

October 8, 2024

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

Absent: Mayor Dermody

Mr. Huffman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes. Mr. Kosior 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 Q3 Quarterly Payroll in the amount of \$1,926.88. This is for Police and Fire Merit Commissions.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Q3 Quarterly Payroll

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Q3 Quarterly Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from September 27, 2024 in the amount of \$526,352.69.

Motion/Vote – Approval of September 27, 2024 Payroll

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the September 27, 2024 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$736,000.23.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$88,670.29.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$163,903.92.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

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

Department Head Reports

Fire: Chief Snyder reported on Saturday October 12, they will be having their annual open house for fire prevention week. The open house will be held from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at Station One. A free lunch will be served and Chief Snyder encouraged everyone from the community to attend. In addition, Chief Snyder reported they were given approval to hire Owen Barsic. Mr. Barsic will be starting on the 21st of this month and this will bring the department to full staff. Ms. Romine questioned if Mr. Barsic would have to attend an academy. Chief Snyder confirmed Mr. Barsic will have to attend academy, unfortunately none are scheduled at this time and he will be brought on and begin some training within the department. Chief Snyder stated Mr. Barsic will hopefully attend academy at the beginning of the new year, however, he is already a paramedic and therefore more than qualified for medical response.

Code: Code Director Jeff Batchelor reported this week is fall clean up, so they are taking it easy on those items out until next week. They are currently working on vehicles that have been parked in the street for too long as well as continuing to go through vacant houses to ensure there are no squatters. Ms. Romine questioned if fall clean up is for individuals to put items out by the street for pickup and what the restrictions are for this. Attorney Otis confirmed items for pickup can be placed by the curb and for a list of rules and restrictions regarding fall clean up, individuals can visit the city's website or Facebook page for a link to the website.

Legal: City Attorney Nick Otis noted there were two items on the City Council's agenda that he also wanted to bring to the attention of the Board of Works. First, new bulk water rates were established. This was well received by the council. Water Superintendent Tim Werner stated they have installed a water ATM. A card is issued to the contractors, this does have a \$35 annual fee, but this allows for accurate reading and billing of water and will help with the water the water audit score. Mr. Werner emphasized the rates that were approved by the council at last night's meeting are only for those that come to the water department to fill up and will have no effect on the commercial or residential accounts. Mr. Werner stated the rates for the ATM were based on being able to pay off the ATM in five years. In addition, Attorney Otis stated it was brought up at the City Council meeting that there is a neighborhood, north of the toll road, that was not annexed and is therefore outside of city limits but will be charged the same utility rates as if they were within city limits. Attorney Otis noted that because they are not within city limits, we can charge them a 15% premium but

we will not be doing that. The city does have intentions of starting the annexation process for the remaining portion of 39 N later this year.

Wastewater: Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson reported the sewer crew is out at the Warden Street basin replacing pumps. In addition, Mr. Jackson reported the wastewater crew is working on one of their hot water boilers.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported the crew has finished the Park Street portion of the triangle for Hunters Woods. They are currently waiting for the 16-inch pipe to be received and then they will begin work on Seivers Road.

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported Beechwood Golf Course was closed yesterday and today for the fall aeration of the greens. When Beechwood reopens on Wednesday, they will begin their fall rates: \$25 weekday and \$30 weekend and this does include a cart. October 15th will be the last day for restrooms to be open in the parks. In addition, Mr. Schreiber noted the following upcoming concerts at the Civic Auditorium: Arena Rock Show on Saturday October 19th and Lover, a tribute to Taylor Swift, on October 25th.

Street: Street Superintendent Mike Frazee reported they are out cutting trees this week in addition to street sweeping, patching potholes, road painting, and preparing for leaf season.

City Planner: Director of Community Development and Planning Craig Phillips reported they have received a \$2.5 million grant for infrastructure work in the form of a stormwater improvement project. Mr. Phillips stated they anticipate breaking ground for this project right after the 1st of the year, weather permitting.

New Business:

Request for Use: Turkey Trot

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Request for Use: Turkey Trot. Attorney Otis stated this race is for the La Porte Educational Development Foundation and his request is to host the race. The race will begin and end outside of City Hall, going down Michigan Ave through Beechwood and back. Attorney Otis stated the request is for Michigan Ave to be shut down right outside City Hall only, they do not need the rest of it shut down. Attorney Otis stated they are covered by insurance through the La Porte Community School Corporation.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Turkey Trot

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

Annual Partnership Agreement: GreatNews.Life

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Annual Partnership Agreement: GreatNews.Life. This is a contract and invoice in the amount of \$9,350. This is the annual partnership profile that is included on valpo.life, laportecounty.life, etcetera, and is for services between October 23, 2024 and October 22, 2025. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated they have included the partner

profile detailing all the stories and events that they have covered on behalf of the City of La Porte.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Annual Partnership Agreement: GreatNews.Life

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

La Porte Invitational Contract Approval

Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber presented La Porte Civic Invitational Contract Approval. Mr. Schreiber stated this is a departure from the previous contract, which was with Paragon Marketing. Paragon Marketing at this point will remain involved, but strictly as a third-party broadcast partner and not as a partner in the event. This contract will create a three-year partnership between the City of La Porte, LaLumiere, and the Convention Visitors Bureau. Mr. Schreiber stated the City of La Porte and LaLumiere will share in the proceeds of the event and the Visitors Bureau is generously helping to fund certain aspects of the expenses. Mr. Schreiber stated his request is for approval of the contract and to allow Mayor Dermody to be the signer.

Motion/Vote – Approval of La Porte Invitational Contract Approval

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve La Porte Invitational Contract Approval as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Basement Backup Grant: 1312 Illinois

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Basement Backup Grant: 1312 Illinois in the amount of \$3975. The City's portion for this will be \$3,231.25. Mr. Jackson stated this home is located in a combined area and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Basement Backup Grant: 1312 Illinois

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Basement Backup Grant: 1312 Illinois as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Basement Backup Grant: 701 E. Jefferson

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson Presented Basement Backup Grant: 701 E. Jefferson in the amount of \$2,961. Mr. Jackson stated the City's portion is \$2,470 and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Basement Backup Grant: 701 E. Jefferson

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Basement Backup Grant: 701 E. Jefferson as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Receive Easement from Jaeger-Unitex for the Sewer Extension to Hunters Woods/Park St

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson recognized Jaeger-Unitex for being very helpful and a good customer and partner to the City of La Porte. Mr. Jackson stated they required an easement to serve some of the industrial ground between Genesis Drive and Park Street to

extend the sewer to serve other areas. Mr. Jackson stated Jaeger-Unitek got this done in a really nice fashion and were very helpful.

Request to Transfer Insurance Proceeds

Chief Buell presented Request to Transfer Insurance Proceeds. These proceeds are from a vehicle that was totaled in an accident, and they would like to be able to utilize these funds to purchase a new vehicle. Chief Buell stated the vehicle they would like to purchase is a new 2023 Dodge Charger.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request to Transfer Insurance Proceeds

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request to Transfer Insurance Proceeds as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request to Trade in Vehicles

Chief Buell presented a request to trade in two vehicles, a 2020 Dodge Durango and a 2018 Dodge Charger, to apply toward the cost of a new 2023 Dodge Charger. Chief Buell stated it was approved at last night's Council meeting to move monies from asset forfeiture to also purchase two additional vehicles that are needed for a total of three vehicles being purchased, one Dodge Charger and two pick-up trucks.

Motion/Vote- Approval of Request to Trade in Vehicles

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request to Trade in Vehicles as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Open Quotes for New Cars

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Open Quotes for New Cars. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated the police department solicited quotes from three vendors and one sealed quote was received back. The following quote was received:

La Porte Chrysler – Two (2) 2023 Ram 1500s in the amount of \$38,658 each.

Ms. Romine questioned if they had all the funds to cover the costs. Chief Buell stated with the transfer made at last night's City Council meeting, the insurance proceeds, and the trade ins, they will have enough to cover the entire cost of all three vehicles.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Quotes for New Cars

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve quotes pending review of quote documentation; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Bid Acceptance and Recommendation for Award – Slicer Pathway

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Bid Acceptance and Recommendation for Award – Slicer Pathway. Mr. Minich stated bids were opened on October 4th and two bids were received for the Slicer Pathway: one from Reith-Riley and one from Gariup Construction. The low bid came in at \$686,335.87. Mr. Minich stated this is a little over 30% higher than expected and he

estimated on the high side of what is available within the budget. Mr. Minich stated his request is to accept the bids but not make a recommendation and allow for additional review of the project scope with the anticipation of bringing back a recommendation at the next meeting.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Bid Acceptance and Recommendation for Award – Slice Pathway

Mrs. Romine made a motion to accept the bids as presented for further review; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Bid Acceptance and Recommendation for Award – Stone Lake Trail Phase 2

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Bid Acceptance and Recommendation for Award – Stone Lake Trail Phase 2. Mr. Minich stated there were three bids received for this project: Reith-Riley, Gariup, and La Porte Construction. Mr. Minich stated the low bid came from Reith-Riley in the amount of \$424,605.90. Everything was included in all three bids and there were no errors. Mr. Minich stated the lowest bid amount is slightly over the estimated cost, however, there are funds available to do the project at this price. Mr. Minich stated the numbers he had been working with to estimate the cost were from a few years ago when the project started so this price is not outside of reasonable. Mr. Minich recommended the bid award be made to Reith-Riley construction in the amount of \$424,605.90.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Bid Acceptance and Recommendation for Award – Stone Lake Trail Phase 2

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Bid Acceptance and Recommendation for Award – Stone Lake Trail Phase 2 as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Request to Advertise for Bids 2024-2 CCMG Paving Program

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Request to Advertise for Bids 2024-2 CCMG Paving Program. Mr. Minich stated we do not yet know what the grant award amount is, however, they are trying to stay ahead of this in order to still get a few projects completed this year. The intention is to advertise the Friday before the next meeting. Mr. Minich stated we will not be able to award anything until we know exactly what our grant will be but requests permission to advertise for bids to start the process and speed up the project.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request to Advertise for Bids 2024-2 CCMG Paving Program

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request to Advertise for Bids 2024-2 CCMG Paving Program as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Hunter Woods Phase 1 – Final Plat Approval (Pending Plan Comm Approval)

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Hunters Woods Phase 1 - Final Plat Approval (Pending Plan Comm Approval). Mr. Minich stated the Plan Commission will review this tonight and ideally approve it. This phase of the project consists of 24 buildable lots that do not require any additional infrastructure from the developer. Mr. Minich reiterated this does require the

approval of the Plan Commission and recommends approval pending the approval of the Plan Commission.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Hunter Woods Phase 1 – Final Plat Approval (Pending Plan Comm Approval)

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Hunter Woods Phase 1 – Final Plat pending approval by the Plan Commission; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

N Park Road Agreement

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented N. Park Road Agreement. Mr. King stated this is the formal agreement between the City of La Porte and Reith-Riley for the N Park Road sewage extension agreement. This takes the sewer extension through the field behind Jaeger-Unitek. Mr. King stated all of the bid agreements and everything else has already been done, this agreement essentially just states we will pay them for the work they do.

Motion/Vote – Approval of N Park Road Agreement

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun Clarified that this was already approved at a previous meeting, so the request is to sign the agreement.

Motion/Vote – Amend Approval of N Park Road Agreement

Ms. Romine made a motion to amend Approval of N Park Road Agreement to approve signing of N Park Road Agreement; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

N Park Road Change Order #1

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented N Park Road Change Order #1 in the amount of \$19,798.81. Mr. King stated this change order is adjusting the profile along this route to accommodate the Hunters Wood sewer project. Mr. Kosior questioned what exactly is changing. Mr. King stated the sewer depth is changing. Originally the sewer was planned to be a 10-foot depth, and it will now be 20 feet. Mr. Kosior questioned the reasoning for the change in depth. Mr. King stated the change is being made to accommodate the Hunters Wood development.

Motion/Vote – Approval of N Park Road Change Order #1

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve N Park Road Change Order #1 in the amount of \$19,798.81; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Hunter Woods Change Order

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Hunter Woods Change Order in the amount of \$3,150. Mr. King stated this change order is for small structural adjustments to better align the site. They will be lowering two structures and raising another. These are minor changes that will be better in the longer term of the project.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Hunter Woods Change Order

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Hunter Woods Change Order in the amount of \$3150; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Hunter Woods Pay App #1

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Hunter Woods Pay App #1 in the amount of \$75,838.50. Mr. King reported HRP has been working steadily for approximately three weeks and has made steady progress with anticipation of completion in early November. Ms. Romine questioned what percentage of completion they are at. Mr. King stated he did not have the exact figure but guessed they are approximately 33% complete.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Hunter Woods Pay App #1

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Hunter Woods Pay App #1 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Sidewalk Contract Changer Order #2

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Sidewalk Contract Change Order #2. Mr. King stated they needed to add three items that were not included in the original contract. The first item is ADA compliant ramps. This is an inclusive line item that includes removal of materials, both in the road and in the sidewalk. The second item is for emergency fees that allow us to be able to pay for unforeseen damages that arise. Mr. King used a water line that was hit on Hawthorne Street as an example. The third item is winter fees. The winter fees occurred over the winter last year because the contract extended through winter and this helps pay for the added work that is incurred throughout the winter. Ms. Romine questioned why the ADA ramps were not included in the original contract. Mr. King stated the ADA ramps were not originally in the scope of work for this contract as the original focus was on repairing around where there was tree damage in these areas.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sidewalk Contract Change Order #2

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Sidewalk Contract Change Order #2 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Sidewalk Contract Pay App #2

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Sidewalk Contract Pay App #2 in the amount of \$62,123.85. Mr. King stated this is strictly on the ADA portion of the sidewalks as the 50/50 portion has already been completed. This pay app brings the total amount paid to \$239,531.49. The initial contract amount is in the amount of \$264,000.

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

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Sidewalk Contract Pay App #2 in the amount of \$62,123.85; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday October 22, 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: October 22, 2024