched to a new company and Jeff Bachelor was able to negotiate the first month at no cost. In addition, the dumpster was upgraded from a 30-yard dumpster to a 40-yard dumpster. Mr. Gushrowski reported they are currently focusing on lawns, weeds, overgrowth, and individuals parked on the lawns. The best number to call to report code violations is 219-362-0149.

Planning: City Planner Craig Phillips reported they have been working the last several weeks to get ready to put out a request for proposals for the city's new comprehensive development plan. This has been advertised and we will hopefully get good submittals back by the end of the month. The goal is for this to kick off right after the beginning of the school year. In addition, Mr. Phillips stated he is currently working to get the Beechwood Lakes property ready for public offering.

Fire: Chief Snyder reported Project Swaddle has run into some issues on Franciscan's end and they are working through those and should have everything to Attorney Otis to review soon. Chief Snyder stated they are looking at September 1, 2023 as the start date for the program.

Police: Chief Brettin reported that officers were very busy over the weekend and the fourth of July went well. The new officer was sworn in after the last meeting and could not attend today because he is at taser training. Chief Brettin stated they have a meeting next week with an individual with law enforcement experience.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich reported they were able to get Truesdell Ave open for the Fourth of July, and it will remain open with daily closures for any time they are doing quite a bit of work that requires use of the roads. It will be closed for a short time right before Lakefest because the raised pedestrian crossing area, in front of the amphitheater, will be poured and needs time to cure. Mayor Dermody questioned when the walking path will be complete. Mr. Minich stated the concrete work that is currently being done is filling in the sections of walking trail and the bridge area will be early fall. It can be walked now but there are some gravel areas.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported they are currently working with Surf Broadband to network all the water and sewer remote sites. There are 46 or 47 sites, and

they should be able to serve 40 of them, most of them at no cost. Mr. Jackson stated he should have a proposed contract for the next meeting for those sites.

Donation Agreement

Bert Cook Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership presented donation agreement. Mr. Cook stated the individual acquired the property and does not want it and wishes to donate the property to the city, no strings attached. Mr. Cook recommends acceptance of the property and figuring out the best use for that property at a later time.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Donation Agreement

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

Permission to Purchase two (2) Salt Spreaders

Street Superintendent Mike Frazee presented Permission to Purchase two (2) Salt Spreaders. Mr. Frazee stated two truck beds were replaced with solid beds, the old beds were chain driven, and they now need to purchase two salt spreaders for the backs of these trucks. Mr. Frazee recommends Lindco as the cheapest option.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Permission to Purchase two (2) Salt Spreaders

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Permission to Purchase two (2) Salt Spreaders as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

IDHS Grant Approval

Chief Snyder presented IDHS Grant Approval. Chief Snyder stated the grant has been awarded and his request is for permission to accept the grant. This grant is for a newborn safety device grant; these are often referred to as baby boxes or safe haven boxes. Chief Snyder stated this is something that they have looked into and have wanted to do for some time, but it can be costly. This grant will cover most of, if not all, of the cost of installing the box. This will be installed at the North side fire station as it is more of a remote location and will allow easier access for those off the interstate and privacy for those surrendering their baby. Mr. Kosior questioned how this would be publicized. Chief Snyder stated that will be in conjunction with the company that is overseeing this and there will also be public service announcements with news sources and Jess Bruder in communications. Mayor Dermody questioned what the time frame is for installation. Chief Snyder stated he is confident that they can have it up within a couple of months. Chief Snyder clarified that these boxes are not just boxes in the wall, they are climate controlled, cooled in summer and heated in winter, in addition to being connected directly to the 9-1-1 center. There is also an alarm that sounds within the station.

Motion/Vote – Approval of IDHS Grant

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve IDHS Grant as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Civic Improvements: Schneider Pay App #2

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Civic Improvements: Schneider Pay App #2 in the amount of \$405,000. Mr. Minich recommends payment.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civic Improvements: Schneider Pay App #2

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Civic Improvements: Schneider Pay App #2 as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Numbers & Letters – Contract 2A & 2B – HRP Construction Pay App #2

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Numbers & Letters – Contract 2A & 2B – HRP Construction Pay App #2. Contract 2A for HRP Construction is in the amount of \$63,409.65. Mr. Minich Recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Contract 2A Pay App #2

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Contract 2A Pay App #2 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mr. Minich presented contract 2B in the \$103,618.97. Mr. Minich recommends payment.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Contract 2B Pay App #2

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Contract 2B Pay App #2 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Dermody expressed his condolences to the family of former Fire Merit, Gary Travis. Mayor Dermody highlighted the wonderful things about Gary and stated his family are in our thoughts and prayers. Mayor Dermody recognized Kiwanis for a great parade. Mayor Dermody expressed his hopefulness for another organization to bring fireworks to La Porte next year as the city does not put on Fireworks. Mr. Kosior thanked the Kiwanis Club as well for the wonderful parade. Mr. Kosior stated this was the best parade that he can remember. Mayor Dermody reminded everyone of Taco Fest that is Friday night and encouraged everyone to check out the Farmed and Forged Market on Sunday. Mayor Dermody stated efforts are continuing to be made with RTS to get the RTS bins picked up. This has been a major struggle but efforts are being made to get them removed.

Other Business:

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 9 A.M.

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: July 18, 2023