August 4, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

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

Ian Eldridge 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 July 21, 2026 Meeting 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
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented payroll from July 31, 2026 in the amount of $594,700.50.

Motion/Vote – Approval of July 31, 2026 Payroll
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the July 31, 2026 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of $17,223,344.78. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun clarified the amount does include a $16,800,000 claim from sewage funds to an investment that will earn approximately $51,000 per month.

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.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of $210,431.70.

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.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of $1,995,804.62.

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.

Department Head Reports
TransPorte: TransPorte Assistant Director/Dispatcher Natalie Griffith reported that only three buses are currently operating, while two others are undergoing repairs. She stated that the operating buses are being maintained safely and are currently being used to transport riders as needed, despite the challenges. Mayor Dermody noted that the City is exploring future funding opportunities to address the condition and replacement needs of the bus fleet. Ms. Romine asked about the City's maintenance arrangements. Ms. Griffith explained that the City has an in-house mechanic, with most repairs being handled by Presell. Fuel-related work, particularly involving propane, is sent to another service provider because Presell does not perform propane repairs. Ms. Griffith further reported that the City has experienced an increase in ridership following Paladin's discontinuation of bus service. Mayor Dermody noted that the City had previously explored partnering with Paladin approximately three years ago, but the company was not interested at that time.

Street: Street Supervisor Ian Eldridge reported that the Street Department is addressing potholes, repainting school crosswalks, and preparing for brush pickup. He also provided an update on the City's paving program, noting that staff are finalizing a list of priority roads using input from the public, Council, department heads, and an AI-based road condition assessment. Approximately 10–14 miles are expected to be paved this year, with a similar amount anticipated next year, totaling approximately 25 miles over two years. Mayor Dermody noted that this would represent roughly 20% of the City's 119 miles of roads and would make a significant improvement to overall road conditions. He also recognized Courtney Parthun for her efforts in securing funding for City infrastructure projects.

IT: Mayor Dermody recognized IT Director Roscoe Hoffman and his team for all they do in keeping the city safe from cyber attacks and requested Mr. Hoffman to expand on the number of cyber attacks that happen each day. Mr. Hoffman reported the City receives approximately 5,000–10,000 cyberattacks daily through its firewall and email systems. He emphasized the importance of continued cybersecurity training to help employees recognize and respond to threats, protecting both City systems and personal information.

Mr. Hoffman introduced Chris Thompson, a senior at PNW who is currently interning with the City of La Porte. Mr. Thompson expressed his enthusiasm and appreciation to be working with the City of La Porte and spoke briefly about himself and his education through PNW. In addition, Mr. Hoffman introduced Bryson Feare. Mr. Feare spoke briefly about himself and his history working within the city.

Code: Code Director Jeff Batchelor asked the public to report suspected squatters or unauthorized activity in vacant homes so Code Enforcement can address issues before properties deteriorate further. He reported a recent property that was condemned due to

severe sanitary conditions and noted concerns with some rental property owners failing to properly maintain their properties. Mayor Dermody emphasized that rental properties should be treated as a business and that landlords have a responsibility to address property issues.

Engineering: Tucker King announced that the City's tree removal contract is being advertised for bids over the next two weeks, with bids scheduled to be opened at the next Board of Works meeting. The project is expected to remove approximately 100 to 150 hazardous trees identified throughout the community, including trees marked with white "X"s, with work anticipated to be completed within approximately 90 days. Mr. King recognized Phil Graff for assisting the City in identifying the most critical trees. Mayor Dermody encouraged residents to avoid parking near trees marked with white "X"s and emphasized the importance of proactively removing hazardous trees to improve public safety. Mr. King also provided an update on ongoing discussions regarding a proposed sidewalk near Driftwood to improve pedestrian access to parks and businesses along Pine Lake Avenue.

Wastewater: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson reported a sewer overflow and blown manhole cover on First Street during the recent severe storm. Crews are cleaning the sewer system in the area. He explained that the City's combined sewer system can become overloaded during intense rainfall and noted that future infrastructure projects will help address the issue. Residents were encouraged to safely keep leaves and debris away from storm drains.

Water: Water Director Tim Werner reported that the City's annual water audit has been completed and is awaiting independent validation. Preliminary results indicate an improved score from the previous year. Mr. Werner also recognized Clyde Brodhacker upon his retirement after 34 years with the City.

Parks and Recreation: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber thanked sponsors, City staff, volunteers, the LakeFest committee, residents, and visitors for their participation in LakeFest. He reported strong attendance throughout the weekend, including an estimated 4,000–5,000 people for the Uncle Kracker concert. Mayor Dermody thanked Parks staff and other City departments for their work during the event. Residents were reminded about the final Friday Night Live event of the season, "Cheeseburger in Paradise," scheduled for Friday from 6:00–10:00 p.m.

New Business:

Request for Use: LPHS FB

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented a request from La Porte High School to temporarily close sections of streets for approximately two hours during football games to allow pedestrians to safely travel between the high school parking area and football field. The school will handle placement and removal of City-provided barricades.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request of Use: LPHS FB

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: LPHS FB as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Ticket Appeal
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented two ticket appeals. Ms. Loeffler stated the first appeal involved a resident who parked in an alternate location while complying with temporary no-parking signs associated with construction. After review by the Police Department, the ticket was recommended for dismissal.

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

The second appeal involved Ms. Allen, whose driver's license remained incorrectly listed as suspended due to an error by the BMV. The resulting traffic stop led to a ticket and vehicle tow despite documentation showing that her license had been reinstated. The Board discussed reimbursement of the City's $258 fee and potential recourse with the BMV.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Ticket Appeal
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve ticket appeal and reimbursement for the cost of the tow as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior an unanimously carried.

City of L a Porte Microsoft Soil Agreement
City Attorney Nick Otis presented City of La Porte Microsoft Soil Agreement. City Attorney Nick Otis presented an agreement allowing Microsoft to provide approximately 10,000 cubic yards of soil, including delivery, for use at Beechwood Golf Course. The estimated value of the soil is at least $150,000. The delivery is anticipated to occur during the week of August 17 in a single day, with the City coordinating traffic and notifying nearby residents.

Motion/Vote – Approval of City of La Porte Microsoft Soil Agreement
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve City of La Porte Microsoft Soil Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Approval of Grant Agreement with HFL
CDP Director Craig Phillips presented Approval of Grant Agreement with HFL. Mr. Phillips requested approval of a $25,000 grant agreement with the Health Foundation of La Porte for testing, appraisals, surveys, assessments, and related work on the former AC Trust property west of Fox Park, proposed as the future YMCA site.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Grant Agreement with HFL
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Grant Agreement with HFL as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody. Member Kosior abstained.

Approval/Accept READI 2 Grant Agreement DT Neighborhood Reinvestment Project
CDP Director Craig Phillips requested approval to accept a $4 million READI 2.0 grant from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for the Downtown Neighborhood

Reinvestment Project. The project will support new housing, rehabilitation of existing homes, and upper-story residential development in downtown La Porte, with additional support from community partners.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Approval/Accept READI 2 Grant Agreement DT Neighborhood Reinvestment Project

Mr. Kosior made motion to approve Approval/Accept READI 2 Grant Agreement DT Neighborhood Reinvestment Project as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried. Member Romine Abstained.

CDBG Sidewalks Approval of Proposal to Remove/Reinstall Windows/Doors at 1006 Lincolnway

CDBG Manager Mary Ann Richards requested approval to use CDBG funds for the removal and reinstallation of windows and doors at 1006 Lincolnway so the sidewalk could be replaced without compromising the building façade. Two quotes were received: Phoenix Glass in the amount of $5,800 and the second quote is from Trout in the amount of $5,850. Ms. Richards made a recommendation go with Phoenix Glass in the amount of $5,800.

Motion/Vote – Approval of CDBG Sidewalks Approval of Proposal to Remove/Reinstall Windwos/Doors at 1006 Lincolnway

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Proposal to Remove/Reinstall Windows/Doors at 1006 Lincolnway as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay Application #3 Raw Water Main Phase 2

Water Director Tim Werner presented Pay Application #3 Raw Water Main Phase 2 in the amount of $166,957.92. This project is for the raw water main from Central Avenue/Spruce Street to the Lake Street plant. The work totals $185,508.81, with $18,550.89 retained and a payment due of $166,957.92. The project is approximately 92% complete and is expected to come in under budget.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay Application #3 Raw Water Main Phase 2

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Pay Application #3 Raw Water Main Phase 2 as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Change Order/Pay Application – CCMG 24-2

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Change Order/Pay Application – CCMG 24-2. Mr. King presented a change order totaling $344,799.35 to consolidate previously incurred additions and deductions associated with the CCMG 24-2 project and presented as previous change orders.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Change Order/Pay Application – CCMG 24-2

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Change Order/Pay Application – CCMG 24-2 as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried

The Board discussed the various roadway, drainage, grading, and related changes and requested that significant changes be brought to the Board for approval when possible. Mr. King noted they will be working with Milestone moving forward on appropriate billing as they have had difficulty distinguishing between the changes for specific areas of the project. Mr. King also noted this would not all be paid from CCMG funds but some of it will also be paid from water and sewage funds. In addition, Mr. King clarified that $221,000 of this change order was already approved and paid for in December, however, he is including everything for the project in one change order for easier tracking and to ensure everything has been through the approval process. Mr. Kosior stated he would like approval of this based on approval of Clerk-Treasurer Parthun assuring everything is paid for from the appropriate appropriation.

Amended Motion/Vote – Approval of Change Order – CCMG 24-2 Pending Clerk-Treasurer Approval

Mr. Kosior made an amended motion to approve Change Order – CCMG 24-2 pending approval of Clerk-Treasurer Parthun's approval of payment from correct appropriations; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Mr. King presented the final payout for the CCMG 24-2 project, consisting of two invoices: one for completed project work in the amount of $245,899.40, invoice number 249076-06, and a second invoice for the remaining retainage of $317,415.97, invoice number 249070-R. The combined payment totals $563,315.37 and represents the final payment needed to close out the completed contract. The Board confirmed there were no additional changes to the project and approved the final payment and retainage.

Motion/Vote – Approval CCMG 24-2 Final Pay Application

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve CCMG 24-2 Final Pay Application as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay App – Pine Lake Ave Project

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Pay App - Pine Lake Ave Project. Mr. King noted this project is also referred to as the Northeast Corner (NEC) Michigan Project, which was an addition to an existing contract for stormwater and sidewalk improvements. The additional work was requested for bid on October 28, 2025, and was subsequently approved by the Board in November 2025. The pay application, totaling $17,388.85, represents the first payment request for the added work. The additional project scope involves constructing a small section of sidewalk along Pine Lake Avenue to provide a proper connection to the new at-grade crossing at Kiwanis Teledyne Park. Mr. King stated the sidewalk addition is required by the State as part of the HSIP-funded safety improvement project. The new crossing is intended to improve pedestrian safety for residents along Pine Lake Avenue as well as visitors accessing the lake and park. The additional sidewalk will provide a safer and more appropriate connection from the crossing into the park. The $17,388.85 pay application is ADA-funded and is specifically associated with the additional sidewalk work required to complete the pedestrian crossing improvements.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay App – Pine Lake Ave Project
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Pay App – Pine Lake Ave Project as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

INDOT US 35 Change Order Request
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented INDOT US 35 Change Order Request. Mr. King clarified there are three separate change order requests submitted by INDOT for the US 35/Indiana Avenue project, with a combined total of $367,513.74. The change orders involve construction quantity adjustments, sidewalk improvements, and public street lighting. One change order relates to the addition of stamped concrete in the sidewalk portion of the project along Indiana Avenue, generally from Indiana Deli north toward Five Star Cuts, the church, and the bank. The additional sidewalk work and stamped concrete were requested by the City as a design improvement. The other two change orders concern public street lighting. The City had agreed to a betterment for the public street lighting as part of the project. During the design and construction process, it was discovered that the conduit installed for the electrical system was not compatible with the light poles that had been purchased. The poles were new concrete poles, and the supplier reportedly would not accept them back. As a result, different poles are being required, along with the installation of hand holes adjacent to the poles to accommodate the electrical connections. Discussion indicated that the pole and hand-hole change orders resulted from errors in the design process and the incompatibility between the conduit and the purchased light poles. Mayor Dermody expressed concern about requiring the City to absorb the additional costs associated with the issue. It was also noted that the City had already paid for the project in advance and that the additional costs had not been appropriated.

Mr. King stated that the City would be responsible for $20,000 related to a foundation-size mix-up, while INDOT would incur an additional $5,645. Mayor Dermody questioned why the City should be responsible for costs resulting from the design and equipment issues and discussed the need for further negotiation with INDOT and the supplier. Mayor Dermody recommended approval of the stamped concrete portion of the change order and denial of the rest until further discussion could happen with INDOT because this resulted from their error. Mayor Dermody directed Mr. King to return to INDOT and seek a more equitable resolution, with the possibility of involving legal counsel in further discussions. Mr. King emphasized the importance of protecting the City financially and noted that, when the City makes an error, it takes responsibility for the resulting costs. Mayor Dermody expressed the expectation that INDOT should similarly take responsibility for errors attributable to its design process.

Motion/Vote – Approve Stamped Concrete Change Order
Mayor Dermody made a motion to approve the stamped concrete portion of the change order as presented; motion seconded Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote – Deny Two INDOT US 35 Change Order Request for Lighting Related projects
Mayor Dermody made a motion to deny two INDOT US 35 Change Order Request for Lighting Related projects as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Emergency Tree Removal
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented an emergency tree removal, necessitated by damage sustained during the storm, in the amount of $5,000. It was determined that the damaged tree was located entirely within the public right-of-way and was therefore a City-owned tree. Due to the condition of the tree and the potential safety concerns resulting from the storm damage, emergency removal was required. Mr. King and the City team assisted with addressing the situation and supported the removal of the tree. Mayor Dermody acknowledged and expressed appreciation to the homeowner for arranging and paying for the stump grinding following the tree removal, which helped reduce the City's associated costs and allowed the work to be completed promptly.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Emergency Tree Removal
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Emergency Tree Removal as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Task Order #3 – Engineering Services
Engineering Assistant Project Manager Jamie Novak presented Task Order No. 3 for general engineering services with Lochmueller Group to continue providing support to the Engineering Department. The services will include assistance with reviewing building permits, small projects, and other related engineering matters. Ms. Novak noted this agreement provides approximately 80 hours of professional engineering services at a total cost of $20,800. Funding will come from the Engineering Professional Services budget, and Clerk-Treasurer Parthun has confirmed that sufficient funds are available. Ms. Novak indicated that the approximately 80 hours of service are expected to be sufficient to provide the necessary engineering support through the end of December.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Task Order #3 – Engineering Services
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Task Order #3 – Engineering Services as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Task Order #4 – Stone Lake Trail Phase 3
Engineering Assistant Project Manager Jamie Novak presented Task Order #4 – Stone Lake Trail Phase 3. Ms. Novak stated this is for engineering services related to the Stone Lake Trail Phase 3 project and the mountain bike trailhead restroom facility. The scope of work includes design services and assistance with the bidding process for Stone Lake Trail Phase 3, as well as bidding assistance for the proposed restroom facility at the mountain bike trailhead. The task order is in an amount not to exceed $45,520. Funding will be provided through restricted grant funds that have already been received and are available for the project.

Ms. Novak clarified that Task Order No. 3, previously discussed, covers general engineering services through the end of the year, including assistance with building permits, small projects, and related engineering questions. Task Order No. 4 is a separate project-specific task order covering the Stone Lake Trail Phase 3 and mountain bike trailhead restroom work.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Task Order #4 – Stone Lake Trail Phase 3
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Task Order #4 – Stone Lake Trail Phase 3 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Permission to Replace Emergency Generator
Mayor Dermody noted the financial portion of the generator lies within the Microsoft project and requested a motion to table this item.

Motion/Vote – Table Permission to Replace Emergency Generator
Mr. Kosior made a motion to Table Permission to Replace Emergency Generator as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Request to Fill Vacant Position
Chief Snyder presented Request to Fill Vacant Position. Chief Snyder informed the Board that a member of the Fire Department had submitted an application for disability pension benefits. The application was previously approved by the local board and was subsequently forwarded to the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) for review. INPRS has now approved the application, and no further action by the Board is required regarding the pension. The firefighter's final day with the department will be Friday, August 7. Due to the resulting vacancy, Chief Snyder requested that the Board authorize the Merit Commission to proceed with the process of filling the vacant position.

Motion/Vote – Approval Request to Fill Vacant Position
Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request to Fill Vacant Position as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:
The next Board of Public Works meeting will be held on Tuesday August 18, 2026 at 9:00 AM in Council Chambers.

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

Tabled 07-21-2926: Notice to Terminate

Approve: _____

Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: August 18, 2026