September 16, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 9:02 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine
Absent: Mark Kosior

Courtney Parthun 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 September 12, 2025 in the amount of $558,751.77.

Motion/Vote – Approval of September 12, 2025 Payroll
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the September 12, 2025 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of $453,699.08.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of $182,485.15.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of $215,116.24.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Water Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Enterprise Leases
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Enterprise Leases. She stated the city recently signed an agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management for 2026 and Nick Dually is helping plan for the leases that are coming due in budget year 2026. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun introduced Nick and asked him to speak about this agenda item. Mr. Dually stated presented a spreadsheet with the listed vehicles and stated there is currently one vehicle that has been delivered and a few that have yet to be delivered based on aftermarket upfitting. Mr. Dually noted they will be ordering these vehicles from the factory to get the lowest delivered cost. The first five will be going to Code Enforcement and Engineering with the leases starting January 1 as the current leases end December 2025. A few of the other vehicles are for the Fire Department with the majority of them being for the Police Department. Mr. Dually stated they are currently working on securing orders and will then stagger the deliveries to align best with the current lease expirations. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun clarified they are currently budgeting the following vehicles for the respective departments for 2026: Police – 23, Fire – 4, Code – 3, Engineering – 2. She noted that all these vehicles, with the exception of one additional fire vehicle and one additional code vehicle, were leases with the prior supplier. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated the 2026 total cost is at the bottom and does include the one-time upfitting of the police and fire vehicles. The total cost for 2026 is in the amount of $335,304.80. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated the request is for approval to factory order these vehicles to ensure we have them by the current lease due date expiration. Mayor Dermody noted this is less than we have paid in the past and is less than our goal of $500,000 a year for vehicles. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun confirmed this is less than we have paid in the past and our budget is $500,000 per year for vehicles, and repairs and maintenance of those vehicles.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Enterprise Leases
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Enterprise Leases as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports
Wastewater: Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson reported their lightning vehicles, or electric Ford F150s, are in quality control at Ford and should arrive within the next few weeks.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported the Water Department crew is finished on Park Street with the water main installation. In addition, Mr. Werner stated Central will continue to be closed until at least September 25th, for the tie-ins for the future well field. That pipeline will bring the raw water supply to the Lake Street plant to ensure redundancy on the system. Mr. Werner requested the public to use caution in this area as there will be crews out there working. Mayor Dermody noted it is helpful for the public to understand there are multiple departments working together in this area and the paving will not be completed until the Water Department's portion is finished.

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schrieber reported this Saturday is the 26th annual Sunflower Fair on Michigan Avenue from 8 AM to 4 PM. There will be over 100 vendors, over two dozen food vendors, kids' activities, and live music starting at 10 AM. In addition to these activities there will also be a rib cook-off and Sunflower Fair contest. There is something for everyone and Mr. Schreiber encouraged everyone to come check it out. For more information about the Sunflower Fair, you can visit sunflowerfair.com or visit the Facebook page. In addition, Mr. Schreiber stated on Saturday September 27th, there will be a Kiwanis pop-up picnic at Ben Rees Park from 11 AM until 1 PM. There will be a lot of kids' activities and Police and Fire typically come to these events as well.

Street: Street Superintendent Mike Fraze reported they have taken down several trees this week for a sidewalk project. In addition, they will be street sweeping and patching. Mayor Dermody requested Mr. Fraze to speak about the speed-calming measures at Riley School. Mr. Fraze stated these are the same speed-calming measures that they use in front of the hospital and require a vehicle to drive over them slowly. Mayor Dermody stated he has had discussions with Assistant Chief Ferguson about strategically placing these in other areas of the city where they get a lot of requests for an officer to be present to help slow down traffic.

IT: Director Roscoe Hoffman reported they did have issues this morning for both employees and customers with Open Gov. Mr. Hoffman stated they have been in contact with Open Gov and the issues have since been resolved.

Police: Assistant Chief Ferguson reported he has two MOU's on the agenda for later. One for continuation of salaries for social worker Kaitlyn Kalisik and one with Franciscan Health Michigan City for firearms training. Mayor Dermody noted there were two bomb threats over the weekend and recognized and thanked both police and fire for how they dealt with the situation.

Code: Code Enforcement Director Jeff Batchelor reported they will be working on cleaning up Teledyne. In addition, Mr. Batchelor reported Norfolk Southern has property on Hines and Brighton Street and they have already cleaned it off once and there are now vehicles back on it again. Mayor Dermody clarified it is not Norfolk Southern that is putting vehicles on the property but rather an individual and they plan to meet with them to have them get it cleaned up.

New Business:

Request for Use: Cookie Cutter Holiday Market

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Cook Cutter Holiday Market Sunflower Fair. Ms. Loeffler stated this request is from Emily Ferenczi, owner of Emmy's Bakery, to do a holiday market with local crafters, Christmas tree farm, and carolers. The setup would be at 1 PM and everything would be down by 7 PM. The request is to use the LaStitch area on Monroe that is used for Friday Night Live events. Mr. Schreiber noted that the ice rink will be set up during that time and wanted to make sure Ms. Ferenczi is aware. Ms. Loeffler clarified the request is only for the street area on Monroe. Mayor Dermody stated he would

like to make the approval contingent on Mr. Schreiber speaking with Ms. Ferenczi to make sure she is aware the ice rink will be set up and therefore that parking lot area will not be available for use. Ms. Loeffler noted that the certificate of insurance was provided.

Motion/Vote – Approval Request for Use: Cookie Cutter Holiday Market
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Cookie Cutter Holiday Market Sunflower Fair as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Sunflower Fair
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Sunflower Fair. This is for the annual downtown festival that includes vendors, live music, and food trucks. The request is to close Michigan Avenue from Lincolnway to Osborne and all the side streets between there from Monroe to Indiana: Jefferson, Maple, and Harrison. The closure would start Friday evening and open Saturday evening, creating an approximate 24-hour closure. Mayor Dermody questioned police and fire if they could foresee any issues and they both stated no. Mayor Dermody asked Mr. Schreiber if there was any need for volunteers. Mr. Schreiber stated there is always a need for volunteers to setup in the morning and again at the end of the day to help move everything off the street. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should call the Civic Auditorium at 219-362-2325.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Sunflower Fair
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Sunflower Fair as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Homecoming Parade
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Homecoming Parade. Ms. Loeffler noted they are changing it up from years past and this year they are requesting the closure of State Street from Flagstar Bank to the County Complex and permission to use that section of State Street for their Homecoming Parade. The parade will be on Monday October 6th from approximately 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM. In addition, they are requesting the use of the city parking lot at the corner of State Street and Monroe Street for possible food vendors and individuals selling slicer gear. Mayor Dermody asked police and fire if they see any issues with approving that. Both police and fire do not foresee any issues with this closure. Mayor Dermody invited Angela Lowery and Nicole Winsky to speak about homecoming week. Angela Lowery stated she leads the student council and Nicole Winsky is a teacher. They stated they are looking to get more community involvement in homecoming this year in addition to all the different sports and clubs at the school, like they used to be.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Homecoming Parade
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Homecoming Parade as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Birthday Party

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Birthday Party. This request is for an 18th Birthday Party, and they are requesting to close a section of Closser from 504 to 516, between Lane Street and Orchard. They did include a note that was signed by all the neighbors that stated they were okay with the road closure. The closure will be from 2 PM to 6 PM on a Saturday. Ms. Loeffler noted that they did include a copy of their insurance. Mayor Dermody questioned police and fire if they could foresee any issues, they both stated no.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Birthday Party

Ms. Romie made a motion to approve Request for Use: Birthday Party as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Temporary Stop Sign

City Attorney Nick Otis stated this is for the intersection at Fox Street and Kingsbury. This went through Traffic Commission earlier this month. Attorney Otis noted the increased traffic in this area due to the construction on Indiana and stated there have been a lot of close calls and even some accidents potentially as this is a unique intersection. A temporary stop sign has been placed at Kingsbury and Fox Street and some temporary pylons to direct traffic. Attorney Otis noted he drives this way multiple times daily and this has improved the area. Attorney Otis stated the request is for approval based on the recommendation of the Traffic Commission. Fire Chief Andy Sndyer stated the Traffic Commission has recommended approval of these and the Street Department has already moved forward with several of them, including the stop signs, but the Traffic Commission does not have the authority to place a stop sign for any length of time, but the Board of Public Works does on a 30-day basis. Chief Snyder noted Council does have the authority to approve on a permit basis, however they are not looking for anything permanent but rather something for the duration of the construction. Attorney Otis noted that this will need to be brought back before the board monthly for reapproval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Temporary Stop Sign

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Temporary Stop Sign as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Settlement Agreement – Spectrum Recycling

City Attorney Nick Otis presented Settlement Agreement - Spectrum Recycling. Attorney Otis stated this is a settlement agreement between the City of La Porte and DHS LLC DBA Spectrum Recycling. Attorney Otis stated this is a complex eminent domain case as it involves the valuation of a commercial location and then also the relocation costs that the city is obligated to provide. Mayor Dermody worked directly with the business owner to come to this agreement. Last night the City Council appropriated Major Move Funds to allow for the first payment of $200,000 and the second payment will be made on or before March 30th, 2027. Mayor Dermody thanked Dave Shou for making this agreement happen.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Settlement Agreement – Spectrum Recycling
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Settlement Agreement – Spectrum Recycling as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

LPPD: Memorandum of Understanding (2) Social Worker and Firearms Training
Assistant Police Chief Jim Ferguson presented Memorandum of Understanding (2) Social Worker and Firearms Training. The first MOU is between the City of La Porte and Healthlinc for Social Worker Kaitlyn Kalisik. This is an MOU for the continuation of our pay schedule for her salary. An invoice is submitted to HealthLinc on the 5th of each month in the amount of $5,700 for the remainder of the year. The invoice amount will change to $3,656 per month from January 2026 to September 2026.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding: Social Worker
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding: Social Worker as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

The second MOU is between the City of La Porte and Franciscan Health Michigan City. Assistant Chief Ferguson stated Franciscan Health Michigan City has their own police force; they are armed, they have police powers, and they have arrest powers. The City of La Porte firearms training officers have been training and qualifying them for approximately two years so they can keep their accreditation. This MOU will state that Franciscan will pay $75 per hour for firearms training.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding: Firearms Training
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding: Firearms Training as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Primary Sludge Pump Quote
Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Primary Sludge Pump Quote. Mr. Jackson stated four quotes were requested and they settled on one they believed would be the most cost effective. Wastewater team members went to Kent, Ohio to look at the selected pump and in that process found another pump they felt would be a better option. Mr. Jackson stated they are currently waiting on a quote for that pump and requested this item be tabled until they receive that quote and can bring all the quotes before the board.

Motion/Vote – Table Primary Sludge Pump Quote
Ms. Romine made a motion to Table Primary Sludge Pump Quote as; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Sewer Inspection Equipment
Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Sewer Inspection Equipment. Mr. Jackson stated he came across this equipment at an operator's meeting. The equipment sends sound frequencies through the sewer and up to the other manhole and into a microphone connected to a computer. The sound frequencies help determine the condition of the sewer

and whether or not it is necessary to clean. Mr. Jackson stated they went to Michigan City to speak with them as they have been using this system for several years. Michigan City has a requirement from the Federal Government to clean their sewers at a certain pace to get around to all of them and they were not meeting that requirement. This equipment helped them to determine which sewers need to be cleaned and which ones could be skipped. Mr. Jackson stated they went from not being able to make the five-year requirement and now being able get it done in three years. Mr. Jackson stated they had the vendor bring the equipment out and they tested it in an area that they know hadn't been cleaned in a while and they found two areas that had root blockage. Mr. Jackson emphasized that looking down into the manhole, it looked fine, but this system found the roots that hadn't blocked the system yet but eventually would have. The equipment generates a report that is uploaded on the internet and provides documentation of the sewer inspection and can then generate a work order if needed. Mr. Jackson stated his recommendation is for the purchase of this equipment in the amount of $35,110 and believes we will get a quick payback as we will not have to clean sewers that are already clean.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewer Inspection Equipment
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Sewer Inspection Equipment as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permits
Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permits. Mr. Jackson stated the State of Indiana inspected our pre-treatment program and then spent two days inspecting some industries and then provided an Inspection Deficiency Letter. Mr. Jackson noted that the deficiencies were for lack of language in the various permits and although they are not big items, they do need to be taken care of. Mr. Jackson stated this will update two permits, Howmet and New York Blower. Mr. Jackson emphasized that these two industries are metal treating industries, and they are in a specific category, so these items are appropriate for just these two industries. This does not issue new permits but rather modifies their current permits with the new language. Mr. Jackson recommends approval of the modified permits for New York Blower and Howmet.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permits
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permits as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Invoice: Pro Drive Asphalt – Lincolnwalk Project
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Invoice: Pro Drive Asphalt - Lincolnwalk Project in the amount of $22,980 and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Invoice: Pro Drive Asphalt – Lincolnwalk Project
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Invoice: Pro Drive Asphalt – Lincolnwalk Project as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Invoice: Emcor Hyre Electric – Lighted Bollards
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Invoice: Emcor Hyre Electric – Lighted Bollards in the amount of $9,725. Mr. Minich stated this was for the installation of eight lighted bollards in the La Stitch area. Mr. Minich stated this will help correct some issues in this area during events and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Invoice: Emcor Hyre Electric
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Invoice: Emcor Hyre Electric as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Invoice: Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete - Concrete
City Engineer Nick Minich presented Invoice: Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete – Concrete in the amount $476. This is for the concrete work that was done for the installation of the bollards. Mr. Minich recognized the Street Department because they were the ones that provided the labor.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Invoice: Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete - Concrete
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Invoice: Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete - Concrete as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Solar Agreement – Schneider Electric
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Solar Agreement – Schneider Electric. Mr. King stated this is an agreement that will install two new solar panel fields that will offset approximately 50% of the total power used by the water department at the east plant and Kankakee well field. This agreement will provide approximately $2.3 million in savings, including the rebate, over 25 years.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Solar Agreement – Schneider Electric
Mayor Dermody made a motion to approve Solar Agreement – Schneider Electric as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Hunter Woods Phase 2 Final Plat
City Planner and ADA Coordinator David Heinold presented Hunter Woods Phase 2 Final Plat. Mr. Heinold stated this is a 19-lot interior road connection that connects to Park Street and Severs Road to finish out the subdivision. Mr. Heinold stated the road is already in, utilities are already there, and the plan commission has recommended approval. All that is left to do is final plat approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Hunter Woods Phase 2 Final Plat
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Hunter Woods Phase 2 Final Plat as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:
Mayor Dermody noted in a continued effort to remain transparent and allow for residents to be heard, they will begin doing Minutes with the Mayor. This is where people can come in and have a one-on-one meeting with the mayor. The first Minutes with the Mayor will take place this Thursday at City Hall from 8 AM to 9 AM. Mayor Dermody emphasized the days and times will change in an effort to accommodate anyone that would like an opportunity to have their voice heard with a one-on-one conversation with the mayor.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday October 7, 2025 at 9 A.M.

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: October 7, 2025