September 9, 2026

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

Bert Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swear in Firefighter
Fire Chief Andy Snyder swore in new firefighter James Snyder who brings many years of experience with him to the department, including previous years work within City of La Porte. Mr. James Snyder introduced his family, spoke briefly about himself and what experience he brings, and expressed his excitement to begin his career with the City of La Porte.

Present: Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior
Absent: Mayor Dermody

Approval of Minutes
Each member received an advance copy of the minutes. Mr. Kosior asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Motion/Vote – Approval of August 18, 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 August 28, 2026 in the amount of $561,36.95.

Motion/Vote – Approval of August 28, 2026 Payroll
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the August 28, 2026 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of $2,883,029.85.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of $386,800.94.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of $1,130,033.25. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun clarified this amount does include a bond payment.

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

Approval of Emergency Storm Relief to Salvation Army, The PAX Center and Center Township Trustee
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Approval of Emergency Storm Relief to Salvation Army, The PAX Center and Center Township Trustee. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented a request for retroactive approval of emergency storm relief expenditures from a $25,000 HFL grant approved by the City Council. She noted that $5,000 was provided to the Salvation Army, $3,000 to the PAC Center, and $3,000 to the Center Township Trustee for Center Township for the People, totaling $11,000. It was noted that any additional use of the remaining $14,000 in funds will be brought before the Board for approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Emergency Storm Relief to Salvation Army, The PAX Center and Center Township Trustee
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Emergency Storm Relief to Salvation Army, The PAX Center and Center Township Trustee as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Approval of Engagement Letter: Howard E Nyhart Co. Inc.
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented an engagement letter with Nyhart Co. Inc. for an actuarial valuation of the City's other post-employment benefits, as required by Indiana Code for inclusion in the City's Annual Financial Report. The contract amount is $3,750, with the valuation covering January through December 2026. The expenses will be paid from the Clerk-Treasurer's professional services budget.

Motion/Vote – Approval Engagement Letter: Howard E Nyhart Co. Inc.
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Engagement Letter: Howard E Nyhart Co. Inc. as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Approval of Emergency Contract: Synergy Disaster Recovery, LLC
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented an emergency contract with Synergy Disaster Recovery, LLC to assist the City with response and recovery efforts related to the 2026 disaster and the FEMA reimbursement process. She stated that Tracy Doyle would assist with navigating the FEMA reimbursement requirements, which are complex. The contract is not to exceed

$100,000 and is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted that the City has already incurred approximately $300,000 in recovery-related expenses.

Ms. Romine asked whether the City had an estimate of the amount of FEMA funding available for reimbursement. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun explained that debris cleanup expenses would be handled separately and that the City would have a better understanding of eligible reimbursable expenses after working with the consultant. She noted that the consultant would assist with the extensive documentation required for FEMA reimbursement and stated that the consultant has a reported 95% close rate on reimbursable dollars.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Emergency Contract: Synergy Disaster Recovery, LLC
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Emergency Contract: Synergy Disaster Recovery, LLC as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports
Code: Code Director Jeff Batchelor recognized Paula Stokes on her final day with the City, commending her work in strengthening the City's animal control program and fostering a positive working relationship between Animal Control and the Police Department. The Board expressed appreciation for her service and wished her well. Mr. Batchelor stated that a replacement for the position had not yet been identified.

Clerk-Treasurer: Clerk-Treasurer Parthun reminded everyone that physical inventory for the City of La Porte will be September 14th through September 18th with CBIZ.

Engineering: Assistant Director of Engineering Tucker King reiterated the importance of safe driving through work zones, noting the increased construction activity and road closures throughout the community. He encouraged motorists to avoid cell phone use, follow posted speed limits, allow additional travel time, and remain attentive to help protect construction workers and ensure everyone returns home safely. Mr. Kosior also emphasized the importance of the message.

Street: Street Supervisor Ian Eldridge reported that street crews continue working on storm cleanup and are making progress. He asked residents to place limb and debris piles where equipment can safely access them, avoiding trees, telephone poles, and other obstructions. Water Director Tim Werner also reminded residents to keep debris piles at least 10 feet away from fire hydrants to ensure the Fire Department has unobstructed access during emergencies.

Park: Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mark Schreiber provided an update on upcoming events at the Civic Auditorium, including the Porter County Symphony Orchestra, an AC/DC tribute band, and Rumors. He noted that the Civic is booked with various public and private events nearly every weekend through the end of the year. Mr. Schreiber also provided an update on the Civic's elevator project, stating that all preparatory work has been completed by Otis and LD, but the project remains on hold pending delivery of the elevator from the

supplier. Ms. Romine noted she thought the city was on a specific deadline for completion to get reimbursement. Mr. Schreiber explained that the project is not subject to a specific completion deadline, as the applicable state requirement relates to submitting receipts for funds rather than completion of the project and those receipts have been submitted.

New Business:

Ticket Appeal: #POL-26-328

A parking ticket appeal submitted by Julie Parish on August 27 was reviewed regarding a citation issued for a 1-to-6 parking violation near 1204 Monroe Street. Upon review, it was determined that there were no 1-to-6 parking restriction signs in the area. The police department recommended that the ticket be voided and refunded.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Ticket Appeal: #POL-26-328

Ms. Romine made a motion to void Ticket Appeal: #POL-26-328 and refund payment as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Slicer Performing Arts 5K

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented the recurring Slicer Performing Arts 5K event request. The event will begin at the La Porte High School F Street parking lot, proceed along 10th Street to Kesling Park, and return along the same route. Ms. Loeffler stated that the event is expected to use a rolling road closure rather than a permanent closure and will take place over approximately two hours. All required paperwork and liability insurance have been submitted.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Slicer Performing Arts 5K

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Slicer Performing Arts 5K as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Dunebrook Dragon Boat Race

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented the recurring Dunebrook Dragon Boat Race event request. The event organizers requested closure of Grange Mouth between Waverly and Lakeshore Drive from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the event. Ms. Loeffler noted the event draws a large turnout, resulting in significant pedestrian traffic and tents along the roadway throughout the day and therefore total closure is necessary.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Dunebrook Dragon Boat Race

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Dunebrook Dragon Boat Race; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Homecoming Parade

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented the Homecoming Parade request, noting this is the second year the parade will take place along State Street. The parade will begin on Detroit Street and proceed onto Michigan Avenue, utilizing a brief rolling road closure. The

event is expected to last approximately 30 minutes, with the Police Department providing a police presence to assist with traffic control.

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

Request for Use: Deserving Children Roofsit
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler advised the Board of the upcoming Deserving Children's Roofsit event. She noted that the event does not require full road closure but will involve one lane of State Street being blocked at times, which may cause minor traffic delays. The event is scheduled for Friday, and no action or approval was required.

Professional Services Agreement: TSC Facility
City Attorney Nick Otis presented a professional services agreement between the City of La Porte and TSC Facility Services/Skillman Construction Group in connection with the Microsoft data center project. Attorney Otis invited Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership to speak further on the agreement. Mr. Cook stated the agreement provides specialized inspection services due to the size and complexity of the project and the City's limited in-house experience with projects of this scale. Skillman/TSC is currently providing similar services for the Amazon data center project in Hobart. The agreement is structured for a two-year period beginning in November and provides for two inspectors, with an option to add a third inspector if needed. Attorney Otis noted the arrangement will also provide City staff with training and additional experience in handling large-scale construction projects. The inspection costs are expected to be recovered through permit fees paid by Microsoft. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun confirmed that funding has been budgeted and that sufficient funds are available for the agreement. Attorney Otis also advised that the agreement may be terminated with 30 days' notice if necessary.

Mr. Kosior invited Skillman VP Dion Katsouros to speak. Mr. Katsourous expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the City of La Porte on this project. Mr. Katsouros explained that inspectors will provide timely, on-site inspections and have expertise in areas including electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and concrete. In addition, Mr. Katsourous noted they are familiar with OpenGov, the program the city already utilizes and therefore will get information to the city efficiently.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Professional Services Agreement: TSC Facility
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Professional Services Agreement: TSC Facility as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Cemetery Purchase Agreement
City Attorney Nick Otis presented a purchase agreement for a portion of cemetery property related to the 39 North annexation and planned utility improvements. The parcel, located north of Sever Road in a wooded area west of the cemetery, is being considered as a future

site for a water tower and booster station to support the 39 North water system. Two appraisals and a legal description were obtained, with the purchase price based on the average of the two appraisals. The City will also cover the closing costs, subject to approval by the cemetery association.

Water Director Tim Werner explained that the additional Severs Road water tower is needed to improve system hydraulics. The City plans to conduct geotechnical testing to determine whether the site can support the tower, along with an archaeological study due to the parcel's proximity to the cemetery. Mr. Werner noted that the project is subject to SRF requirements and that tree removal must occur within a limited seasonal window. If testing determines the site is unsuitable, the City will not proceed with the purchase.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Cemetery Purchase Agreement
Ms. Romine made motion to approve Cemetery Purchase Agreement pending satisfactory test results and authorized Mayor Dermody to execute all necessary closing documents; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Permission to Purchase Plate Carriers
Permission was requested to purchase replacement external plate carriers for the SWAT team, as the current carriers are set to expire in October. The carriers are separate from the soft body armor officers wear daily and serve as the SWAT ballistic vests. Quotes were obtained as required, with the purchase to be partially funded through available ARP funds. The recommended carriers are Safari Land brand carriers purchased through Star Uniform. The purchase includes 13 outer carriers with front and back plates, for a total of 26 plates.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Permission to Purchase Plate Carriers
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Permission to Purchase Plate Carriers as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Permission to Purchase: Kress Robot Mowers
Parks and Recreation Superintendent Mark Schreiber requested permission to purchase $43,000 in Crest autonomous robot mowers, a Toro utility vehicle for $6,500, and a verticutting unit for $7,600. The purchase includes three 4x4 robotic mowers for sloped areas and two larger robotic mowers for fairways and rough areas. The robotic mowers can collectively mow approximately 20 acres over a 48-hour period. The equipment is expected to reduce fuel costs initially, with additional autonomous mowers planned in future years that could eventually reduce labor costs. A demonstration mower has performed well, with staff reporting favorable cutting results. The mowers are GPS-programmed to shut down if removed outside the course boundaries, helping prevent theft. The purchases were previously appropriated in the CCD Fund. Mr. Schreiber noted this has already gone to and been approved by the Park Board and is now brought before the Board of Public Works because CCD Funds are being utilized.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Permission to Purchase: Kress Robot Mowers
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Permission to Purchase: Kress Robot Mowers as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Civic Director Agreement
Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber presented Civic Director Agreement. Mr. Schreiber stated this agreement is with the Convention Visitors Bureau and is the same as previous year, nothing has changed. The agreement states the CVB will pay 30% of the salary for the Civic Auditorium Director. Mr. Schreiber noted a formal approval is needed for this agreement.

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

Pay App #1 and #2 National Guard Project
Water Director Tim Werner presented two pay applications for the National Guard water project, which is being completed in partnership with the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA). Pay Request No. 1, totaling $15,132.42, was for project mobilization. Pay Request No. 2 totals $898,328.78 and brings the project to approximately 31% completion. Mr. Werner explained that the project has a total contract amount of approximately $2.8 million, with $1 million funded by the City and the remainder provided by the State. Mr. Werner further explained the City has already paid its local share through the Water and Sewer funds, with that payment made in July. Future pay applications will be approved by the Board and forwarded to the IFA, which will issue payment to the contractor.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay App #1 and #2 National Guard Project
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Pay App #1 National Guard Project as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay App #2 Soldier's Memorial Raw Water Main Phase Number Two
Water Director Tim Werner presented pay app #2 for Soldier's Memorial Raw Water Main Phase Number Two in the amount of $496,826.20. Mr. Werner stated this is for the section from Spruce and Central all the way to the Lake Street plant. Mr. Werner emphasized this brings the project to 75% complete and recommends payment.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay App #2 Soldier's Memorial
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Pay App #2 Soldier's Memorial Raw Water Main Phase Number 2 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Industrial Pretreatment WW Discharge Permits
Assistant Wastewater Director Matt Amor presented Industrial Pretreatment WW Discharge Permits for the following: Alpha Baking, American Licorice, and Krupa's Portapots. Mr. Amor stated all are in good standing and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Industrial Pretreatment WW Discharge Permits
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Industrial Pretreatment WW Discharge Permits as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Fieldstone-Willowbend Stormwater Improvement
MS4 Coordinator Devon Hunsberger presented the Fairfield subdivision storm water improvement project, which includes the installation of graded stone swales, storm sewer structures and piping, asphalt roadway reconstruction, concrete curbs, and landscaping restoration at three locations: 2011 Willowbend, 107 Willowbend, and 301/302 Fieldstone. After reviewing the bid report and engineer's recommendation, Ms. Hunsberger recommended awarding the contract to Reith Riley as the lowest qualified bidder meeting all bid specifications, in the amount of $547,740.10. Ms. Hunsberger explained that the improvements are intended to better manage storm water runoff from the roadway and address runoff entering residents' basements. Completion of the three projects is expected to bring the overall storm water improvement project to 100% completion, hopefully by the end of the year.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Fieldstone-Willowbend Stormwater Improvement
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Fieldstone-Willowbend Stormwater Improvement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Award Bid for McClung Rd Lift Station
Mr. Kosior noted this agenda item would be tabled.

Motion/Vote – Table Award Bid for McClung Rd Lift Station
Ms. Romine made a motion to table Award Bid for McClung Rd Lift Station; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request to Bid Salt
Street Supervisor Ian Eldrige presented a request to bid salt. Mr. Eldridge stated they will not be utilizing the states QPA this year for salt and requests permission to bid.

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

Moutain Bike Soldiers Trail
Engineering Assistant Project Manager Jamie Novak presented Mountain Bilke Soldiers Trail. Jamie Novak requested permission to advertise for bids for Stone Lake Trail Phase Three and Soldiers Memorial Park trailhead improvements, including mountain bike parking and a restroom. The goal is to award the trail portion of the project at the first Board meeting in October. The project will be funded through a restricted HFL grant that has already been provided to the City.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Mountain Bike Soldiers Trail
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Mountain Bike Soldiers Trail as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Slicer Path Close-out
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented the closeout of the Slicer Pathway project. The final change order, totaling $2,239, covers increased quantities of white and orange paint for the pathway striping and crosswalks. The original contract amount was $288,700, funded by the City and an HFL grant, with a previous change order of $42,465.51. The additional change order brings the final contract amount to $330,746.51. The final pay application totals $6,559 and, along with the change order, will complete the Slicer Pathway project. The improvements provide a new sidewalk connection between the high school and Kiwanis Field, including painted crosswalks and striping intended to enhance the area.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Slicer Path Close-out
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Slicer Path Close-out as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Emergency Tree Survey
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented a request for an emergency tree survey following recent storms. The survey will re-inventory approximately 9,800 trees throughout city streets and parks to identify trees that were damaged or removed during the storm and provide documentation to support the City's FEMA reimbursement request. The work is also expected to be potentially reimbursable through FEMA.

In addition to identifying storm-related damage, the survey will assess the condition and risk of individual trees. The updated inventory will help the City prioritize tree maintenance and removal, identify hazards to residents and property, and return to its regular tree maintenance program. The survey will also update the City's park tree inventory, which has not been comprehensively updated since approximately 2019. The survey is expected to begin as soon as possible and be completed this year.

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

Request for Firefighter Lateral Pay
Chief Snyder requested approval to place newly sworn firefighter James Snyder at the Firefighter Specialist pay classification, equivalent to a three-year firefighter, rather than the standard probationary firefighter salary. James brings nearly three years of prior experience with the La Porte Water Department and approximately five years of firefighting experience with the Portage Fire Department.

Chief Snyder noted that recognizing James' prior experience will also save the City the expense and time associated with sending him through a new firefighter academy, which can take approximately eight months.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Firefighter Lateral Pay
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Firefighter Lateral Pay as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:
The next Board of Public Works meeting will be held on Tuesday September 22, 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
08-04-2026: Permission to Replace Emergency Generator
08-18-2026: Permission to Purchase Loader
08-18-2026: Change Order Boyd Blvd Storm Sewer

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: September 22, 2026