

January 5, 2021

The Board of Public Works and Safety met via Zoom and Facebook on Wednesday January 5, 2021 at 9am.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine and Mark Kosior

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Bert Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the December 22, 2020 meeting, Mayor Dermody asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

None

Clerk-Treasurer

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun presented Payroll from December 23, 2020 in the amount of \$398,279.81.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Payroll 12-23-20

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Payroll for December 23, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$607,536.22. She noted these include payments for the SRF Bond.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented 4th Quarter Payroll in the amount of \$1,926.88.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 4th Quarter Payroll

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the 4th Quarter Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$51,053.00.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Sewage Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,856,344.92. She noted these included the annual local match for Community Crossing Paving, TIF payments and G.O. Bond payments.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Civil City Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Department Reports

HR: Human Resource Director Jen Noll stated they have been working on getting the fitness reimbursements to UMR.

Street: Street Director Mike Frazee noted they are working cleaning up the brush from the ice storm.

Fire: Fire Chief Andy Snyder stated he still has an employee out with COVID, and the three new firemen will go to academy on March 1st.

Code: Code Director Jeff Batchelor noted they hired a new code officer, Phil Gushrowski.

Police: Police Chief Paul Brettin stated the five new hires will go to the academy on January 11th, Former Police Chief Gene Samuelson passed away on January 1st and he gave a shout out to Matt Magnuson from La Porte Chrysler for the E-Bike Donation.

Transporte: Transporte Manager Beth West stated they hired a new driver and are working on year end reports.

Legal: City Attorney Nick Otis noted they are still working on getting 701 Maple Avenue up to code.

Park: Park Director Mark Schreiber stated they received some damage in the Parks from the ice storm and the request to bid went out for the City Docks that are due January 13th.

Sewage: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson stated the Lakeside Relocation will be starting this week. He also noted that during the ice storm they had 12 pumps without power and will be looking into purchasing more generators.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich stated they are working on closing out their 2020 projects.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder stated that 2021 kicks off their collaboration with La Porte Community Schools regarding them helping stream our meetings on Channel 98.

City Planner: City Planner Tom Casey noted they are working on two BZA reviews and grant reconciliation.

Water: Water Director Tim Werner noted that Henry Snyder retired on December 31st after 35 years. He will be greatly missed; however, his replacement Jordan Snider will do a great job of filling his shoes. He stated his department will see two more retirements around the end of May of this year and he is meeting with the Consultants regarding the well field.

Clerk-Treasurer: Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun noted they are working on year end reports.

New Business

Lakeside Sewer Relocation Project

Wastewater Director Jackson stated with the Lakeside Sewer Relocation Project starting, he would like to hire USI to be onsite to do the inspection during the project.

Motion/Vote – Approve Lakeside Sewer Relocation Inspector

Ms. Romine moved to approve to hire USI to do the inspection of the Lakeside Sewer Relocation Project as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

New Position/Job Description

Human Resource Director Noll stated the Engineering Department will be hiring an Engineer Technician which will handle onsite project management. She asked the Board to approve the new position and its description.

Motion/Vote – Approve New Position/Job Description- Engineering

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Engineering's new position and job description as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

None

Other Business

Mayor Dermody thanked NIPSCO, Red Cross, EMA (County Level), Police, Fire, Street, Water and Sewage Departments for all of their work during the ice storm.

Mayor Dermody stated former Police Chief Gene Samuelson passed away and sent his condolences to the family.

Mayor Dermody stated Don Baugher who was a former City Attorney who recently passed was a tremendous asset to the City of La Porte, he wrote the bylaws for GLEDC and was highly involved with NewPorte Landing. We are looking to recognize him in some shape or form.

Public Comment

Almiux Camacho from 319 East Maple Avenue stated he needs help because he has wires down on his property and doesn't know what to do.

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: January 20, 2021