

January 20, 2021

The Board of Public Works and Safety met via Zoom and Facebook on January 20, 2021 at 9am.

Present: Mayor Dermody and Mark Kosior

Absent: Jessica Romine

Pledge of Allegiance

Police Chief Paul Brettin led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the January 5, 2021 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 January 8, 2021 in the amount of \$455,659.18.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Payroll 1-8-21

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Special Fire Payroll from January 15, 2021 in the amount of \$4960.90.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Special Fire Payroll 1-15-21

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,044,525.15. She noted these include January Health Insurance, TIF 3 Bond payment and January trash bill.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$138,590.99. She noted these include January Bond Transfers and January Health Insurance.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$187,814.20. She noted these include January Bond Transfers and January Health Insurance.

Motion/Vote – Approve Sewage Claims

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

2021 Actuarial Evaluation Agreement

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented an actuarial evaluation agreement with Baker Tilley who helps us with our financial reporting.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 2021 Actuarial Evaluation Agreement

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the 2021 Actuarial Evaluation Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Engagement Letter with Baird

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented an Engagement Letter with Baird for placement and underwriting services as it relates to the RDC Bond Process.

Motion/Vote – Approve Engagement Letter with Baird

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Engagement Letter with Baird as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody.

Department Reports

Street: Street Director Mike Frazee stated they are busy plowing and starting the second round of brush pick up.

Code: Code Director Jeff Batchelor stated they are working on vacant properties.

Water: Water Director Tim Werner noted he met with Peerless Midwest and Todd Taylor about the new wellfield, still working on updating the Scada and stated they had a main break on Kosciusko this morning.

Transporte: Transporte Manager Beth West stated they are working on the year end quarterly report and while working on this report they found that there were no accidents in 2020, they traveled 100,000 miles in town, and they transported 29,000 residents despite COVID.

Police: Police Chief Paul Brettin stated they are monitoring the Court house with the upcoming inauguration; they are looking at hiring three new officers and Mayor Dermody gave a shout out to Sergeant Victor Aguilar who solved the Lucky Bar Shooting Crime.

City Planner: City Planner Tom Casey stated there is an upcoming UEA Meeting, a meeting via Zoom with residents around the old Tibma Bakery vacant property, working on Health Care Foundation Grants and working with Jess Bruder on the website.

L.E.A.P.: Bert Cook stated the first Young Professional meeting will be Thursday January 21st and the topic is How to be a Good Board Member.

Sewage: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson noted Selge is proceeding with the Lakeside Project and doing a good job.

Engineering: City Engineer Nick Minich stated the YMCA would like to close Maple Ave on so they may do some mechanical work on the roof and they will need a crane.

HR: Human resource Director Jen Noll stated we will be welcoming a new employee as the new Engineering Technician on January 21st.

Park: Park Director Mark Schreiber stated they are currently doing Youth Sport Sign Ups on the website, by phone or at the Park office. He also noted that Winterfest will take place on January 30th and 31st and that information can be found on their website.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Bruder stated they are working on website upgrades, Kabelins and Hot Spot Café will be selling City of La Porte apparel and on February 10th at 6pm there will be a Virtual Town Hall meeting with all the Department Heads.

Board of Works RDC Appointment

Mayor Dermody stated that Karyl Feikes is in that ward and has been in the position and recommends she be appointed.

Motion/Vote – BOW RDC Appointment

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the appointment of Karyl Feikes to the RDC as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

New Business

Basement Backup Reimbursement

Wastewater Director Jackson stated a sewage main got blocked and backed up into 810 Pennsylvania Avenue and the total cost was \$2,652.65.

Motion/Vote – Approve Basement Backup Reimbursement

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

Phase 2/Phase 3 of Lakeside Sewer Relocation Project

Wastewater Director Jackson stated the funding for Phase 2 and Phase 3 will come out of the Bond. Phase 2 is on Closser Ave along McClung Rd in the amount of \$438,014.10 and Phase 3 is 2 houses with a possibility of 3 more houses on Roberts Street in the amount of \$117,472.00.

Motion/Vote – Approve Phase 2/Phase 3 Lakeside Sewer Relocation Project

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Lakeside Sewer Relocation Project as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Wastewater Discharge Permit Renewals

Wastewater Director Jackson presented the following Discharge Permit Renewals: Sudlow Excavating and Septic, Delta Industrial, D&M Excavating, Johnson Johns and Septic Service, K-Fex Inc. and JAGAD.

Motion/Vote – Approve Wastewater Discharge Permit Renewals

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Wastewater Discharge Permit Renewals as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Updated First Coronavirus Relief Act Policy

Human Resource Director Jen Noll stated lawmakers did not extend the First Coronavirus Relief Act however the City of La Porte is extending our policy through March 31, 2021 which basically means those who have already exhausted their COVID sick pay will not receive more due to the extension but if not exhausted and you qualify you may use whatever hours you had left. She is asked for approval and to have it retroactive to January 1, 2021.

Motion/Vote – Approve Updated First Coronavirus Relief Act Policy

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Updated First Coronavirus Relief Act Policy as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Updated Communicable Disease Policy

Human resource Director Jen Noll stated they added language providing an exemption to those who have had the vaccine as follows: Employees who receive who receive the COVID 19 vaccine still required to abide by all precautions at work, show proof of vaccination and an employee who receives both doses of the vaccine and provides proof to HR will be exempt from the quarantine/isolation and negative test requirements 14 days AFTER the date of the second dose.

Motion/Vote – Approve Updated Communicable Disease Policy

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Updated Communicable Disease Policy as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Recommendation for Truesdell Lift Station

City Engineer Nick Minich recommended the award for the Truesdell Lift Station go to H&G Underground in the amount of \$396,094.61.

Motion/Vote – Award Truesdell Lift Station

Mr. Kosior moved to award the Truesdell Lift Station as presented contingent on receiving additional documents required by the City Engineer; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

YMCA Road Closure

City Engineer Minch stated the YMCA at 901 Michigan Avenue would like to close Maple Avenue on February 2nd from 7am to 1pm to do mechanical work on the roof where a crane is needed.

Motion/Vote – Approve YMCA Road Closure

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

Demolition Contract for 603 Tipton Street

Community Development Program Manager Mary Ann Richards presented the Demolition Contract with Pavey that was awarded on December 2, 2020 in the amount of \$45,200.00. They are looking to begin this week.

Motion/Vote – Approve Demolition Contract for 603 Tipton Street

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Demolition Contract for 603 Tipton Street as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Retail Product Licensing Agreement

Communications Director Jess Bruder presented a Retail Product Licensing Agreement between the City of La Porte and Kabelin Ace Hardware. This Agreement will allow Kabelins to sell items with the new City Branding. Kabelins will pay \$350.00 for the entire year.

Motion/Vote – Approve Retail Product Licensing Agreement

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Retail Product Licensing Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

Thomas Delorme stated via Facebook that him and his wife purchased the zip up hoodies and love them.

Other Business

Mayor Dermody stated that January is National Mentoring Month

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: February 2, 2021