

July 22, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

Absent:

Roscoe Hoffman 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

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$947,393.60.

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.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Water Claims in the amount of \$202,192.32.

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.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$42,584.94.

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.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented payroll from July 18, 2025 in the amount of \$598,999.19.

Motion/Vote – Approval of July 18, 2025 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the July 18, 2025 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll presented Comprehensive Plan Update. This update is due to the change in legislation and is something that is done every year. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Knoll stated this will be paid from the CEDIT Consulting budget.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Comprehensive Plan Update as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported that Lakefest is this weekend and will kick off with The Breakfast Club, an 80s band out of Chicago, on Friday Night at Fox Park. In addition to the music there will be up to nine food trucks, a wiffle ball home run derby, PNW will have baja cars, and the National Guard will have a gaming trailer obstacle course. Mr. Schreiber announced the following new events for Lakefest: steamboat excursions on Pine Lake, Stone Lake Family Beach Bash on Saturday, and Beach and Brews. Mr. Schrieber reminded everyone that the headliner for Saturday night's music is Jesse McCartney. All events and information can be found at laportelakefest.com. Mr. Schreiber recognized the maintenance crew and ball diamond crew for their great work during the 31-game tournament that took place. The crew kept the fields operational despite all the bad weather.

Communications: Communications Director Jess Spoljaric reported the City of La Porte gets to be the beneficiary of a project that the Northwest Indiana Forum is doing. They have tasked WeCreate with an ad campaign and they were here last week getting some footage over Pine Lake. Ms. Spoljaric stated she does not have a lot of information on when that will be ready or if it will be digital or on TV but hopefully we will see something within the next few weeks.

HR: Human Resources Director Andrea Smith reported the City of La Porte is currently soliciting bids for dental and vision carriers. Ms. Smith stated once those are received, they will be reviewed by herself, Mayor Dermody, and Clerk-Treasurer Parthun and then brought before the board.

Street: Street Superintendent Mike Frazee reported they are working on tree cutting, patching and street sweeping.

LEAP: Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook reported that Blockhead Brewing came before the City Council last night to request their 3-way liquor license through the riverfront district. The City Council voted unanimously to move that forward. The potential opening date will be early winter.

Code: Code Director Jeff Batchelor reported the Rumley's elevator is still down. The part has been ordered but it does have to be made before they can receive it. It should be received on Thursday and then installed either Thursday or Friday. Mayor Dermody emphasized this is the first time this part has failed in 27 years and has to be made by Otis Elevator. Mr. Batchelor has remained close to this situation because the building can technically be condemned for not having a working elevator. The City of La Porte and management team at the Rumley have been working together to ensure the residents of the Rumley are having their needs met for those that cannot get out of the building without the working elevator. In addition, Mr. Batchelor reported Animal Control Officer Paula found a home that had 23 dogs and 20 of them were removed. Previously this house had 15 dogs that were removed.

Legal: City Attorney Nick Otis reported INDOT contractors are ready to begin work on the Tipton Street overpass. The court has ordered Spectrum recycling to be off the property on Friday. City Attorney Nick Otis questioned how long this project was anticipated to take. City Engineer Nick Minich stated it is anticipated to be a two-year project. A lot of the upfront work will be utility work, and the work will be done in phases.

Wastewater: Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson reported the rain on Saturday resulted in five calls for basement backups and two overflowing manholes where the combined wastewater picked up the manhole cover and it overflowed into the street. Mr. Jackson stated those incidents must be reported to IDEM and he has already done that. This just reinforces the need to continue with the sewer separation projects. Mayor Dermody emphasized the need for continued work due to old infrastructure and noted the water and sewage bills are what pay for these necessary upgrades. Mr. Jackson stated the work currently happening on Indiana Ave is approximately \$1.3 million and will allow for branching out into adjoining neighborhoods but the work is very expensive.

Water: Water Superintendent Tim Werner reported crews will be finishing the fire training facility within the next day or two. After that they will begin working on 11th Street from F to Handley, ahead of the paving project.

CDP: City Planner and ADA Coordinator David Heinold shared he recently attended an ADA roundtable in Plainfield. Mr. Heinold spoke about his experience and expressed his excitement that the ADA Act was signed into law 35 years ago.

New Business:

Request for Use: Run for Jake 5K

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Run for Jake 5K. This event will take place this Saturday and they are requesting the closure of Truesdell Ave from McClung Road to the roundabout from 5 A.M. until 10 A.M.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Run for Jake 5K

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

Request for Use: Shoffner Equipment Move

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented Request for Use: Shoffner Equipment Move. Ms. Loeffler stated this is somewhat complicated as they need to move a large piece of equipment from 3535 Monroe Street to their construction site at 501 E Boyd Boulevard. They will need a police escort, and they have already reached out to the police. City Engineer Nick Minich stated this is something that can be done either under a right-of-way permit or use of property. Mr. Minich felt as though it would be best to be done as use of property, therefore everyone was aware there would be something large moving down Boyd Boulevard. Ms. Loeffler stated there is no specific date requested as this move will be weather dependent, however the intention is for it to happen within the next five days and will take several hours to move the equipment. Mr. Kosior questioned if this would be a rolling closure. Police Chief Drangmeister stated it will be an escorted closure as typically seen for wide loads.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Request for Use: Shoffner Equipment Move

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Request for Use: Shoffner Equipment Move as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

CDBG Sidewalk Program

CDBG Manager Mary Ann Richards presented a change order for the CDBG Sidewalk Program in the amount of \$3,256.38, payable to Pavey Excavating. This change order is due to the need to fill vaults below the sidewalk in the downtown area that required gravel, in addition to some areas where curb replacement was necessary and asphalt was needed. This change order represents 1% of the total cost of the contract and therefore within the 20% boundary. Ms. Richards stated this increases the total contract amount from \$250,802 to \$254,058.038. Ms. Richards noted the sidewalks are already complete and the only thing left to do is to plant trees, which will happen in early fall.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Mary Ann Richards

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve CDBG Sidewalk Program as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Public Comment via Facebook Live: Chris Clenard asked if there would be additional paving on Ohio Street up to Roberts. City Engineer Nick Minich confirmed there will be additional paving, but we are currently waiting on some additional drainage improvements to be completed before the project is completed.

Two (2) Wastewater Hauler Permits

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Two (2) Wastewater Hauler Permits for HRR Enterprises/KT Soap and Aero Metals. Mr. Jackson stated they are both long-term customers and recommends approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Wastewater Hauler Permits

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Wastewater Hauler Permits as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Headworks GSC

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson provided an update on the headworks project with the guaranteed savings contract with Kokosing. Mr. Jackson stated they are not getting close on the numbers for what the available funding is. The original numbers came in at \$15.4 million. Mr. Jackson stated there are a number of items that need to be done but are not integral to the core of the project and after removing those items they were able to get the cost down to \$14.2 million. The available funding is \$10.6 and therefore there is a long way to go to get the project within budget. Mr. Jackson emphasized a lot of time was used to think of various ways to get those costs down and there is the potential to relocate the channel that goes from the headworks of the plant to the wet weather storage basin and this would provide a green field site to build the improvements rather than in the middle of where the treatment plant is at. Mr. Jackson stated because the project has the potential to be built offline rather than around other utilities it may be cheaper. Mr. Kosior questioned whether there were any downsides to doing it this way instead. Mr. Jackson stated there is not really any downside and frees up room to build future wet weather facilities.

Mayor Dermody asked Mr. Jackson to explain the headworks for those that may not understand. Mr. Jackson stated the first stage is when the raw wastewater comes into the treatment plant, it is first screened for debris and the debris removed. The current screens are over 20 years old and are to be replaced with fine screens. Fine screens will help better filter out the debris, ultimately helping the process run better and help keep pumps and nozzles from clogging. The second state is grit removal through the grit chambers. There is a lot of sand that comes in, especially when it rains. The existing grit chambers get overloaded every time we get a rain, and they jam. In addition, Mr. Jackson emphasized this area is very congested and there are also electrical issues in this area because there is underground electric that is below the water table. If a new facility is built adjacent to this, everything can be kept the way it is and kept running and once the new facility is ready connect into it. Mayor Dermody questioned what would happen if this were ignored and nothing is done. Mr. Jackson stated if this isn't corrected, we will eventually get an order from IDEM to do it and then we will have no choice but to do this project to remain in compliance. Mr. Kosior questioned where the \$10.2 million will come from. Mr. Jackson stated it comes from a bond anticipation note and will be paid for from the rates.

Preliminary and Final Plat - J&B Subdivision

City Planner and ADA Coordinator David Heinold presented Preliminary and Final Plat – J&B Subdivision. Mr. Heinold stated this request comes from Brian Eigemann and his attorney Dave Ambers and the request is to re-subdivide one lot into two lots located at 1421 2nd Street. The proposed lots meet the minimum lot area requirements and provide access to 2nd Street to meet the police, fire, and utilities requirements. Attorney Ambers stated Mr. Eigemann purchased the home currently located on the lot and remodeled it and now intends

to build a second home next to it. This request was brought before both the Plan Commission and Board of Public Works for approval.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Preliminary and Final Plat – J&B Subdivision

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Preliminary and Final Plat – J&B Subdivision as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Permission to Accept Quote

IT Director Roscoe Hoffman requested permission to accept and sign quote for our firewall in the amount of \$14,351. Mr. Hoffman clarified there is a list of users on there and some are old users that are no longer here, and the number of users is not factored into the price. Ms. Romine questioned when the last time we had to do this was. Mr. Hoffman stated that it was before his time with the city, but typically you will need to replace the firewall every five years. In addition to the fire wall, we are also purchasing the license. If the firewall is able to be relicensed, we would just renew the license at the end of the license term. The manufacturer sets the life expectancy of the firewall.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Permission to Accept Quote

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Permission to Accept Quote as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Approval of Payment to Dogwood Hills

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Approval of Payment to Dogwood Hills in the amount of \$11,175. Mr. King stated 18 trees were planted of the original 80 that were planned before funding was lost. Mayor Dermody noted we are still fighting to get our grant back to be able to continue with the tree work.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Payment to Dogwood Hills

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Payment to Dogwood Hills as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Approval of Payment to RV Suttan Inc

Assistant City Engineer Tucker King presented Approval of Payment to RV Suttan Inc in the amount of \$7,488. This is for work related to the Hunter's Woods project. Mr. King stated because roads are being done, it was easier to coordinate with the NIPSCO contractor, and this is for payment of that invoice.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Payment to RV Suttan Inc

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Payment to RV Suttan Inc as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Pay App #2-2025 CCMG Paving

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Pay App #2-2025 CCMG Paving in the amount of \$1,920,009.51. Mr. Minich stated work has been going well and recommends payment. Mr.

Kosior questioned what portion of the project this takes us to. Mr. Minich stated this is approximately 70%-80% of the contract.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Pay App #2-2025 CCMG Paving

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Pay App #2-2025 CCMG Paving as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Recommend Award – Guaranteed Energy Saving Program

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Recommend Award - Guaranteed Energy Saving Program. Mr. Minich stated proposals were solicited to guarantee energy savings to add solar to different facilities around the city. The original guaranteed energy savings project was done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and has been going very well. Mr. Minich stated there was some interest expressed, however only one proposal was received from Schneider Electric. Schneider Electric did the first solar project at the treatment plant. Mr. Minich stated their documentation is complete and recommends moving forward and contracting with Schneider Electric. Mr. Minich emphasized there is nothing set in stone, however accepting their proposal would allow us to move forward and look at the scope and potential contract for guaranteed energy savings for solar projects at various facilities throughout the city.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Recommend Award - Guaranteed Energy Saving Program

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Recommend Award - Guaranteed Energy Saving as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

Water Superintendent made a request to untable Truck Lease Quote

Motion/Vote – Untable Lease Quote for 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD Dump Truck

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

Lease Quote for 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD Dump Truck

Water Superintendent Tim Werner presented Lease Quote for 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD Dump Truck. The documentation presented is from Enterprise Fleet Management. Mr. Werner stated they will be replacing a 1988 International that they received from the Street Department in 2000. Mr. Werner stated the request is for a Silverado 6500HD with a four-to-five-yard dump on it. The total cost is \$78,858 and the presented documentation shows the lease rate quote, however the intention is to purchase the dump truck outright as he does not believe a heavy piece of equipment needs to be in the management program as they will maintain it themselves. Mr. Werner stated this is something that was budgeted for in his 5-year capital plan and will be paid for out of water the budget.

Motion/Vote – Approval of 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD Dump Truck

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 6500HD Dump Truck as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Other Business:

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday August 5, 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: -Maintenance Agreement with Villas of Briar Leaf

Tabled 05-20-25: Truesdell Construction Project Close-out/Change Order

HRP Contract #1

Tabled 07-08-25: Truck Lease Quote

Approve: _____

Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: August 5, 2025