

City of La Porte Business Improvement District
City Hall
La Porte, IN 46350
September 9, 2024

President Ward called the September 9, 2024 meeting of the City of La Porte Business Improvement District Board to order at 5:01 p.m. The meeting was held at City Hall at 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN. Roll call of members of the Board was shown to be present or absent as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Adamsky, Vice-President Robin Clark, Courtney Dickman, Patti Pierson, Clinton, John Spiggle, Tommy Viere, President Lizz Ward, Clinton Worthington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tu Bloom, Jim Kaminski

GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Feikes, Charity Hlavsa, Phil Graf, Nick Minich, Jamie Novak, Councilwoman Julie West

MINUTES: President Ward asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made on the August 12 minutes. Worthington made a motion to approve the August 12 meeting minutes and Viere seconded. Motion carried.

GUEST COMMENTS: Minich updated the board about the Indiana Avenue project. Contracts should be finalized in two weeks and the two-block section in the BID should be under construction in 2026. The city did ask INDOT to use the pattern book as a guide so the sidewalks will be poured concrete with a paver banding, there will be more green space, and the parking will be more even. Minich mentioned there may be less responsibility for the BID in that area such as plantings due to the planters being removed and the pieces salvaged. Trees along Indiana Avenue will be removed, and more appropriate varieties will be replanted.

Graf gave an update on the tree assessment he has been working on. The plan identifies 100 trees that will be removed. The Callery Pear trees will be removed and replaced with more appropriate native trees that are smaller and lower growing varieties that will be able to withstand the urban environment. He mentioned most of the Callery Pear trees in the BID are reaching the end of their lifespan and will be included in a planting plan for three years covered by a grant. He warned that the trees to be planted will have about a 15 to 20-year lifespan so remove and replace should be built into the BID budget.

Feikes presented two proposals. The first was for leaf pickup at \$75/hour which includes coordinating with the city and street department for gathering and picking up the leaves. The second was for snow removal at a 2" threshold at \$145/hour with typically 12-15 hours for removal. This is a slight increase over \$140/hour last year. Feikes clarified they focus on making sure that fire hydrants and pedestrian crossing signals are accessible, and ramps are cleared off along with their paths. Adamsky motioned to approve the leaf removal proposal, Viere seconded. Motion carried. Adamsky motioned to approve the snow removal proposal, Worthington seconded. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Spiggle presented the August balance sheet and a report showing the remaining R&M Appropriation. He mentioned that he met with Novak and Mayor Dermody about the additional appropriation process. Under the current gateway system, the board cannot request an appropriation this late in the year. The board is

currently looking at an expenditure of \$33,000. Spiggle said he will see if Paul's will take 1/3 of the payment now and the rest at the completion of the job. This allows the board to move forward with the project and still work within the budget constraints.

After all the remaining jobs are paid, insurance payments are in, and funds from professional services, insurance and other line items that total \$13,699 are transferred, the balance sits at \$32,000 to complete the rest of the year.

An invoice from Perennials Galore was received for bags of soil and labor, but Spiggle will clarify if it is an invoice or quote for next season.

Spiggle also mentioned that there are 41 outlets on light poles that will need to be repaired for the holiday season. He spoke with Novak and suggested any wire damage should be pushed out to 2025. If all 41 outlets are simple repairs, the board would be looking at about \$5,000 in repairs.

Spiggle motioned to transfer the funds from Professional Services, Insurance, and Other accounts to the maintenance line item. Adamsky seconded. Motion carried.

Spiggle reported there were 6 watering claims for August 7-September 3 at \$3,118.50 and 6 sidewalk maintenance claims for August 5-September 3 at \$3,000 totaling \$6,118.50. Adamsky motioned to approve the claims. Worthington seconded. Motion carried.

Maintenance: Novak presented two estimates to the board. The first was to repair the cap on the planter outside City Hall mentioned at the September meeting. The insurance funds of \$2,800 have already been received. Adamsky motioned to repair the cap. Viere seconded. Motion carried.

The second was for the planter at Michigan and Lincolnway which totaled \$7,850 for repair and \$9,800 for removal not including plumbing or electrical. The responsible party has not been found. Novak mentioned that the corner could be turned into a planting bed if the planter was removed. Viere suggested that the planter should be removed, and a planting bed should be put in. Novak will acquire a quote for that option as opposed to a concrete slab and ask for an email vote from the board.

The third was for the removal of the planter at Jackson and Lincolnway next to Bon Viet. Insurance funds have been received for removal. Adamsky motioned to remove the planter. Spiggle seconded. Motion carried.

Leaf & Snow Removal: There was no report.

Flowers: Ward reported the plants are scheduled to be removed in October and she will clarify if the invoice that was sent is an actual bill or quote.

Trees: Adamsky asked the board members to look around their areas to identify any tree issues.

Long-Term Planning: There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:

Adjournment/Next Meeting

There being no further business, Viere entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Adamsky seconded. The next board meeting will be on October 15, 2024 due to Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day

taking place on the normal meeting day. *If unable to attend this meeting, please contact Lizz Ward by email at lizzward@gmail.com*

Respectfully submitted by: Lindsay Kneifel