September 22, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine
Absent: Mark Kosior

Jamie Novak 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 September 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun advised that copies of the September 9 and September 16, 2026 minutes had been provided and noted an amended motion was needed to approve both sets.

Amended Motion/Vote – Approval of September 9 and September 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Ms. Romine made an amended motion to approve the September 9 and September 16, 2026 meeting minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Public Comment
None

Claims Approval
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented payroll from September 11, 2026 in the amount of $551,812.99.

Motion/Vote – Approval of September 11, 2026 Payroll
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve the September 11, 2026 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of $641,516.69.

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 $69,495.13.

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 $86,741.88.

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.

Invoice: Professional Services for Microsoft Project
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Invoice: Professional Services for Microsoft Project. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented 13 invoices for professional services related to the Microsoft project under the development agreement. The invoices, totaling approximately $96,000, are being paid by Microsoft. The additional appropriation associated with the development agreement was approved by the City Council the previous evening.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Invoice: Professional Services for Microsoft Project
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Invoice: Professional Services for Microsoft Project as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

LPPD Fleet Management
Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented LPPD Fleet Management. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented additional police department vehicle leases through Enterprise Fleet Management. The request adds ten leases and replaces vehicles being returned to La Porte Chrysler, with credits for the City's existing vehicles. The additional leases will bring the Police Department's total 2027 lease expense to approximately $458,174. Most existing leases expire in December, with one expiring in October, and approval was needed so Enterprise could begin securing replacement vehicles.

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

New Business:
Ticket Appeal: #POL-26-388
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented an appeal of a parking ticket from an individual who stated that declining health prevented him from moving his vehicle. The Police Department reviewed the appeal and determined that the circumstances did not support the appeal because the individual was able to travel to the police station to contest the ticket and cause a disturbance.

Motion/Vote – Deny Ticket Appeal: #POL-26-388
Ms. Romine made a motion to deny Ticket Appeal: #POL-26-388 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Request for Use: Spooktacular
Executive Assistant Annette Loeffer presented a request to use City property for the Spooktacular event on Saturday, October 10. The event will expand the usual downtown trick-or-treat activity to include artisan and food vendors, including vendors affected by the cancellation of the Sunflower Fair. The event is planned for noon to 4:00 p.m. and will include activities in the La Stitch area, a portion of State Street used for Taco Fest, and the City parking lot. A rib cook-off is also planned. Ms. Loeffler noted that vendors may transfer their Sunflower Fair application fees to next year or receive refunds.

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

Nest Community Center Agreement
Harry presented the Nest Community Center agreement and expressed appreciation for support for the partnership. Mayor Dermody noted that they were continuing work toward completing the building, and that the agreement was an important step forward. The facility is expected to have electricity, water, and other utilities available.

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

Utility Refund Request: 205 Rumely St
Utility Billing Office Manager Eman Fokianos presented a refund request for 205 Rumely Street for consideration. The property owner had requested that water service be terminated in April, but the work order indicated that service had not initially been shut off. It was later determined that water had in fact been shut off around that time. The request was to refund four billing cycles for water and wastewater charges totaling $264.76. It was also noted that the property had since been demolished and that procedures have been updated to ensure the appropriate utility staff are notified when properties are demolished.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Utility Refund Request: 205 Rumely St
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Utility Refund Request: 205 Rumely St as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimous carried.

WM Presentation/Contract
Assistant Engineering Coordinator Jamie Novak introduced the WM team for a brief presentation for contract renewal. WM presented a proposed extension of the City's waste

management contract. Representatives discussed WM's local staffing, service capabilities, storm response, customer-service resources, online service tools, and Smart Truck technology used to verify service and identify potentially hazardous or improper materials. The proposed pricing includes a 2% increase in the first year and 4% increases in years two through five, with the first-year increase described as approximately 29 cents. WM also proposed replacing existing wooden-surround receptacles with six Big Belly solar units. The Board discussed WM's service history in La Porte and the City's continued annual fall cleanup program before approving the extension.

Motion/Vote – WM Contract
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve WM Contract as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Larson-Danielson Proposal
Engineering Assistant Project Manager Jamie Novak presented a proposal related to repairs to the Code Enforcement office following a wastewater pipe leak discovered on August 6. The leak damaged carpeting, drywall, flooring, and other areas of the office. Blue Sky Restoration was contacted immediately, and the proposed work will address the remaining repairs needed to return the office to service. A legal opinion was provided to support treating the work as emergency work under applicable Indiana law.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Larson-Danielson Proposal
Ms. Romine made motion to approve Larson-Danielson Proposal as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Work Order Approval for Paving Program
Street Supervisor Ian Eldridge presented a work order to begin Phase One of the 2026 paving program, with paving expected to begin in early October. The Phase One street list is available on the City's website, and the amount of paving completed will depend on weather conditions.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Work Order Approval for Paving Program
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Work Order Approval for Paving Program as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Tipton St Final Pay App & Change Order
Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented the remaining pay requests and change orders for the Tipton Street project. Pay Request No. 1, previously approved but requiring clarification of the water and sewer allocation, was presented again in the amount of $1,371,192, with approximately $940,000 allocated to water and $191,000 to sewer as discussed. Pay Request No. 2 totaled $216,582. Pay Request No. 3 was the final request, including retainage. Two negative change orders totaled $41,724.78 and $90,544.91, primarily due to reduced quantities of water main and sewer work and changes to restoration planned near the future overpass construction area. A third change order was discussed in

the amount of approximately $567,192.06. Overall, the project was expected to finish approximately $130,000 below the original contract amount.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Tipton St Final Pay App & Change Order
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Tipton St Final Pay App & Change Order as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Basement Backup Grant App: 113 Stanley Ct
Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented a basement backup grant for 113 Stanley Court was presented for $5,051 for plumbing and heating work following backups into the basement sinks. The property is in a heavily combined area, and the grant was recommended for approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Basement Backup Grant App: 113 Stanley Ct
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Basement Backup Grant App: 113 Stanley Ct as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Septic Hauler Permit Update/Renewal: Southern Septic
Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson presented a renewal of the septic hauler permit for Southern Septic, following the company's change in ownership name from Huff Septic; Mr. Jackson reported that the personnel remained the same and there had been no issues with the prior operator.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Septic Hauler Permit Update/Renewal Southern Septic
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Septic Hauler Permit Update/Renewal Southern Septic as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Pay App - Milestone
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented the final pay application for the CCMG25-1 project, which included Stevens Road and drainage improvements near the bus garage. Three invoices totaled $174,867.32, compared with an original contract amount of $176,771.48, bringing the project to closeout below the awarded amount.

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

National Guard Utility Project – Pay Request #3
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented a National Guard utility project pay request of $421,136 to H&G Underground. Mr. King noted that the city will make that payment and then will submit for reimbursement through the SRF/IFA process. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun Clarified that this invoice will be submit to SRF/IFA for payment as the city has already paid their portion.

Motion/Vote – Approval of National Guard Utility Project – Pay Request #3
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve National Guard Utility Project – Pay Request #3 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Permit Language Change
Assistant City Engineer Tucker King reported that following the recent annexation extending to 200 East, a portion of the high-voltage power lines along the southern side of the city now falls within city limits. The utility company requested a permit to perform work on the lines and asked for a modification to the hold-harmless language in the building permit for this specific project. City Attorney Nick Otis has reviewed and approved the revised language, and Mr. King requested approval from the Board for legal purposes.

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

Permission to Accept Retirement Letter
Chief Drangmeister announced Captain Favia's resignation, with his last day being October 1. He recognized Favia's 24 years of law enforcement service and his numerous roles, including range and less-lethal instructor, SWAT commander, training coordinator, and records officer. Chief Drangmeister praised Favia's dedication to La Porte, willingness to help others, and contributions as a friend and mentor, noting that his departure would be a significant loss to the department. The members of the board wished Favia well in his retirement.

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

Larson Danielson Pay App
Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber presented a pay app for Larson Danielson in the amount of $21,838.10. Mr. Schreiber noted this is for work done on the allowance for the Civic Auditorium elevator as well as their portion of the contractor fee for the work that has been done to date. Mr. Schreiber reminded everyone that these dollars will be paid from CBDG funds as the deadline to use the funds was extended to October 30th.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Larson Danielson pay App
Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Larson Danielson Pay App as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports
Police: Chief Drangmeister commended Assistant Chief Chae Uhleman for installing animated speed limit signs and thanked Ian Eldridge and his team for assisting with the installation. The solar-powered signs are located at U.S. 35 and Kingsbury Road, State Road 2 West, and East Lincolnway and Cook Street, with another planned for Pine Lake Avenue

entering the city. Chief Drangmeister clarified that the signs do not issue tickets but display drivers' current speeds to encourage compliance with posted speed limits.

Engineering: Assistant City Engineer Tucker King reported that the City began a re-inventory of trees on Monday following the recent storm event. Great Lakes Urban Forestry has assigned a three-person team to inspect trees throughout the city for storm-related damage, assess their condition, and update the inventory to support future maintenance and public safety. Mr. King noted reports of additional storm damage, including a lightning strike on a tree along Division Street that exposed previously unidentified internal rot. The tree has since been assessed, and Mr. King noted that continued storms may contribute to further damage.

Unfinished Business

Other Business:
The next Board of Public Works meeting will be held on Tuesday October 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM in Council Chambers.

Adjournment
There being no further business, Ms. Romine made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody 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 to Boyd Blvd Storm Sewer
09-16-2026: Land Application

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: October 6, 2026