

August 4, 2020

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday August 4, 2020 at 9am.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine and Mark Kosior

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

City Attorney Nick Otis led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting. Mayor Dermody asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Minutes

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

Mayor Dermody noted they were not wearing masks because they were social distancing and the sneeze guards were in place.

Public Comment

Andrew Killin from the Rumely Apartments 800 Michigan Avenue Apt A409 stated he is the who planted the flowers and plants at the Rumely Apartments and was unaware that was a code violation. He was just trying to beautify their home. He was told they needed to be removed by August 12th. He wanted to know if they can keep through the season or an extension of time to speak with the Code Department and the BID District. They aren't even able to sit outside and aren't able to use the Park across the street because they don't feel safe.

Clerk-Treasurer

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun presented Payroll from July 24th in the amount of \$420,975.46.

Motion/Vote – Approval of payroll 7-24-20

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Payroll for June 24, 2020 in the amount of \$420,975.46; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,305,826.09. She noted these include August 2020 Health Insurance and a payment to Walsh and Kelly for Street Paving.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims

Ms. Romine moved to approve Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,305,826.09; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$1,292,803.77. She noted these include August 2020 Health Insurance, Sewage Bond Payment and August Sewage Bond Retirement Transfer.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims

Ms. Romine moved to approve Sewage Claims in the amount of \$1,292,803.77; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Water Claims in the amount of \$82,745.92. She noted these include August 2020 Health Insurance and August SRF Bond Transfers.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Water Claims in the amount of \$82,745.92; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

New Business

Acceptance of Lift Station from Legacy Hills

City Attorney Otis and Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson stated the lift station has been brought up to specs by Mr. Magnuson and asked the Board to accept the lift station from Legacy Hills.

Motion/Vote – Accept Lift Station from Legacy Hills

Mr. Kosior moved to accept the Lift Station from Legacy Hills as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody thanked Mr. Magnuson for his work on the new concrete stairs at Fox Park.

Lexis Nexis DORS

Mayor Dermody stated the Police Department should have 46 officers and we have 33 with only 31 being active. The Department has had 13,000 calls between Jan 2020 thru June 2020. This program is 100% paid for through COVID relief funds. This program will allow the residents to file complaints that are non-violent and non-emergency on their smart phone, tablet or computer. For those you may not have one of those devices the Police Department will help them with their compliant. Chief Brettin stated it is a very user-friendly program and 911 dispatchers can help residents navigate on how to file a complaint. Mayor Dermody noted that he spoke with the Police Department in Des Moines, Iowa and they were pleased with the program because they have seen a \$217,000 savings in the year of 2019. Mayor Dermody also spoke with the Sheriff's office in Tampa, Florida and they said the program is a godsend because it has freed up officers from economic crimes (shoplifters, identity theft) and they have received 840 claims per month since they started in January of 2020. The program is \$23,000 up front for two years with a 45-day cancellation notice and we would also see a percentage of accident reporting.

Motion/Vote – Approve Lexis Nexis DORS

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Lexis Nexis DORS as presented and allow Chief Brettin to execute; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Letter of Retirement and Permission to Hire

Police Chief Paul Brettin presented the Board with a letter of retirement from Corporal Dan Reed after 27 years with the City effective August 14, 2020. Chief Brettin asked the Board to accept the letter of retirement and asked permission to hire.

Motion/Vote- Accept Letter of Retirement and Permission to Hire

Ms. Romine moved to accept the Letter of Retirement from Corporal Dan Reed and instructs the Police Merit Commission to begin the necessary procedures to fill all vacancies in rank and positions created by the retirement.

Mayor Dermody thanked Corporal Dan Reed for his years of service and Board Member Kosior wished him the best.

Request for Use: Friday Night Live at La Stitch

City Planner Tom Casey asked permission to shut down Monroe Street north of Lincolnway on August 14, 2020 to create a seating area for residents to support local restaurants with live entertainment. There will be tables with a max of five people and masks will be required if away from the table. He is hoping to make this a monthly event.

Motion/Vote – Approve Request for Use: Friday Night Live at La Stitch

Ms. Romine moved to approve the request to shut Monroe Street north of Lincolnway on August 14, 2020 for Friday Night Live at La Stitch as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Letter of Notification: Roof Sit 2020

Transporte Manager Beth West on behalf of the La Porte Jaycee's stated the 18th Annual Roof Sit will take place from September 10th thru September 12th of 2020. There will be some traffic delays during the event which is held in the 700 block of Sate Street. They will be in the street collecting donations from 5am to 6pm Thursday and Friday and 5am until noon on Saturday. They will get signage from Street Department to help slow down traffic. All donations go to the La Porte Jaycee's Deserving Children's Shopping Tour.

Motion/Vote – Accept Letter of Notification: Roof Sit 2020

Mr. Kosior moved to accept the letter of notification for the La Porte Jaycees Roof Sit 2020; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Downtown Outdoor Dining Application: Bare Bones Gastropub

City Attorney Otis on behalf of City Engineer presented a Downtown Outdoor Dining Application from Bare Bones Gastropub. The application has been reviewed for ADA accessibility and concurrence with Downtown Outdoor Dining Standards. Their proposed configuration meets requirements and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approve Downtown Outdoor Dining Application: Bare Bones Gastropub

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Downtown Outdoor Dining application for Bare Bones Gastropub as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Fire Station Agreement

City Attorney Otis presented the actual agreement for the real estate purchase, Fire Station Boyd Blvd, from M Details LLC for a quick service restaurant.

Motion/Vote – Approve Fire Station Purchase Agreement

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Fire Station Purchase Agreement from M Details LLC as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Ice Miller Retainer Agreement

City Attorney Otis stated that Ice Miller is a law firm from Indianapolis that will be helping the City of La Porte with the rebranding and trademark that needs to be done. The total is estimated between \$1700-\$2300.

Motion/Vote – Approve Ice Miller Retainer Agreement

Ms. Kosior moved to approve Ice Miller Retainer Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Awarding DCBG-CV Public Service Agreements: Catholic Charities, Center Township, Pax Center

Community Development Program Manager Mary Ann Richards presented the following DCBG_CV Public Service Agreements: Catholic Charities in the amount of \$50,000 for rent and utilities, Center Township Trustee in the amount of \$147,129.00 for rental assistance, utilities and prescription help and Pax Center in the amount of \$22,500 for food. These grants will use COVID money from HUD. These amounts are on a reimbursable basis and they must show they are using the money for which it was intended for. This would be retroactive to April 1, 2020.

Motion/Vote – Award DCBG-CV Public Service Agreements: Catholic Charities, Center Township and Pax Center

Ms. Romine moved to award the DCBG-CV Public Service Agreements as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Award DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement: LP Community Schools

Ms. Richards asked the Board to award DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement to La Porte Community Schools for three hot spots contingent on receiving a waiver of exception for conflict of interest.

Motion/Vote – Award DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement: LP Comm. Schools

MS. Romine moved to award a DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement for La Porte Community Schools contingent on receiving waiver of exception for conflict of interest; motion seconded by Mayor Dermody and Mark Kosior abstained.

Award DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement: Salvation Army

Ms. Richards asked the Board to award DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement to Salvation Army contingent on receiving a waiver of exception for conflict of interest.

Motion/Vote – Award DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement: Salvation Army

Mr. Kosior moved to award the DCBG-CV Public Service Agreement for Salvation Army contingent on receiving a waiver of exception for conflict of interest; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and Mayor Dermody abstained.

Proposal for Engineering Services: Risk Assessment

Water Director Tim Werner presented a proposal for Engineering Services for Risk Assessment. This is required by the State with a deadline of June 30, 2021. After initial assessment is done then a 5-year plan will come together using a third party. He is asking to allow NIES Engineering to get started with a \$10,500 not to exceed amount.

Motion/Vote – Approve Proposal for Engineering Services: Risk Assessment

Ms. Romine moved to approve the contract for Engineering Services for Risk Assessment as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Truck Quotes

Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson stated they received three quotes for a one-ton pick-up truck and the lowest quote was from Castle in the amount of \$28,344.00. He asked the Boards permission to purchase.

Motion/Vote – Award Truck Quotes

Ms. Romine moved to award the truck quote to Castle in the amount of \$28,344.00; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay Application #8 New Fire Station

City Attorney Otis presented Pay Application #8 in the amount of \$101,620.70 for the New Fire Station.

Motion/Vote – Approve Pay Application #8 New Fire Station

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Pay Application #8 in the amount of \$101,620.70 for the New Fire Station; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Board Member Mark Kosior left the meeting at 10:05 AM

Department Reports

Code: Code Director Jeff Batchelor stated they have dumped 20 dumpsters using \$10,000 of the \$20,000 allowed for the Dumpster Program. He also noted there were 2 properties that have been condemned on Park Street and 2800 violation have been written up.

Police: Police Chief Brettin stated the Crossing Guard resigned from Handley School. Officer Applications are still coming in and the Traffic Commission will meet on August 4th at 6pm at the Police Department.

Transporte: Transporte Manager Beth West noted they are averaging around 100 to 125 riders a day and she is working on the ADA compliance and Federal Tax Grant for 2021.

Street: Street Director Mike Frazee stated they have been working on patching, mowing and street sweeping.

Sewage: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson noted they had a pre-bid meeting for the Lakeside Project on Monday August 3rd. Bids will be accepted on Monday August 10th and present to Board on August 18th.

Water: Water Director Tim Werner stated they are waiting for bids on the Kankakee well #2 and staff has started working on the water audit which is a State requirement.

Mayor Dermody stated there is \$81 million of infrastructure needed for Water/Sewage and we need to find the dollars.

City Attorney Otis spoke about the combined sewers and stated the projects aren't glamorous, but they need to be done.

Park: Park Director Mark Schreiber stated they have put in a new swing set at Hasting, a new playground at Warsaw Park, new stairs at Fox Park and work on the Fox Park Amphitheater continues. He also noted there will be a Movie Night at Fox Park on August 7th (Pets 2). Night Bike Ride August 14th starting at the Civic and they are still having Foodie Tuesday out at Unity Park.

Fire: Fire Chief Andy Snyder stated Larson Danielson turned over the new Fire Station on August 3rd and they will be moving in in a couple of weeks. He also noted they will be leaving later today for Turtle Creek, Arkansas to deliver the fire truck that they sold.

Mayor Dermody stated we have a new employee, Sarah Nimetz, who is the new Project Manager in the Engineering Department.

City Planner: City Planner Tom Casey stated Grace Roman is the new City Planner Administrative Assistant. He also noted Flaherty and Collins are finalizing things on their end today and then the bonds will be sold and issued. They have a bike trails plan in place since 2013 so he is initiating those plans and have applied for grants to pay for the project.

Mayor Dermody thanked Tim Franke and Duneland Media.

Unfinished Business

None

Other Business

None

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____

Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: August 18, 2020