

**July 8, 2025**

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

**Present:** Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

**Absent:**

Eman Fokianos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes. Mayor Dermody asked if there were any additions or corrections.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Minutes**

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

**Public Comment**

**Claims Approval**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Q2 Quarterly Payroll in the amount of \$1,926.88. This is for Police and Fire Merit Commissions.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Q2 Quarterly Payroll**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Q2 Quarterly Payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Payroll from June 20, 2025 in the amount of \$581,061.24.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of June 20, 2025 Payroll**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the June 20, 2025 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented payroll from July 3, 2025 in the amount of \$578,280.06.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of July 3, 2025 Payroll**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the July 3, 2025 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Water Claims in the amount of \$393,887.96.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Water Claims**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Water Claims as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$712,253.15.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Sewage Claims**

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$2,469,491.13.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted that these claims seem higher than normal because it is July and there are bond payments on them.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Civil City Claims**

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

**INDOT Invoice #888861**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented INDOT Invoice #888861 in the amount of \$54,018.80. This is part of the Local Tracks project and is the railroad portion of the local math. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted there will be a Council Resolution for an additional appropriation at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, along with a public hearing. The request is for board approval to pay the invoice once the additional appropriation goes through. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun clarified that this was not budgeted for because we did not know what the amount would be, and it will be coming from Major Moves. Major Moves is used to pay for local matches, like this. Mayor Dermody recognized the Engineering Department and INDOT for working hard and well together to make this overpass happen.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of INDOT Invoice #888861**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve INDOT Invoice #888861 as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**2025 Certification and Assurances**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented the 2025 NIRPC Certification of Financial Capacity and Local Share Availability and Certifications and Assurances. This is for Transit services. By signing the Certification of Financial Capacity and Local Share Availability, we agree that we have sufficient funds in the 2025 budget to operate transit services at current levels through 2025. This document requires the signature of both Mayor Dermody, Clerk-Treasurer, and Natalie Griffith. By signing the Certifications and Assurances we agree that we are complying with federal grant award rules. This document requires the signature of Both Mayor Dermody and the city attorney. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated these are items that are presented to the Board of Works each year and requests approval.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of 2025 Certification and Assurances**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Certification and Assurances as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

**Spectrum Recycling Work Order**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated there is a work order for the Spectrum Recycling property that they would like to present to the Board of Public Works for the record and requested City Attorney Nick Otis to explain the situation. Attorney Otis stated the city of La Porte took over ownership of the Spectrum Recycling property in November 2024 via eminent domain, for the overpass project. The court has ordered Spectrum Recycling to be out of the location by July 22, 2025, two weeks from today. Attorney Otis stated his request is for utilities to be shut off at this location on Friday, July 25, 2025. Attorney Otis stated he has spoken with the engineering team and emphasized the importance of those utilities being shut off so that project can begin. In addition, INDOT may be using that location to store equipment and things for the overpass project. Mayor Dermody noted that the owner of Spectrum Recycling is the one that had requested to go through the eminent domain process. Attorney Otis noted that there is a site review tomorrow with Spectrum Recycling about a new location within the City of La Porte. Attorney Otis stated the request is for a motion to shut off utilities on Friday July 25, 2025 at the Spectrum Recycling location.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Spectrum Recycling Work Order**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve disconnection of utilities at the Spectrum Recycling property on Friday July 25, 2025; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**Department Head Reports**

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Clerk-Treasurer Parthun reported the 2024 audit has concluded. The exit conference was completed last week, and the results will be become public in approximately 45 days.

**Code:** Code Director Jeff Batchelor reported they are out issuing tickets for people that are not keeping their grass cut. In addition, Mr. Batchelor reminded everyone that garbage cans should be put out on the day of pickup, or 12 hours before, and should be put away from the street by the end of the day or a ticket will be issued.

**Park:** Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber recognized the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Visit Michigan City La Porte for being the exclusive presenting sponsor and making the fireworks possible for the community. Mr. Schreiber recognized and thanked Arts in the Park for putting on a great concert, the police and fire for the support, and the community for an uneventful night. In addition, Mr. Schreiber noted Lakefest is happening in less than three weeks, July 25-27. All events can be found on [Laportelakefest.com](http://Laportelakefest.com).

**Street:** Street Superintendent Mike Frazee reported they are finishing water cuts, grinding stumps, tree removal, street sweeping, and painting the streets.

**New Business:****Request for Use: Slicer Performing Arts 5K**

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Slicer Performing Arts 5K. This is a brand-new event, and the request is for a 5k race that will start at La Porte High School from the F Street parking lot and uses part of 10<sup>th</sup> Street to A Street, up to the entrance of Kesling Park and then back the same route. Ms. Loeffler stated she has received all their paper and certificate of liability. Mr. Kosior questioned if there were any issues from police or fire regarding this event. Chief Snyder stated he does not foresee any issues because of the day of week, Sunday, and short timeframe; they will plan for an alternate route during this time.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Slicer Performing Arts 5K**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Request for Use: Slicer Performing Arts 5K as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**Request for Use: Mountain Bike Competition**

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Mountain Bike Competition. This is a new event and will take place on the Sunday morning of Lakefest. The request is for a very short closure from Orchard over the boat launch and there is nothing in this area.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Mountain Bike Competition**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request for Use: Mountain Bike Competition as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

**Conflict of Interest: Rhonda Ashcraft**

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented a conflict-of-interest form for Rhonda Ashcraft. Ms. Ashcraft is a part-time Administrative Assistant and has obligations with Sky Restoration, which is part of emergency water mitigation, fire stormwater, damage loss. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted this is not necessarily a conflict of interest, but Ms. Ashcraft is trying to remain transparent with other employment. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated this conflict-of-interest form will be filed at the county and then uploaded to the state's Gateway site.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Conflict of Interest: Rhonda Ashcraft**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Conflict of Interest: Rhonda Ashcraft as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**118/124 Park Write-Off Request**

Utility Billing Manager Emmanouel Fokianos presented 118/124 Park Write-Off Request. Mr. Fokianos stated during an audit it was discovered there is a parcel at 124 Park Street, listed as 118 Park Street in the Utility Billing system, across from Spectrum Recycling, that has a balance due. Mr. Fokianos stated suspended billing was created in 2019 and at that time he does not believe that proper vetting was done as far as confirming home ownership at that time. The resident at this address listed themselves as the homeowner at this location in 2013

when they in fact were not the homeowner, therefore creating incorrect information in the utility billing system. The current balance owed is \$1,432.11 and the request is to write this amount off. This amount is due to suspended billing, which means it is not for water services but rather for trash removal, stormwater, and public fire and street maintenance. These charges have just been accrued since suspended billing began in 2019 as billing was not being sent to the correct property owner. The previous owner owned this property until March of 2023, and the State of Indiana now owns the property. Mayor Dermody questioned if this amount is due by the previous owner. Mr. Fokianos emphasized that the previous owner of the property never received a bill because we did not have correct information and they were more than likely renting the property to someone that had claimed to be the owner. There are now procedures in place to ensure that proper ownership is on record. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted this was an error on the city's end made in 2013.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of 118/124 Park Write-Off Request**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve 118/124 Park Write-Off Request as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**Truck Lease Quotes**

Water Superintendent Tim Werner was not present, and Mayor Dermody requested a motion to table this agenda item.

**Motion/Vote – Table Truck Lease Quotes for 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD Dump Truck and 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD**

Ms. Romine made a motion to Table Truck Lease Quotes; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**Single Source Provider Request**

Community Development and Planning Director Craig Phillips presented Single Source Provider Request. Mr. Phillips stated this is for a project pertaining to the maintenance of the quiet zone. The occasional replacement of bollards and flexible delineators at the intersections is necessary and this specific request is for improvements that need to be made with the maintenance at the Ziegler, Orchard, Second Street intersection. This is necessary to remain in compliance with the agreements that were put in place for the quiet zone. Mr. Phillips stated in addition to the request for approval for the work that needs to be done, he is requesting this as a single source provider for any future maintenance or repairs. This request is due to the need to remove and replace the base that the bollards and flexible delineators attach to if we use parts from another manufacturer, which will ultimately result in more costly maintenance. Mr. Phillips stated he did not receive additional quotes because he is requesting the single source provider. Attorney Otis noted this would not require multiple quotes as the total dollar amount is below \$50,000.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Single Source Provider Request**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Single Source Provider Request as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

### **La Porte Artwork MOU**

Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook presented La Porte Artwork MOU. This MOU is between the City of La Porte and an artist that has been arranged through the Lubeznik Center for the Arts. Mr. Cook stated we have seen a similar MOU with another artist for the sculpture that is located at Plaza 618. This sculpture will be placed at Fox Park, near the amphitheater. Mr. Cook stated this MOU has been reviewed by the city attorney and they did not find any issues. This will be for a two-year lease of the artwork for \$3,000 and the funding will come from the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association. Mr. Cook expressed his appreciation for the UEA and their support of La Porte. In addition, Mr. Cook recognized Janet Black from the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, as she is the individual that helps select an appropriate pieces and coordinates all of the details. Mr. Cook noted this is great for not only the community but the artists as well. The sculpture currently at Plaza 618 has already been sold to an individual in the community that will take ownership at the end of the city's lease.

### **Motion/Vote – Approval of La Porte Artwork MOU**

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve La Porte Artwork MOU as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

### **Approval of Unofficial Detour Letter of Understanding – INDOT US 35/Indiana Ave Project**

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented approval of Un-Official Detour Letter of Understanding – INDOT US 35/Indiana Ave Project. Mr. King stated because of the work that will occur on Indiana Ave, there is an unofficial truck detour going along Boyd Boulevard. Mr. King stated the letter of understanding states whatever the current condition of the road is, INDOT will return the road to those conditions if there is any damage due to the increased truck traffic from the detour. Mayor Dermody questioned if this would be the official detour because of the Indiana Ave closure. Mr. King stated this is the unofficial detour because the official detour is utilizing Highway 6.

### **Motion/Vote – Approval of Unofficial Detour Letter of Understanding – INDOT US 35/Indiana Ave Project**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Unofficial Detour Letter of Understanding – INDOT US 35/Indiana Ave Project as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

### **Soldier's Memorial Park Well Raw Water Main Project – Contract 1 Recommendation for Award**

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Soldier's Memorial Park Well Raw Water Main project – Contract 1 Recommendation for Award. Mr. King stated this is just for pipe installation; initially there were some road construction portions that were attached but we will be able to utilize our community crossings grant in this area which will result in some savings on this project. The two bids that were received initially came in very high and the low

bidder was H&G but had a timeline for not being able to start until January. This timeline does not work with the CCMG dollars. Mr. King stated they were able to get a revised bid from HRP in the amount of \$1,715,497 for the pipe work only. The CCMG money will cover the road restoration. Mr. King stated the recommendation is to accept the bid from HRP Construction in the amount of \$1,715,497. Mr. Kosior questioned where this would be paid from. Mr. King stated the restoration will be paid for by CCMG and the \$1,715,497.00 will be paid from Water.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Soldier’s Memorial Park Well Raw Water Main Project – Contract 1 Recommendation for Award**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Soldier’s Memorial Park Well Raw Water Main Project – Contract 1 to HRP in the amount of \$1,715,497; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

**Soldier’s Memorial Park/Stone Lake Trail Phase #2 – Addl Stone**

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King stated this is for a quote package that was sent out for some grading work for one of the parking lots within the Stone Lake Trail project area. The following quote was received:

Dooley’s LLC - \$15,725

This is for the grading and limestone and will be paid for from an HFL Grant for the Soldier’s Memorial Park master plan area.

**Motion/Vote – Approval of Soldier’s Memorial Park/Stone Lake Trail Phase #2 – Addl Stone**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Soldier’s Memorial Park/Stone Lake Trail Phase #2 – Addl Stone as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

**Truesdell Reconstruction Project Close-out/Change Order**

Assistant City Engineer Tucker requested this item be tabled per City Engineer Nick Minich.

**Motion/Vote – Table Truesdell Reconstruction Project Close-out/Change Order**

Ms. Romine made a motion to table Truesdell Reconstruction Project Close-out/Change Order; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**Reject Slicer Pathway Bids and Request to Re-bid**

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Reject Slicer Pathway Bids and Request to Re-bid. Mr. King stated these bids were received in October 2024 and came in over budget. The request is to reject those bids to be able to reconfigure the project to fit within the budget and rebid.

**Motion/vote – Approval of Reject Slicer Pathway Bids**

Ms. Romine made a motion to reject Slicer Pathway Bids; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote- Approval of Re-bid Slicer Pathway**

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve to re-bid the Slicer Pathway; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

**Unfinished Business**

Public Comment:

Via Facebook Live – Jeff Plant asked, why is the city in need of the railroad overpass? How will this overpass benefit the city neighborhood as well as the City of La Porte?

Mayor Dermody responded by stating the importance of the overpass has been discussed numerous times and asked Assistant City Engineer Tucker King to provide a brief explanation of the necessity. Mr. King stated this will be the second above-grade crossing for the railroad track that essentially cuts our town in half. There have been situations with a stopped train that runs through town and people may have to drive all the way out to Fail Road in order to get to the other side of the tracks. In addition, there are incidents on the current overpass that do not allow traffic to pass through. This will give the city a second opportunity to have a closer space for traversing that gap. Attorney Otis noted we are investing money in that side of town and getting another overpass in that area is a huge benefit to our community. Mayor Dermody emphasized the benefit and importance to police and fire responding to calls in this area of town as well. Chief Snyder stated he fully supports the second overpass as there have been many times trucks have been stopped waiting for a train to pass through when it is not feasible to go to the other side of town to go over the overpass. Having another option to get across the tracks is huge for the safety of our community where every second counts. Chief Drangmeister stated there have been far too many times they have had to let dispatch know that their response times need to be extended because they have been delayed by a train and therefore this second option to get over the tracks is fully supported by the department for the safety of the community. Mayor Dermody welcomed Mr. Plant to come meet in person to discuss the importance of the overpass in person.

Via Facebook Live – Jordan King stated great job city team listening to these meetings makes me proud to live here. Amazing to see how much is going on.

Mayor Dermody recognized everyone from the City Council to Department heads for all their hard work and accomplishments for everything they do for the residents.

Via Facebook Live – Sherry Shelton noted that she loves the quiet zone.

**Other Business:**

Mayor Dermody encouraged those that have not had a chance to get out to the fair and support the community to do so.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday July 22, 2025 at 9 A.M.



**Adjourn**

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

Tabled 04-08-2025: - Conflict of Interest: Jessica Romine

-Engagement Letter for Accounting Services: Cornerstone Accounting

Tabled 04-22-2025: - Quote for Engine

-Maintenance Agreement with Villas of Briar Leaf

**Approve:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: July 22, 2025**