

## February 21, 2024

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

**Present:** Mayor Dermody, Mark Kosior

**Absent:** Jessica Romine

Brian Snedecor 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**

Mr. Kosior 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 February 16, 2024 in the amount of \$504,979.05.

### **Motion/Vote – Approval of February 16, 2024 Payroll**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the February 16, 2024 Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$206,052.06.

### **Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Water Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$724,401.83.

### **Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,027,249.16.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**Updated 2024 Bakertilly Agreement**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented updated 2024 Bakertilly Agreement. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated Bakertilly assists the city with multiple things including sewage and water capital planning, budgets, comprehensive financial plan for the whole city, and accounting and reporting support. This is an annual contract.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of 2024 Bakertilly Agreement**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve 2024 Bakertilly Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**Department Reports**

**Communications:** Jess Spoljaric reported that they are currently having issues with the website and are working with the webmaster and IT Director Roscoe Hoffman to get these issues resolved.

**Park:** Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber introduced the new Park Assistant Director, Emily Archambault. Mr. Schreiber stated her responsibilities will largely include development in addition to other operational responsibilities. Ms. Archambault spoke briefly about herself and expressed her excitement to be with the City of La Porte.

**Fire:** Chief Snyder reported applications are out at station one as they are formulating their two-year hiring list and will be available online by the end of the week. Mayor Dermody expressed his concern for the residents on Kingsport Ave and the condition of the homes they are living in due to bad landlords. Chief Snyder stated they are there regularly for issues.

**Police:** Chief Buell reported they have a conditional offer out and next week that individual will complete their psych and physical evaluation and will hopefully be getting into ILEA on April 29, 2024. In addition, Chief Buell stated they have another potential candidate that is currently in school, and they will finish in May.

**Streets/Code:** Director of Streets and Code Jeff Batchelor reported the Street Department is out patching potholes and the Code Department will begin going around and looking at houses that need work done.

**Engineering:** City Engineer Nick Minich reported they had their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss already funded projects and there were several people that showed up with misinformation. Mr. Minich clarified these meetings are to discuss projects that are already funded and provide information such as, if these projects are on time, within budget and topics like this.

**Wastewater:** Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson reported the new vac truck has arrived and the department is excited to have it. In addition, Mr. Jackson stated Surf Broadband has established a private network and have connected four sites, three pumps, and a water tower and it is working out great so far. There are approximately 20 more sites to still get connected.

**Water:** Water Superintendent Tim Werner provided an update on the Kankakee well that had the backup and electrical issues. Mr. Werner reported they replaced some motors, and it was determined there was a direct electrical current coming from NIPSCO. Mr. Werner stated the damage was approximately \$50,000 and they will be pursuing NIPSCO to pay for this damage. Mr. Werner stated they have enough documentation proving the well issues were caused by a direct current from NIPSCO to have cause for them to pay for the damages. In addition, Mr. Werner reported they have taken this well field out of service for annual cleaning and anticipate it to be back up and running by the end of the week.

**City Planner:** City Planner Craig Phillips reported they are continuing to work on several grant possibilities. Mayor Dermody recognized and thanked Assistant City Planner David Heinold for his work on the quiet zone and for it finally coming to fruition. Assistant City Planner David Heinold spoke briefly about the quiet zone and work that went into making it happen. Mr. Heinold stated the main line that is parallel to Lincolnway are the only tracks that qualify for the quiet zone. Mr. Heinold expressed safety as being a priority and trains will still blow their horns in emergency situations.

**New Business:**

**Request for Use: Happy Frog**

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Happy Frog. Ms. Loeffler stated the Happy Frog would like to do an artisan style market on Sunday March 17, 2024 and is requesting to block off State Street between Clay and Jackson. There are no other businesses that will be open on this Sunday and therefore no other businesses will be affected.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Happy Frog**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request for Use: Happy Frog as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**Request for Use: Cruise Night**

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Cruise Night. Ms. Loeffler stated this is Rusted Knuckles fifth or sixth year sponsoring the official cruise night. They received permission from the State Highway and are requesting permission to use city streets. This is the same route that the Fourth of July parade takes.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Cruise Night**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request for Use: Cruise Night as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**City Attorney Agreement with Newby, Lewis, Kaminski & Jones, LLP**

City Attorney Nick Otis presented City Attorney Agreement with Newby, Lewis, Kaminski & Jones, LLP. Attorney Otis stated the firm was hired in 2017 and this agreement has not been updated since. The new agreement will take the monthly retainer from \$8,300 to \$9,000 and the litigation rate from \$175 per hour to \$200 per hour.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of City Attorney Agreement with Newby, Lewis, Kaminski & Jones, LLP**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve City Attorney Agreement with Newby, Lewis, Kaminski & Jones, LLP as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**CMAQ Grant Agreement for Equipment Procurement**

City Engineer Nick Minich presented CMAQ Grant Agreement for Equipment Procurement. Mr. Minich stated a grant was received last year and this agreement is for electric vehicles.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of CMAQ Grant Agreement for Equipment Procurement**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve CMAQ Grant Agreement for Equipment Procurement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**Request from K9 Handler**

Chief Buell presented Request from K9 Handler. Chief Buell stated this request is from K9 Officer Hagler to retire his dog after eight years. The K9 has begun to have some health concerns and is no longer capable of fully performing.

**Motion/Vote – Approval Request from K9 Handler**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request from K9 Handler as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**INDOT-LPA Contract Addendum/Amendment**

City Planner Craig Phillips presented INDOT-LPA Contract Addendum/Amendment. Mr. Phillips stated this agreement is for the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Phillips stated a contract was previously signed with the consultant and this is a contract with INDOT-LPA and lays out the responsibilities of both parties. In addition, Mr. Phillips stated there is an amendment to the contract as well due to a typo and a new document was drawn up. Mr. Phillips stated his request is for approval for signature of the contract and the amendment.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of INDOT-LPA Contract Addendum/Amendment**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve INDOT-LPA Addendum/Amendment as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**Unfinished Business**

**Tabled: Proposal for Professional Engineering Services**

**Motion/Vote – Un-table Proposal for Professional Engineering Services**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to un-table Proposal for Professional Engineering Services; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**Proposal for Professional Engineering Services**

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Proposal for Professional Engineering Services. Mr. Jackson stated this is a general services agreement for NIES Engineering for up to \$2,500 per month. This covers situations where there are pump issues or a need for a quick estimate for a project or any other service they can provide that may arise. Mr. Jackson stated they have had this agreement for years and there are some months where he does not need to use it and other months where he may use the entire designated amount.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Proposal for Professional Engineering Services**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Proposal for Professional Engineering Services as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

**Other Business:**

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday March 5, 2024, at 9 A.M.

**Adjourn**

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

**Approve:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: March 5, 2024**