

City of LaPorte Board of Public Works and Safety

January 06, 2010

Convene

City of LaPorte Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on January 6, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Attendance: Mayor Chroback, Present: Mr. MacLennan, Present: Mr. Rosenberg, Present.

Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Chroback.

Mayor Chroback officially welcomed back Jack Rosenberg to the Board and thanked Dale Clingerman for stepping in during Mr. Rosenberg's absence.

Minutes

As each Board member received an advance copy of the minutes from the previous meeting, Mayor Chroback stated they would dispense with the reading of same and asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the regular minutes as well as the minutes from the executive session on December 30, 2009; motion seconded by Mayor Chroback and unanimously carried.

Petitions & Comments

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue, thanked the Street Department for their hard work in removing the large amounts of snow the City received over the weekend. He inquired if anything can be done about people depositing their snow removal in the alley between State Street and Lincolnway. The Mayor suggested Mr. Ogle meet with Mike Frazee, Director of Street Department, to work with those individuals for a different alternative. Mr. Ogle asked if the City Attorney can define what a half City block consists of to City employees regarding the placement of signage. Don Baugher, City Attorney, stated a half City block is one City block cut in half.

Claims Approval

Teresa Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer, presented for the Board's approval Civil City claims in the amount of \$547,841.19. She noted this includes \$280,140.16 for the fourth quarter PERF payments for civilian, fire and police employees as well as two TIF Bond Payments.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to approve Civil City claims as presented; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

Waive Penalty Fees - Utility Customer

The Clerk-Treasurer presented a request from a resident to waive penalties in the amount of \$56.57 for their utility bill due to a leak. She reported the leak was not detected until after the first bill was received and the next month's usage had already been determined. The customer has always paid their bill on time and has entered into a contract to pay off the balance in March.

Mr. Rosenberg stated under the circumstances, he moved to waive the penalties provided the customer stays current with the contract; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Boston Street - Change Order

Dale Clingerman, Director of Engineering and Building Services, presented for the Board's approval a change order for the Boston Street Project in the amount of \$1980.00 to do an additional soil boring at the railroad crossing on Boston. He reported the City's portion would be \$196.00 the balance will be paid by INDOT. Mr. Clingerman reported since the original boring was done the engineer has changed the design therefore an additional boring needs to be done. He stated in his opinion this change order will probably result in an additional change order for more dewatering, however, it will avoid some costly delay costs. Mayor Chrobak inquired if the project has started. Mr. Clingerman reported it is suppose to start today.

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the change order as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the closing of streets. Mr. Clingerman informed the Board he has requested a large sign be placed one mile east of Fail Road on Highway 2 to keep truck traffic off of Park Street. Mary Jane Thomas, Director of Community Development and Planning, reported as of this morning, Boston Street was open to Factory Street.

Employee Assistance Program - Annual Renewal

Matt Cook, Director of Human Resource, presented to the Board for their approval the annual contract renewal with New Avenues for the City's Employee Assistance Program. He informed the Board the cost is \$5,100.00 which is the same as last year and is budgeted and paid through the insurance fund.

Approval of Annual Renewal of Employee Assistance Program

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the annual contract with New Avenues for the City's Employee Assistance Program in the amount of \$5,100.00; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

UMR Contract - Revision

Mr. Cook presented for the Board's approval a revised Business Associate Agreement with UMR to incorporate HIPAA Compliance changes. He noted the City's insurance agent, GIS has reviewed the agreement.

Approval of Revised UMR Contract

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve the revised agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg. Mayor Chrobak inquired if the City Attorney has had an opportunity to review the document. Mr. Baugher stated he has not. Mr. MacLennan moved to amend his motion to approve the agreement subject to City Attorney review; amendment seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water Department: Todd Taylor, Director of Water Department, reported the department repaired a water main break on New Year's Eve. Also, the department is doing its best at keeping fire hydrants clear of snow. Mr. Taylor asked the public to help by shoveling the snow around fire hydrants in their neighborhood if they can and if not and they see a fire hydrant that needs to be cleared give the Water Department a call. Mayor Chrobak suggested a press release be done regarding this matter.

Sewage Department: Jerry Jackson, Director of Wastewater, advised he provided Board members with a lake level chart. He stated the lake level is up .05 over the previous week. He stated if the lake level reaches 798.3, the siphon will be turned back on.

City Attorney: Mr. Baugher reminded the Board there is an executive session following today's meeting.

Fire Department: Rob Sabie, Fire Chief, informed the Board Wayne Township Fire Department, Indianapolis, informed him yesterday the Fire Academy is scheduled to begin February 16, 2010. Mr. MacLennan inquired if the City will have a firefighter hired in time to attend this session. Chief Sabie stated he is hoping they will but it will be close. Discussion was held regarding when the next Fire Academy will take place. Chief Sabie explained the City uses Wayne Township Fire Department for training and it is up to them as to when they schedule a Fire Academy based on their personnel. He reported while talking to Wayne Township Fire Department, they indicated this could be the last session for quite a while.

Mayor Chrobak reported the deadline to file for the "Safer Grant" for the Fire Department was extended to January 15th. She stated the City is hoping to apply for two firefighters through the grant as it has been very difficult to cover the shifts at the Fire Department.

Police Department: Terry Scherer, Police Chief, reported he was notified this morning two recruit officers have finished their physicals and psychological examinations and are waiting for approval from PERF and the Pension Board. Chief Scherer reported the Police Department's Sergeants will be completing their third and final day of First Line Supervisory School.

Street Department: Mayor Chrobak thanked the Street Department for their hard work and the great job they did this past week in removing snow in the City. She asked Mike Frazee, Director of Street Department, to pass her thanks to his employees.

Clerk-Treasurer - Executive Session

The Clerk-Treasurer inquired if the Board needs to set an executive session following next week's Board meeting. The City Attorney responded in the affirmative.

Motion/Vote - Executive Session January 13, 2010

Mr. MacLennan moved to set an executive session for January 13, 2010 following the regularly scheduled

Board of Works meeting for the purpose of discussing litigation; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

Other Business

Mr. Rosenberg inquired if there is something the City can do about the timing of the stop light at the intersection of Maple and Indiana Avenues. He stated it is longest stop light in the City and he actually witnessed three vehicles go through a red light because they got tired of waiting. Mayor Chroback stated she will contact INDOT to have them look at the situation to see if it can be changed.

Council - Executive Session

Mayor Chroback announced the Common Council will hold an executive session this Thursday, January 7, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the Mayor's office to discuss the sidewalk litigation. She reported City officials met with the law firm hired to represent the City yesterday and will inform the Council of what was discussed and the City's possible options. She stated contrary to the comments that are being made by the public, this executive session is not in violation of the "Open Door Law". She stated at this time, the City is not in a position to talk about this publicly because quite frankly, the City does not know what it is going to do at this time.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Rosenberg moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

Signatures

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen A. Chroback, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Teresa L. Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: January 13, 2010