

City of LaPorte Board of Public Works and Safety

May 12, 2010

Convene

City of LaPorte Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on May 12, 2010 at 9:00 am. Attendance: Mayor Chrobak, Present: Mr. MacLennan, Present: Mr. Rosenberg, Present.

Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Chrobak.

Minutes

As each member of the Board received an advance copy of the minutes prior to the meeting, the Mayor stated she would dispense with the reading of same and asked for any additions or corrections.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Minutes from May 5th;

Mr. MacLennan made a motion to approve the regular and Executive Session minutes from May 5th as presented; Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

Special Presentations-Police

Chief of Police, Terry Scherer, along with Administrative Captain Julie Smith, presented several awards to LaPorte citizens and one Police Officer, for their assistance in the apprehension of several criminals throughout the City.

On February 1, 2010, Doris Agemy, witnessed what she believed to be an armed robbery occurring inside National City Bank in LaPorte, while outside in her car, in the drive thru lane. Mrs. Agemy called 9-1-1 and discreetly followed the suspect as he made his getaway. With her detailed descriptions via her cell phone, officers were able to track the suspect and arrest him as well as confiscate his weapon and the stolen money.

William Bartholomew and Terry Chadderdon, both employees of Kabelin's Ace Hardware, worked with the Metro Drug Task Force during the fall of 2009, to help identify individuals suspected in the manufacturing of methamphetamine, a highly addictive drug. Both men spent hours researching store records and security cameras to identify those responsible. The information was turned over to the Task Force which in turn resulted in the confirmation and arrests of suspects.

Charles Smith, Network Administrator at the City Police Station, happened to be returning to work from lunch on November 30, 2009, when he spotted what he believed to be a van that matched the description of a getaway vehicle that may have been involved in a bank robbery at Fifth Third Bank in LaPorte, which just came across his police scanner. Mr. Smith followed the van to a private residence and took a photo of the vehicle with his cell phone. Mr. Smith's quick action led to the apprehension of the suspect who had fled the area, as well as a portion of the stolen money.

Specialist John Butcher was honored for his quick action in tracking and apprehending the armed bank suspect from the February 1st National City Bank robbery. Chief Scherer stated Specialist Butcher acted swiftly and professionally in communicating with other officers as to any sightings of the suspect and his route of escape which enabled officers to set up a tight perimeter to contain the suspect. Specialist Butcher contacted 9-1-1 to do an emergency lock-down at the Ken Co Plastics factory where the suspect was headed towards to avoid any contact with the employees. He observed the suspect fleeing the wooded area he had been hiding in and gave chase and captured the armed man.

Mayor Chroback thanked the citizens and Specialist Butcher for their quick action and commended them for being the eyes and ears of the community.

Public Comment

Monica McGinnis, employee of Engstrom Jewelers at 820 Lincolnway, requested the Board's permission to reserve a parking space in front of the business for two days during a gold-buying event. The van will be for the buyers who are running the event. The event will take place on Tuesday, May 18th and Wednesday, May 19th.

Mr. MacLennan moved to reserve the parking space for those two days; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

Clerk Treasurer

Claims Approval

Mr. Rosenberg moved to approve Payroll Claims for May 14, 2010, in the amount of \$308,198.17; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

Mr. MacLennan moved to approve Civil City Claims in the amount of \$756,251.62; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried. The Clerk Treasurer, Teresa Ludlow, advised \$300,000.00 was a transfer into the Insurance Fund.

Contract-City Auction

Mrs. Ludlow presented the Board with a contract for the City Auction from Auctions by Moldenhauer, LLC, and requested they approve same. The auction will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at the City TransPorte building. The terms of the contract are 5% of total sales plus expenses with the total cost to be no more than \$1,000.00 and no less than \$550.00.

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

Mrs. Ludlow reminded department heads to have their list of items for the auction turned into her office by today so she can get it to the auctioneer for advertisement.

Restricted Fund

Mrs. Ludlow presented the Board with two donations for the Police and Fire Restricted Funds and requested permission to receipt the money into the same and they are as follows:

1. \$5.00-Mark Sterling.
2. \$5.00 - Jennifer Hall

Mr. Rosenberg moved to graciously accept the donations as presented; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business Pine Lake Conservancy District

Don Baugher, City Attorney, reported the desire for restroom facilities at the Waverly Road boat dock on Pine Lake has resulted in the City looking into the closest possible sewer connection, since the City doesn't have connection points nearby. The closest one is the Pine Lake Conservancy District (PLCD), which they would have to authorize the City to connect. The typical way in which this has been done in the past, is to petition them to modify their agreement and join their district. By joining their district, the City's property would then fall under their jurisdiction, which is unsatisfactory to the City. Mr. Baugher met with Attorney Bill Nelson to modify the existing Conveyance and Treatment agreement to allow the City to connect its restroom facilities at the boat dock to the PLCD without annexation. Jerry Jackson, Director of Wastewater, advised he has consulted with Dean Heise, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Wastewater has agreed to split the \$95.00 monthly PLCD sewer service fee with the operator of the restroom facilities. Mr. Baugher advised the installation of the sewer will be at the expense of the operator of the restroom facilities as well. Mr. Jackson reported it will be a low-pressure grinder system which has proven successful along the homes on the lake.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Amended Agreement with Pine Lake Conservancy District

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the amended agreement with the Pine Lake Conservancy District as presented; Mr. MacLennan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

Unfinished Business (Continued)

Mr. Heise stated he has been in contact with Terry Huber of Huber's Marina and the project will begin as soon as possible.

Street Sweeping Agreement

Mayor Chrobak announced the Street Sweeping agreement has been returned by INDOT with the proper corrections. The Mayor thanked Mike Frazee, Director of Street, for noticing the areas originally omitted from the agreement. These areas happen to be where new improvements were made where curbs previously didn't exist. The areas added are State Road #2 from 6th Street to Philadelphia; State Road #4 from State Road #2 to Boyd Boulevard; U.S Highway #35 from State Road #39 to Kingsbury Avenue, including the middle section on the overpass and on Pine Lake Avenue which includes the curb on State Road #39 from McClung Road to Pine Lake Avenue. This is a total of 17.3 miles which the City cleans for the State three times a year per their existing agreement. The rate is \$300.00 per curb mile per year for a total of \$5,190.00 not to exceed \$20,760.00. Mayor Chrobak asked who does the billing for this project. Mrs. Ludlow stated she invoices INDOT each year from the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Street Sweeping Agreement

Mr. MacLennan made a motion to approve the updated contract with INDOT for Street Sweeping as presented and authorize the Mayor to execute same; Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

Bid Award-2009 Handicap Ramp/Sidewalk Project Phase II

Dale Clingerman, Director of Engineering and Building Services, reported the Board received 13 bids last week for the 2009 Handicap Ramp/Sidewalk Project Phase II. Mr. Clingerman recommended the Board award the contract to the lowest bidder, Deutscher Construction, in the amount of \$151,950.00. He stated as of last week, only \$119,000.00 had been originally budgeted for this project, but Mary Ann Richards, Director of Community Development and Block Grant Program, was able to use left-over federal funds from other projects to supplement the difference.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Bid Award

Mr. MacLennan made a motion to award the bid to Deutscher Construction as recommended by the City Engineer; Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

Change Order-Stimulus Project-Paving

Mr. Clingerman presented the Board with a Change Order for the Stimulus Paving Project in the amount of \$8,210.08 and recommended they approve same. Mr. Clingerman reported the bids for the stimulus paving project came in lower than anticipated, which resulted in the City returning some of the money to the State. As the project has been moving along, additional monies have been saved and this time the State has given the City permission to spend the allocated amount. Mr. Clingerman stated he is now able to include the striping of all of the crosswalks and stop bars that were originally left off the stimulus project due to funding limits.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Change Order

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the Change Order in the amount of \$8,210.08 as recommended; Mr. MacLennan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chrobak (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

Bid Award-Webber Street Tank Painting

Todd Taylor, Director of Water Department, recommended the Board award the bid for the painting of the Webber Street water tower to the low bidder, Aero Painting, from Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, in the amount of \$390,706.00. Mr. Taylor stated the money has already been appropriated for the project. Mayor Chrobak asked how long the tower will be out of service. Mr. Taylor advised the contract requires the work to be completed in sixty days. He stated the new water main on Crescent Drive should be complete before the work begins so that will help maintain the water supply while the tower is out of service.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Bid Award

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to award the bid to Aero Painting as recommended; Mr. MacLennan seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Mayor Chroback (Yes), Mr. MacLennan (Yes), Mr. Rosenberg (Yes).

Department Reports

City Attorney

Mr. Baugher reminded everyone there is an Executive Session today immediately following the regular meeting and requested the Board set one for next week to discuss litigation and real estate acquisition.

Mr. MacLennan moved to set an Executive Session for May 19th immediately following the regularly scheduled Board meeting; motion seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried.

Fire

Fire Chief, Rob Sabie, reported his department is currently taking written State exams for Strategy and Tactics, the training classes each firefighter attended during the last two weeks. Chief Sabie advised in the near future, the State is going to require each firefighter to have these certifications, so he is getting everyone certified even before it's required by State law.

Police

Chief Scherer thanked the Mayor for allowing him to have his presentation for special awards here at the Board meeting today.

Water

Mr. Taylor reported the system flushing is complete and thanked the Herald Argus for publishing the dates and addresses involved in each flushing cycle.

Wastewater

Mr. Jackson reported the lake siphon was turned off yesterday because the Kankakee River went above flood stage with a level of 9.98. It is expected to fall below flood stage by Friday. He stated the Pine Lake level is 798.1. Mayor Chroback asked for an update on the monitoring equipment. Mr. Jackson reported the gauges are in and should be installed sometime this week.

Parks and Recreation

Mr. Heise reported his department is ready to receive volunteers to help with any mowing or extra work they are able to provide. He advised he has met with Matt Cook, Director of Human Resource to discuss any liability issues that may arise, so volunteers may be asked to sign liability forms before performing any duties. Mr. Heise stated the public is making their unhappiness known in regards to the cutbacks in the City parks in regard to less mowing, trash removal, and restroom closings, but his hands are tied during this

financial crisis. Mr. Rosenberg stated the public needs to understand how hard this decision has been for the Mayor and their cooperation is greatly needed during this time of financial difficulty.

City Planner

Mary Jane Thomas, Director of Community Development and Planning, reminded the patrons who sponsor the downtown planters, they need to be cleaned out by May 24th as Perennials Galore will begin their planting on May 27th.

Ms. Thomas reported the Farmer's Market will open this Saturday, May 15th at its new location at the Monroe Street Parking Lot on the corner of Monroe and Lincolnway. The market is open from 8:00 a.m. to noon with nine vendors currently signed up. The City Police will put up barricades so people will know not to park in the lot overnight.

Mayor Chroback asked Ms. Thomas what will happen if the planters are not cleaned out on time by the individuals who sponsor them. Ms. Thomas stated the planter committee will clean them out, but it will definitely jeopardize the individuals from sponsoring the planter in the future.

Mayor

Mayor Chroback announced Spring Clean Up is underway this week and the Code Enforcement office is busy dealing with all the individuals who didn't adhere to the Ordinance which states the trash cannot be put out more than 24 hours in advance of the scheduled pick up.

The Mayor reported the new American Flag is flying high at City Hall and once again thanked Sierra Sue Jesch for her generous donation.

There being nothing further before the Board, Mr. Rosenberg moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. MacLennan and unanimously carried.

Signatures

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen Chroback, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Teresa L. Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer
Approved: May 19, 2010