

**October 22, 2024**

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, October 22, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

**Present:** Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

**Absent:**

Brian Chalik 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**

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Payroll from October 11, 2024 in the amount of \$532,902.58.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of September 11, 2024 Payroll**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the October 11, 2024 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$618,469.17.

**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.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Water Claims in the amount of \$288,523.42.

**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.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$290,143.98.

**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.

**Approval of Physical Inventory Proposal: CBIZ**

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman presented Approval of Physical Inventory Proposal: CBIZ. Ms. Layman stated this is part of the annual report. The city is required to have detail of fixed assets valued over \$5,000. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman said State Statute requires this is done physically every two years and CBIZ is the provider that has been doing this for us for the past 10 years. CBIZ will be on site the first week of December and department heads have already been notified so they can be ready. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman stated the contract with CBIZ is in the amount of \$42,500 and requests approval and authorization for Mayor Dermody to sign.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Physical Inventory Proposal: CBIZ**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Physical Inventory Proposal: CBIZ as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**Department Head Reports**

**Code:** Code Compliance Officer Dan Drake reported that the grass season is starting to come to an end, and they will be shifting their focus to vacant properties and locating their owner and trying to get them to do something with their properties. In addition to vacant properties, they will be working on problem properties.

**Wastewater:** Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson reported they will be disposing of their solids this week and hauling them out to the farm. This typically takes three to four days to complete. This process allows the storage tank to be available to get us through the winter.

**Engineering:** City Engineer Nick Minich reported they had their preconstruction meeting with INDOT last week for the US 35 project. The first phase is the utility portion and will not have a large impact on residents. Mr. Minich stated we will not see much construction this fall; however, they will begin clearing some right-of-way so we will see some trees coming down. Mr. Minich emphasized there is a replacement plan for those trees and a good strategy to make sure Indiana Ave remains looking beautiful.

**Police:** Chief Buell reported he has been in contact with D.A. Dodd about their air handler and it is still being worked out. In addition, Chief Buell reported that at the beginning of November, they will have all 44 merit positions filled, which is the first time this has happened in a long time. Chief Buell stated the newest officer is Wesley Walls and he comes with 16 years of experience. Chief Buell invited officer Walls to speak about himself. Officer Walls spoke briefly about himself and his experience and expressed his excitement to continue his law enforcement career with the City of La Porte.

**Fire:** Chief Snyder reported Owen Barsic started yesterday making the department fully staffed with 45 firefighters. In addition, Chief Snyder reported they have gotten a lot of positive feedback from 39N regarding their responses to various calls in that area.

**Park:** Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported the La Porte Park Foundation will have their picnic under the start on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a friend raiser fundraiser that will be held at the Civic Auditorium. There will be raffles, prizes, Point'n Finger Band, and food and drinks. In addition, Mr. Schreiber stated there are lot of sponsorship opportunities coming up for the community for the downtown ice rink, La Porte Invitational, Winterfest, and the Park Foundation's annual campaign. Prancer Palooza will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Auditorium. A showing of the movie Prancer will take place and a Q&A with Sam Elliott and other members of the cast. In addition, Mr. Schreiber reported the Taylor Swift Tribute band, Lover, will be at the Civic Auditorium on Friday.

**Street:** Street Superintendent Mike Frazee reported they are removing trees, patching, and brush pick up. Starting November 4<sup>th</sup>, they will have leaf vacs out starting to pick up leaves. Mr. Frazee stated once most of the leaves have fallen, then both crews will be working on leaf pickup.

**New Business:**

**Spectrum Court Order and Spectrum Appraisals (3) Approval**

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Spectrum Court Order. Attorney Otis stated this is regarding eminent domain proceedings that the City of La Porte has undertaken regarding the overpass project. The State has been responsible for much of this eminent domain process; however, the City of La Porte has been tasked with this portion involving Spectrum Recycling. The City of La Porte did go through the process of making a prior offer before starting the process of eminent domain. Three appraisers were appointed for this, and they assessed the damages at \$508,300. Attorney Otis stated this amount is lower than anticipated and the city is responsible for paying the appraiser fee of \$1,500 per appraiser for a total cost of \$4,500 that will be paid directly to the clerk of the courts. Attorney Otis stated there is an appeals process that can take place if the Spectrum Recycling owner does not agree with the price and Attorney Otis speculates there is the possibility of that happening. Once this money is received by the courts, the City of La Porte will have control of the property. Attorney Otis stated they have been working with Spectrum Recycling to find some relocation options and although they have some leads, nothing has been finalized. Attorney Otis stated his recommendation is to pay the court order in the amount of \$508,300 and the appraisal fees in the amount of \$4,500. Mayor Dermody emphasized the fact that the property owner requested eminent domain. Attorney Otis reiterated that significant offers were made before the eminent domain process was initiated.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Spectrum Court Order**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Spectrum Court Order as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

#### **Request Approval of Magnagrip HGAC Quote**

Chief Snyder presented Request Approval of Magnagrip HGAC Quote. Chief Snyder stated this is in reference to a grant that was received from FEMA Homeland Security through the Assistance of Firefighters Grant. Chief Snyder stated this grant was received a few months back in the amount of \$141,147 and is a 90/10 grant and they have finally received a quote. FEMA's portion is \$128,315 and the city's responsibility is \$12,831. Chief Snyder stated that one quote was received because they used HGAC, Houston Galveston Area Council, which is a purchasing consortium that allows for the assumption that you are receiving the lowest possible pricing. Chief Snyder stated this is something that they have used in the past to purchase fire trucks. Chief Snyder stated the original quote amount was for \$136,695, which is below the grant amount, so they requested additional parts for the systems bringing the total contract amount to \$142,250 with the city's portion to pay being \$13,934.55. Chief Snyder stated this amount does fit within the 2024 budget and no additional funds will be required. Chief Snyder stated his request is for permission to approve the contract amount and to sign the contract with Magnagrip.

#### **Motion/Vote – Approval of Magnagrip HGAC Quote**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Magnagrip HGAC Quote as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

#### **Ivy Tech Internship**

IT Director Roscoe Hoffman presented Ivy Tech Internship. Mr. Hoffman stated City Council President Franke reached out to him letting him know that Ivy Tech had interns available. Mr. Hoffman reached out to Ivy Tech and learned they had many students looking for internship opportunities. Mr. Hoffman noted if the City of La Porte were to pay one intern, we could also get a second paid intern that would be reimbursable through Ivy Tech. Mr. Hoffman gave a brief overview of the teachable opportunities for an intern with the City of La Porte IT Department. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Layman clarified that this is not in the budget for 2024 but is in the budget for 2025. Mr. Hoffman clarified this is for an internship beginning in Spring of 2025. Ms. Romine questioned if Mr. Hoffman would be the one responsible for picking the intern. Mr. Hoffman stated students would have to apply for the internship. He has provided a list of criteria of what he would need from an intern, and they would provide applicants that fit these criteria. Mr. Hoffman expressed the goal for the interns is for them to learn so much while working with the City of La Porte that they will speak highly of their experience and in turn future students will want to intern with the City of La Porte.

#### **Motion/Vote – Approval of Ivy Tech Internship**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Ivy Tech Internship as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

#### **Amended Motion/Vote – Approval of Ivy Tech Internship Spring 2025**

Ms. Romine made an amended motion to approve Ivy Tech Internship for Spring 2025; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

### **Proposal for Engineering Services – SR39 Elevated Tank Design**

Water Superintendent Tim Werner presented Proposal for Engineering Services – SR39 Elevated Tank Design with NIES Engineering. Mr. Werner stated this covers everything from design of sight improvements and fencing, all the way down to preparation of the bid report with recommendations to the lowest bidder. The contract amount is not to exceed \$133,750. This does include some specialty services for coding that are specific to this project. Additionally, Mr. Werner noted that he provided a timeline for the tanks. At one time there was a two to three year wait for the tank, and this shows if the bid is awarded in June we will receive the materials the following June. Mr. Werner reminded the public that although services have been provided to 39N for a while now, the actual infrastructure did not come to the City of La Porte until the end of September. Mr. Werner noted they are a little behind because of this. They were prepared with a plan for the infrastructure but could not spend the necessary funds to begin work until the infrastructure coming to the City of La Porte was finalized. Mr. Werner stated his request is for permission to sign and execute the presented contract.

### **Motion/Vote – Approval of Proposal for Engineering Services – SR39 Elevated Tank Design**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Proposal for Engineering Services – SR39 Elevated Tank Design as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

### **Approval for Safety Bollards**

Street Superintendent Mike Fraze presented Safety Bollards. Mr. Fraze stated the bollards are for Orchard and Weller Avenue. Three quotes were presented:

Advantage Highway - \$7,475

Quick Curb - \$13,144.80

Michael Todd - \$16,974.02

Mr. Fraze stated the lowest quote, Advantage Highway, is a different type of bollard. His recommendation is to approve Quick Curb in the amount of \$13,144.80 because they offer the same bollards that are already located at the North end of Orchard and South end of Weller. Mayor Dermody stated there was an individual that crossed over on Pulaski while the arms were down, and we have to maintain a certain percentage to be able to keep the quiet zone. These will help keep individuals from going around the arms and bring our percentage down. The county will be paying for a portion.

### **Motion/Vote- Approval of Safety Bollards**

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

### **Grinder Pump Quotes**

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Grinder Pump Quotes. Mr. Jackson stated these grinder pumps are for the McClung Road project. During the project, sewer was

extended further toward Seivers Road to serve the 1900 Seivers Road address; this is an existing office building and the proposed apartments that was part of the 39 N annexation. In addition, the project was extended to the VFW as part of negotiations on their easement. These items and a few other smaller items brought the project near the 20% contract limit on change orders. Mr. Jackson stated there were three additional parcels that wanted to connect to the sewer system, and they would be required to annex in and then connect. Mr. Jackson emphasized this request is separate from this project as to not exceed the change order limit. Mr. Jackson stated three quotes were solicited and one quote was received. The quote for three additional grinder stations is in the amount of \$70,142. Mr. Jackson recommends approval in order to serve the additional parcels: 147 McClung Road, 153 McClung Road, and 133 McClung Road.

**Unfinished Business**

**Other Business:**

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Wednesday November 6, 2024 at 9 A.M. Election Day, Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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: November 6, 2024**