May 6, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Mark Kosior, Jessica Romine
Absent: None

Bert Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swear-In New Fire Fighter
Fire Chief Andy Snyder swore in Firefighter Owen Barsic. Mr. Barsic graduated from the Fire Academy on Friday and was the valedictorian of his class. Mr. Barsic introduced his family and spoke briefly about himself.

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
David Heinold, City Planner and ADA Coordinator, spoke about Bike Month. Mr. Heinold stated Bike Month originated with the League of American Bicyclist. The city applied to this league and were awarded the bronze level bicycle friendly community status. Mr. Heinold read the Bike Month Proclamation in its entirety.

City Attorney Nick Otis noted the City Council is in the process of redistricting. There are seven council members, two at large and five in wards or districts. After each census the City Council must either recertify or redistrict, to be in compliance. Attorney Otis encouraged residents to get involved over the next month or so as this is happening.

Claims Approval
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Payroll from April 25, 2025 in the amount of $559,294.97.

Motion/Vote – Approval of April 25, 2025 Payroll
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the April 25, 2025 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Civil City Claims in the amount of $966,508.01.

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 Knoll presented Sewage Claims in the amount of $170,353.74.

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.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Water Claims in the amount of $110,942.25.

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.

Department Head Reports
Engineering: Engineering Director Nick Minich reported there are various paving projects going on around town. The Engineering Department will do their best to keep the schedule updated so the public will know where paving is happening.

Code: Code Enforcement Director Jeff Batchelor reminded everyone that the grass is now growing, and residents need to be cutting their lawns. The Code Enforcement Department will be focusing on uncut lawns. In addition, Mr. Batchelor reminded residents that it is not okay to stick mattresses and other large garbage items behind their homes. This will be seen and a fine will be issued. Mr. Batchelor emphasized this is nothing personal, they are just doing their jobs.

Police: Chief Drangmeister reported Social Worker Kaitlyn Kalisik and Captain Uhlemann hosted a bike safety course with seven girls. Seven bikes were donated and although the girls already knew how to ride bikes, they learned a lot of new information about bike riding such as sharing the road and various tips to keep themselves safe on the road.

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported Foodie Tuesday's will begin in three weeks, starting May 27th and will run through August 26th. Foodie Tuesday's take place at Unity Park every Tuesday during these dates from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. In addition, there are three evening Foodie Tuesday opportunities, from 4 PM until 7 PM, on June 3rd, July 1st, and August 5th. Mr. Schreiber recognized Coach Brian Rock and the 12U Maple City Baseball team for winning their first three tournaments of the Spring.

Street: Street Superintendent Mike Fraze reported they are out patching, street sweeping, and crack sealing. In addition, Mr. Fraze also reminded everyone that paving season has begun.

New Business:

Notice of Corpus Christi Walk

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Notice of Corpus Christi Walk. Ms. Loeffler stated they do not actually need any permission because they are using public rights-of-way and are not requesting to shut off any egress or ingress. Ms. Loeffler stated their intention is to make the public aware that this is coming. The event is held on June 22nd and the walk starts at St Joseph Church and ends at Sacred Heart Church. They do utilize the public sidewalks and have contacted the police department for a presence at the roads that they do cross over. Ms. Loeffler reiterated, there is no request for permission rather just a public announcement to make everyone aware the walk will be happening.

Appeal: Dangerous Dog Citation

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Appeal: Dangerous Dog Citation. Attorney Otis stated there is an appeal filed by a resident regarding a dangerous dog citation. Attorney Otis confirmed with Code Director Jeff Batchelor that the individual filing the appeal did not appear at today's meeting. Attorney Otis confirmed with Mr. Batchelor that an investigation was done, and it was determined this resident had five unvaccinated and unregistered pit bulls as his residence. Two of these Pit Bulls escaped the fenced in yard and killed one dog and injured another dog, in the neighbor's yard and Mr. Batchelor's recommendation is both dogs be euthanized. Mr. Batchelor stated City Ordinance states if you cannot control your animals, you cannot have them within the city. Mayor Dermody noted the dogs that were attacking could have easily turned and attacked the 82-year-old trying to break up the fight with their broom. Mr. Batchelor also noted, the owner of the dogs who did the attacking, had left them outside and then went back inside his home and went to sleep. Attorney Otis stated the request today is to affirm the decision of Code Enforcement Director Jeff Batchelor and euthanize the two pit bulls involved in the attack. Ms. Romine questioned what would happen to the other three dogs. Mr. Batchelor stated the other three dogs will be removed from the home and they will find a place for them to go. Mr. Batchelor stated they believe that the owner of the pit bulls has taken the two dogs to be euthanized out of State, but they will be working with the police department to find out their location and go from there. Attorney Otis stated they are currently working to make the City Ordinances more efficient because there are other issues they have come across with various animals.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Decision to Euthanize Two Pit Bulls

Ms. Romine made a motion to uphold Code Enforcement Director Jeff Batchelor's decision to euthanize the two pit bulls involved in the dangerous dog citation; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Second Amendment to Development Agreement

Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook presented Second Amendment to Development Agreement. Mr. Cook presented a resolution that was passed at last night's City Council meeting but to stay consistent with previous actions on this project, it is also being presented to the Board of Works to ensure everyone is involved in the process and aware of what is happening. This resolution is in regard to the Hunter's Woods

residential development. Mr. Cook noted the original agreement governed the performance of both the city and the developer for this project and it represented a certain number of residential units and the infrastructure the city is building to facilitate the development. The first amendment adjusted the product mix. This second amendment is due to some unforeseen circumstances that require pavement cuts on Sever's and then the repair of those cuts and additional water infrastructure that needs to be built on the portion of the site that is multi-family. Mr. Cook stated in conjunction with the developer they came up with an agreement to essentially split the cost. The Developer will pay the city $65,000 and the city will put in the water infrastructure and the paving on Sever's Road. Mr. Cook emphasized we have had a good relationship with this developer, and they have been very cooperative throughout the whole process. Mr. Cook recognized the water department for all their hard work with the project. Mayor Dermody also recognized and thanked the residents for their patience during this as it has been somewhat of a difficult road.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Second Amendment to Development Agreement
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Second Amendment to Development Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Award Contract PY2024 CDBG Sidewalk Replacement Program
CDBG Manager Mary Ann Richards presented Award Contract PY2024 CDBG Sidewalk Replacement Program. Ms. Richards stated during the last meeting in April, bids were opened for the CDBG sidewalk replacement program. This will utilize funding from program year 2024. All bids were reviewed for completeness. Ms. Richards stated she recommends that the City of La Porte awards the bid to Pavey Excavating in the amount of $250,802.

Mayor Dermody questioned what sidewalks this would include overall. Ms. Richards stated this includes sidewalks on Madison between Lincolnway and 1st Street, Maple, Harrison, and the cross streets between Indiana and Madison. Ms. Richards emphasized this does not include all sidewalks, this only includes the worst areas. Mayor Dermody stated residents may wonder why all the sidewalks aren't replaced across the board and that is because we are trying to be as efficient as possible with the available funds and noted Ms. Richards could be seen walking block to block and checking the sidewalks to see which areas were most in need of repair. Ms. Richards stated this project is related to the INDOT project on Indiana Avenue. One requirement INDOT has put on the city is we must have an alternate ADA compliant sidewalk path because the sidewalks on Indiana Ave will be blocked. Ms. Romine questioned what the timeline is on this project. Ms. Richards stated she does not have a timeframe now because there are trees that need to be removed first, and the sidewalks cannot be replaced until that happens. Ms. Richards stated they will be planting two trees for every tree that is removed. They will be working with Phil Graf, Arborist, to ensure proper trees are planted.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Award Contract PY2024 CDBG Sidewalk Replacement Program
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Award Contract PY2024 CDBG Sidewalk Replacement Program as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay Application #1-2025-2 CCMG Paving
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Pay Application #1-2025-2 CCMG in the amount of $297,405.50. Mr. Minich stated this is for a lot of the concrete work that has already been completed and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay Application #1-2025-2 CCMG Paving
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Pay Application #1-2025-2 CCMG Paving as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request to Bid-2026-1 CCMG Paving (Stevens Road)
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Request to Bid-2026-1 CCMG Paving (Stevens Road). Mr. Minich stated they put in for a small Community Crossings grant this spring with the school corporation's expansion project at their transportation center. Mr. Minich stated this will also get rid of the last dirt road in the city. Mr. Minich stated we need to get bids out shortly to meet the obligations to the grant.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request to Bid-2026-1 CCMG Paving (Stevens Road)
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request to Bid-2026-1 CCMG Paving (Stevens Road) as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Permission to Advertise for LPG War Wagon
Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Permission to Advertise for LPG War Wagon on behalf of Water Superintendent Tim Werner. Mr. Jackson stated their War Wagon is the truck that they carry all their tools in when they have a water main break or doing major work. Mr. Jackson stated Mr. Werner got an Alternate Fuel grant for this which is 50/50. Mr. Jackson emphasized the need for this vehicle and noted Mr. Werner did fund this 100% out of his capital budget and would be bidding this regardless of receiving the grant. Mr. Jackson stated the advertisements would go out May 13th, May 20th, and bids would be opened at the June 3rd Board of Works meeting. Mr. Kosior asked if the vehicle will be full electric or partial electric due to the alternative fuel grant. Mr. Jackson stated it would be fueled by propane as it is more practical for the size of the truck.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Permission to Advertise for LPG War Wagon
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Permission to Advertise for LPG War Wagon as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay App #7 – McClung Rd Pressure Sewer system Extension
Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Pay App #7 – McClung Rd Pressure Sewer System Extension in the amount of $11,380.94. This is the retainage amount and final pay application and brings the project to 100% completion. Mr. Jackson requests approval to make payment to TGB Unlimited. Mr. Jackson noted they did nice work and would be happy to see them working for the city in the future.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay App #7 – McClung Rd Pressure Sewer System Extension
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Pay App #7 – McClung Rd Pressure Sewer System Extension as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

As Built Drawings McClung Rd Sanitary Sewer
Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson noted the As Built Drawings have been received and GIS Coordinator Melissa Mischke is putting them into the GIS Mapping system.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:
Next regularly scheduled meeting: May 20, 2025 at 9 A.M.

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

Tabled 04-08-2025: - Conflict of Interest: Jessica Romine
-Engagement Letter for Accounting Services: Cornerstone Accounting
Tabled 04-22-2025: - Quote for Engine
-Maintenance Agreement with Villas of Briar Leaf

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: May 20, 2025