March 31, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in special session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine
Absent: Mark Kosior

Jamie Novak led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
None

New Business:
La Lumiere Claim
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented La Lumiere Claim. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented the profit and loss statement for the La Porte Invitational. She noted that the document provided to the Board detailed all credits and debits associated with the event. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun explained that, at the conclusion of the Invitational, the remaining profit is split between the City and Lalumiere, consistent with prior arrangements. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun further reported that there are several outstanding sponsorships and program advertisements that have not yet been paid. Because of these pending payments, the final figures remain subject to slight adjustment. Based on the current accounting, however, Clerk-Treasurer Parthun indicated that the amount owed to Lalumiere is slightly over $12,000. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun requested Board approval of the presented profit and loss statement and authorization to proceed with payment to Lalumiere, acknowledging that the final amount may change slightly once all outstanding sponsorships and program advertisements are received.

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

Lochmueller Claims
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Lochmueller Claims in the amount of $2,880.58 and $837.88. Both claims are for professional services for Chessie Trail Phase 2.

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

Avenue: Closeout Task and Professional Services Agreement
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun requested to add two additional items to the meeting agenda related to Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) work. She explained that the first item involves a closeout task order for Avenue, the City's consultant assisting with CCMG contracts,

which would address the completion of prior CCMG projects and preparation of a new CCMG application. The second item is a professional services agreement with Avenue for advisory services related to asset management and roadway preservation. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun invited Assistant City Engineer Tucker King to provide additional details. Mr. King explained that the city is currently working to complete the closeout of the previous year's CCMG projects. He noted that five additional roadways still need to be finalized, with work expected to begin within the next two weeks as asphalt plants reopen for the season. Mr. King also stated that Avenue has played an important role in preparing and organizing the upcoming work following recent staffing transitions.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun clarified that the CCMG closeout item is structured as a task order under an existing contract, while the second item — the professional services agreement for asset management and preservation — would be a new contract with a not-to-exceed amount of $30,000. She further explained that, as the city continues to evaluate resident interest in paving additional roads, Avenue offers a program titled "Better Roads Faster," which the city intends to explore further. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted that Mr. King and Engineering Project Manager Jamie Novak have been working closely on this initiative and expressed appreciation for their efforts. Mr. King noted that the work includes paving on Weller Street, extending from the railroad tracks toward Central Avenue and continuing toward Greenleaf Boulevard near the lake. Additional work includes completion of roadway improvements on Ohio Street, Floyd Street, and several other nearby streets. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun reiterated that these items would support completion of prior CCMG work, preparation for future grant applications, and continued evaluation of roadway asset management strategies to accelerate pavement improvements throughout the community.

Moton/Vote – Approval of Avenue: Closeout Task and Professional Services Agreement
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Avenue: Closeout Task and Professional Services Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Temporary Stop Sign
City Attorney Nick Otis presented a request for approval of continued use of a temporary stop sign on Kingsbury Avenue near the Presbyterian Church, specifically at the intersection of Southmore Drive and Kingsbury Avenue. He noted that this request was like the one approved previously during construction on Indiana Avenue. City Attorney Otis commented that the current sign appeared to be relatively short and, despite being familiar with the area, he had nearly rolled through the stop due to its limited visibility. He suggested that the sign may need to be raised for improved safety. Mayor Dermody responded, acknowledging the concern and confirming that the existing sign is low. He explained that installation of a taller, more visible sign had been delayed while waiting for NIPSCO utility locates and necessary approvals. Now that those requirements have been completed, Mayor Dermody indicated that a higher sign would be placed. He further noted that traffic speed has again become a concern in the area as construction activity continues along Kingsbury Avenue, and the improved signage is expected to help slow traffic and enhance safety.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Temporary Stop Sign
Ms. Romine made motion to approve Temporary Stop Sign as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Purchase Agreement 128 Bach St
Director of Community Development and Planning Craig Phillips presented Purchase Agreement 128 Bach St. Mr. Phillips stated this is formerly the Sacred Heart Church property located at the corner of Bach Street and Pulaski Street. Mr. Phillips reported that the city has reached an agreement with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gary, which has already been signed by the Diocese. Mr. Phillips explained that the acquisition will be funded through grant dollars received from the Health Foundation. He noted that the total purchase price for the property is $233,000, which was determined based on the average of two independent appraisals. He further clarified that the total project cost includes an earnest money deposit as well as $70,000 designated for reconstruction of an existing storage building on the site. Of the total amount, approximately $163,000 represents the property acquisition cost, with the additional $70,000 allocated for the storage building reconstruction. Mr. Phillips stated that the property purchase is part of the planned Advantix affordable housing development, with this location serving as one of three sites identified for the project. Mr. Phillips expressed enthusiasm about moving forward with the acquisition and emphasized the importance of completing the purchase so that the city can begin the remaining preparatory work necessary for the affordable housing development.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Purchase Agreement 128 Bach St
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Purchase Agreement 128 Bach St as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Amended LPA Contract w/Rundell Ernstberger Associates
Director of Community Development and Planning Craig Phillips presented Amended LPA Contract w/Rundell Ernstberger Associates. Mr. Phillips stated the amendment is to address an expanded scope of work related to ongoing transportation planning efforts within the city. Mr. Phillips explained that the amendment is necessary due to three primary additions to the project scope. First, the city must develop a new local transportation model. He noted that the regional model previously available through the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) did not provide sufficient accuracy at the local level. As a result, the city determined it was necessary to create its own transportation model to better analyze and run scenarios for anticipated transportation projects planned over the coming years. Second, Mr. Phillips stated that additional work is needed to support the City's efforts to pursue relinquishment of certain state highway segments within the city limits. He explained that this process requires extensive research, data collection, and analysis to properly support requests submitted to the State. Third, Mr. Phillips reported that the amended scope includes development of alternate truck routes throughout the city. This work will involve both short-term and long-term planning to establish a coordinated network and identify priority routes and potential locations across the community.

Mr. Phillips indicated that the additional scope of services would not exceed $229,200, bringing the total overall project cost to $579,200. Mr. Phillips explained that $162,400 of the additional cost is anticipated to be funded through federal transportation funds administered through the State of Indiana and NIRPC. The remaining balance will be funded locally, with 50 percent coming from Redevelopment Commission funds that were approved at their last meeting, and the remaining portion is to be paid from encumbered funds currently available within Mr. Phillips' departmental budget that have been designated for this project. Mr. Phillips noted that, upon Board approval, the amendment would be submitted to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for review. Following INDOT approval, he will return to the Board at a future meeting with the revised INDOT LPA contract for final execution, noting that this amendment represents the next necessary step in advancing the project.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Amended LPA Contract w/Rundell Ernstberger Associates
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Amended LPA Contract w/Rundell Ernstberger Associates as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Permission to Solicit Bids – PY25 CDBG Sidewalks
CDBG Manager Mary Ann Richards presented Permission to Solicit Bids – PY25 CDBG Sidewalks. Ms. Richards explained that the proposed project area includes sidewalks along Madison Street west to Tyler Street, as well as from Lincolnway south along Perry Street and Chicago Street to 1st Street. She clarified that Lincolnway would serve as the northern boundary of the project area, with improvements extending southward to First Street. Mayor Dermody asked for clarification regarding whether sidewalks along Lincolnway would be included in the project. Ms. Richards responded that only portions of the Lincolnway sidewalks would be addressed due to limited funding, noting that available funds are not sufficient to complete all sidewalk improvements along that corridor. Mayor Dermody further noted that the State had recently completed work along Lincolnway, to which Ms. Richards confirmed that the State's work primarily involved installing ADA-compliant handicap ramps, as Lincolnway is considered a State roadway. Mayor Dermody then asked whether the sidewalks along Lincolnway fall under State responsibility. Assistant City Engineer Tucker King explained that, while the legal distinction can be unclear, his experience indicates that the city is typically responsible for maintenance, while the State controls permitting and related approvals. Ms. Richards added that she and Assistant City Engineer Tucker King had recently discussed this matter and noted there may be opportunities for cost-sharing with the State, given the positive working relationship; however, she cautioned that pursuing such coordination could potentially delay the project. Ms. Richards further noted that the project must be completed by August 1st in order to meet CDBG funding requirements and ensure funds are drawn down within the required timeframe. Mayor Dermody asked whether there may be an opportunity to complete the Lincolnway portion prior to the parade. Ms. Richards stated that, depending on contractor scheduling and project management, it may be possible to prioritize Lincolnway first, although she emphasized that this would depend on the selected contractor and overall timeline. Ms. Richards also noted that a significant portion of sidewalks near the former Boston School site will be replaced as part of the project. She explained that coordination with the school system will be necessary to align construction timing with school

schedules, adding that the project will require careful planning and ongoing management to ensure successful completion within the required timeframe.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Permission to Solicit Bids – PY25 CDBG Sidewalks
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Permission to Solicit Bids – PY25 CDBG Sidewalks as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

ADA Updates
Assistant City Planner and ADA Coordinator David Heinold presented ADA Updates. Mr. Heinold stated he is presenting the revised City of La Porte TransPorte ADA Policy for Board consideration. Mr. Heinold explained that the revisions were completed in coordination with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) to ensure compliance with current accessibility requirements and best practices. Mr. Heinold reported that, as part of the update, the City's TransPorte website has been revised to include updated ADA information, including the complaint process and procedures for requesting reasonable modifications to transportation services. He noted that the updated brochure has also been completed and made available to the public. Mr. Heinold encouraged residents to visit the City's website. Mr. Heinold further explained that the policy document presented to the Board serves as a general guide for implementing ADA policies and procedures for TransPorte operations. He noted that the document includes direct links to the applicable policies hosted on the City's website, consistent with requirements established through the City's agreement with NIRPC. Mr. Heinold added that the revisions were developed collaboratively with TransPorte staff to ensure the policy reflects operational practices and compliance standards. Mayor Dermody acknowledged the collaborative effort and the importance of maintaining accessible transportation services and updated ADA procedures for the public.

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

Appointment of Douglas Holt
Engineering Assistant Project Manager Jamie Novak presented Appointment of Douglas Holt. Ms. Novak stated her request is for authorization to appoint Douglas Holt of the Engineering and Building Services Department as a designated official authorized to approve residential occupancy certificates as well as any permits. Ms. Novak explained that granting this authority would help maintain workflow and ensure timely processing of residential approvals. City Attorney Nick Otis explained that, following discussions with Ms. Novak, formal approval from the Board of Works is required to grant Mr. Holt the authority to approve residential occupancy certificates and approve permits. Attorney Otis noted that the request is part of an effort to address staffing transitions following the departure of Nick Minich, and to help streamline operations and improve efficiency within the department. He also acknowledged the efforts of staff members, including Ms. Novak, Assistant City Engineer Tucker King, and Code Enforcement Director Jeff Batchelor, for assisting in covering responsibilities during the transition period. Mayor Dermody asked Ms. Novak to comment on Mr. Holt's performance

thus far. Ms. Novak stated that he has been a strong addition to the department and has demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond in his role.

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

Unfinished Business
Mayor Dermody commented on the progress of the Slicer Pathway project, noting that it is encouraging to see the project moving closer to completion. Assistant City Engineer Tucker King acknowledged that construction crews are currently working on the pathway and expressed optimism that significant progress would continue in the coming weeks. Mr. King also highlighted the collaborative nature of the project, noting that it represents a partnership between the City, the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte (HFL), and the La Porte Community School Corporation. He explained that while the school corporation is not providing direct financial contributions, their cooperation and support have been important to advancing the project. Mayor Dermody emphasized the safety benefits of the pathway, particularly for students who have previously been observed walking in the street due to the lack of sidewalks. He stated that providing a safe walking path for children and students is a primary goal of the project. Mr. King agreed, noting that improving pedestrian safety remains the central objective. Mr. King further reported that he and City Planner and ADA Coordinator David Heinold recently applied for a Safe Streets for All grant to fund additional segments of the Slicer Pathway. He explained that, if awarded, the grant would help extend the pathway closer to Kesling and further enhance connectivity and safety for pedestrians. Mayor Dermody expressed support for the continued progress and the City's efforts to secure additional funding to complete more sections of the Slicer Pathway.

Other Business

Adjournment
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: April 14, 2026