

July 16, 2024

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Mark Kosior, Jessica Romine

Absent:

Jessica Spoljaric 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

None

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from July 5, 2024 in the amount of \$554,753.82.

Motion/Vote – Approval of July 5, 2024 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the July 5, 2024 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$660,850.15.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$165,446.98.

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 Water Claims in the amount of \$281,812.37.

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.

Engagement Letter with Bakertilly

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Engagement Letter with Bakertilly. This is a master service agreement for the utilities. Bakertilly prepares the annual financial management reports and capital plans. Mayor Dermody stated this is all part of our infrastructure. The City of La Porte can either continue to have low rates or have competitive rates and make the necessary upgrades to the infrastructure.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Engagement Letter with Bakertilly

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Engagement Letter with Bakertilly as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Water BAN Scope Agreement and Sewer BAN Scope Agreement

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Ban Scope Agreement and Sewer BAN Scope Agreement. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated these agreements are also with Bakertilly and were discussed in detail at the last Board of Works meeting. Mayor Dermody stated this administration has a \$100 million dollar issue with 100-year-old infrastructure that they have committed to improving and this is a continuation of that commitment.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water BAN Scope Agreement and Sewer BAN Scope Agreement

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Water BAN Scope Agreement and Sewer BAN Scope Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Department Reports

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reminded everyone that LakeFest is only a few weeks away; July 26-28. There are lots of events going on throughout the weekend including the aqua races that take place on Stone Lake on July 27th and 28th. Mr. Schreiber stated the CVB typically requests road closures, but he does not believe that has been done.

Road Closure Request: Grangemouth

Park Superintendent Mark Schreiber requested approval of a road closure on Grangemouth on July 27th and 28th from 8 A.M. until 6 P.M. for the aqua races event. This allows the jet skis to get safely from their pit area to where they will need to launch. Mr. Schreiber said they expect about 150 racers.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Road Closure: Grangemouth

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Road Closure: Grangemouth as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

In addition, Mr. Schreiber reported the first Friday Night Live event at Fox Park will be held as part of LakeFest. Hype production will be at Fox Park DJing in addition to live musicians and

other various types of entertainment for people of all ages. The Play for Jake Bolt for the Heart 5k is now incorporated into LakeFest and will take place on Saturday at 8 A.M. Other highlights for Saturday LakeFest weekend include Clear Lake Craft Market and the Soul Asylum concert. This is a free concert; however, front row seat tickets are available for purchase on laportelakefest.com. Mr. Schreiber also reminded the public that Yellow Brick Joel will be performing this Friday at the Civic Auditorium at 7:15 and some tickets are still available. In addition, Friday night is the second of three-night bike rides that will take off at Beechwood Golf Course.

Code: Mayor Dermody thanked Director of Code Jeff Batchelor for the efforts with the vape stores. Mayor Dermody stated he recognizes this is going to be an ongoing battle with the vape stores as there is a focus on young people and it will take everyone looking out for the children in the community.

Legal: City Attorney Nick Otis reported they are getting close on 39 North. There are a few straggling items that will hopefully be completed soon, with the anticipation of bringing it to the next meeting. Attorney Otis reiterated this is a very complicated purchase agreement with many moving parts.

Clerk-Treasurer: Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated she has nothing to report but will be adding an item, Qualls Payment, later in the meeting under unfinished business. Mayor Dermody invited Clerk-Treasurer Parthun to present that at this time.

Qualls Payment

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun requested Bert Cook to speak on this matter. Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook stated this is a 5-year incentive payment to the Quincy development, or the Qualls family. This payment is regarding the two SPEC buildings they built in Thomas Rose Industrial Park. Mr. Cook stated every year when the family pays their taxes, the County certifies what they have paid and that is then refunded to them in the form of a lease payment. This is the second year of this incentive. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated the RDC has already approved this payment, and it just needs to be approved by the Board of Works to make the payment. City Planner Craig Phillips stated they are still trying to confirm the amount with the auditor's office but the payment is not to exceed \$97,350.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Qualls Payment

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

Wastewater: Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson reported they lost power at the treatment plant and had a few electrical issues during the storms last night.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported they are dealing with some communication issues from some lightning strikes at the towers last night and one of the lightning arresters blew up.

City Planner: Director of Community Development and Planning Craig Phillips reported the Beechwood Lakes property is being put back out for bid and bids will be due back on September 3, 2024, with the opening being at the September 4th meeting. In addition, Mr. Phillips reported they are continuing to work on housing and finalizing the low-income housing tax credit application in partnership with Advantix Corporation.

New Business:

Request for Use: Co-op Shoppe Event

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Co-op Shoppe Event. This request is to close one block of State Street between Jackson and Clay for a vendor event. This will take place during the unofficial cruise night. Ms. Loeffler stated there are no other businesses open on the block during this time except the liquor store, which is on the corner and has access from Jackson Street.

Motion/Vote – Approval Request for Use: Co-op Shoppe Event

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Co-op Shoppe Event as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Dunebrook Dragon Race

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Dunebrook Dragon Race. This event takes place on Stone Lake and the request is to close Grangemouth between Waverly and Lake Shore Drive during the event. This is for Saturday only and the road will be back open by 5 P.M. on Saturday. Mayor Dermody asked if police and fire were ok with this closure. There were no objections from police or fire.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Dunebrook Dragon Races

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

Wessler Engineering Proposal

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Wessler Engineering Proposal. This proposal is for Wessler to look at approximately 10 sites around the city where there are drainage issues. This is an effort to correct some serious drainage issues throughout the city. Mr. Jackson stated Wessler is currently working on our stormwater ordinance, and they have a lot of expertise in the area of storm drainage. Mr. Jackson stated the intention of this proposal is for it to be a continuous thing; There will be a constant list of little projects that need fixed and will be fixed as funds allow. The maximum cost of this propels is \$30,000. Mr. Jackson stated these projects exceed the scope of in-house abilities.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Wessler Engineering Proposal

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Wessler Engineering Proposal as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Pay Request #1 McClung Road Sanitary

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Pay Request #1 McClung Road Sanitary in the amount of \$40,645. Mr. Jackson stated they are doing excellent work so far and recommends approval. This payment will be paid from the construction bond.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay Request #1 McClung Road Sanitary

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Pay Request #1 McClung Road Sanitary as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Bailey Park Subdivision Preliminary Plat

Assistant City Planner David Heinold presented Bailey Park Subdivision Preliminary Plat. This is for a 27 lot subdivision on 400 W 18th Street. Mr. Heinold stated this preliminary plat was approved by the plan commission on Tuesday July 9th. Mr. Heinold said the subdivision will be accessed by a private road system and all elements are in the provided packet. Craig Phillips noted that they worked closely with Steiner Homes on this project as the city is installing the water and sewer system as part of this project as well as the preliminary plat being reviewed and approved by City Engineer Nick Minich. Mr. Kosior questioned if there would be an HOA for maintenance and snow removal of the private road. Mr. Phillips stated he believes the road will ultimately be turned over to the city.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Bailey Park Subdivision Preliminary Plat

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Bailey Park Subdivision Preliminary Plat as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:

Special BOW Meeting: Friday, July 19th at 9 A.M. to award bids for Park Street and 18th Street.
Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday August 6, 2024 at 9 A.M.

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: August 6, 2024