

August 19, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine, Mark Kosior

Absent:

Chae Uhlemann 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

None

New Police Officer Sworn In: Stephen Bateman

New Officer Stephen Bateman was sworn in. He will go down for his physical assessment on the 25th and will then begin the Academy on October 22nd. Officer Bateman spoke briefly about himself and introduced his family. He expressed his excitement to begin his career with the City of La Porte.

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented payroll from August 15, 2025 in the amount of \$575,325.50.

Motion/Vote – Approval of August 15, 2025 Payroll

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve the August 15, 2025 payroll as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$1,192,120.79.

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.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$705,402.91.

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 Water Claims in the amount of \$305,053.63.

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.

New National Opioids Settlement

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun presented New National Opioids Settlement from Purdue and the Sackler family. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated this settlement allows us to be part of the settlement participation package and is requesting approval to opt in. This does not guarantee any funds, it just allows the city to be in the pool to receive funds.

Motion/Vote – Approval of New National Opioids Settlement

Ms. Romine made a motion to opt in to the New National Opioids Settlement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Department Head Reports

Code: Code Enforcement Officer Dan Drake reported they are currently working with rental properties and landlords. They have condemned two houses. In addition, they are working with landlords to get problem tenants out to be able to make necessary repairs and get new tenants in.

Police: Chief Drangmeister reported their first field day this past weekend was a successful event. He recognized Mental Health Professional Kaitlyn Kalisik for all her hard work in helping to put that event together.

Park: Parks and Rec Superintendent Mark Schreiber reported as summer is wrapping up, there are still a few events taking place. Tour de La Porte will take place this upcoming weekend. This is a great event for anyone that enjoys running or biking and is a great way to support the La Porte County Family YMCA and their scholarship fund. Mr. Schreiber reminded residents to be patient and be aware of the runners and bikers as they participate in this event and asked for patience with the closures for this event. Mr. Schreiber reported they are having the Guardian Riders Music Fest at Fox Park on Saturday. This is another great cause. In addition, Mr. Schreiber noted the following upcoming events at the Civic Auditorium:

- David Nail – Saturday Night
- Ohio Valley Wrestling – September 10th
- Tennessee Whiskey – October 10th
- Brass Transit – October 17th
- Hoosier Star – September 13th

In addition, Mr. Schreiber noted the Civic Auditorium also hosts junior gymnastics and pottery. All information about events can be found online at laportecivicauditorium.com

Street: Street Superintendent Mike Frazee reported they are crack sealing, patching, trimming trees, and replacing signs. City Attorney Nick Otis asked if there were many trees down during last night's weather. Mr. Frazee stated no.

New Business:

Ticket Appeal

Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler presented ticket appeal. Ms. Loeffler stated a single ticket appeal was submitted but it is for two separate tickets written on August 5th and August 7th in a restricted parking area. The appeal states the individual parked in front of a blank sign with no legible parking instructions. Ms. Loeffler stated the police investigated and confirmed the sign is not legible and recommended voiding the tickets. The sign has since been replaced.

Motion/Vote – Approval Ticket Appeal

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve ticket appeal and void tickets as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Beechwood Lakes Development Agreement

Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, Bert Cook presented Beechwood Lakes Development Agreement. Mr. Cook emphasized this is an agreement with the Redevelopment Commission but as a matter of practice it is being presented to both City Council and the Board of Public Works to ensure everyone remains on the same page and clearly communicates throughout this project. Mr. Cook stated this is for the development of Beechwood Lakes, which is the acreage that was given to the city that is adjacent to Beechwood Golf Course. Mr. Cook stated they have been working on this for three years to find the right developer. This property did go out for bid and one bid was received and this is the partnership we will potentially be signing into agreement if approved by the city.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Beechwood Lakes Development Agreement

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Beechwood Lakes Development Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Purchase of Used Equipment: Mower

Mayor Dermody stated Water Superintendent Tim Werner is unable to be at today's meeting and requested board approval on his behalf to purchase a used mower from Heinold and Feller in the amount of \$5,500. The current mower would go to Code Enforcement, who does not currently have a working mower, and they desperately need one.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Purchase of Used Equipment: Mower

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Purchase of Used Equipment: Mower as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Wastewater Basement Protection Grant

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson presented Wastewater Backup Grant for 1407 Michigan Ave. The total cost is in the amount of \$4,580 and the city's portion is \$3,685. Mr. Jackson noted that 4.3 inches of rain fell last night and there may be more applications that come in.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Wastewater Basement Protection Grant

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Wastewater Basement Protection Grant as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

2025 ADA Sidewalk Program Quote Award

City Engineer Nick Minich presented 2025 ADA Sidewalk Program Quote Award. Mr. Minich noted approximately nine different contractors were solicited and four quotes were received from the following: M5 Construction, Pavey Excavating, Milestone, and Reith-Riley. The quotes were opened publicly on Friday August 15th. Mr. Minich stated the lowest bid came from Pavey Excavating in the amount of \$56,775 and falls in line with the estimate for this project. Mr. Minich recommends awarding the bid to Pavey excavating in the amount of \$56,775. Mayor Dermody requested a reminder as to what this would include. Mr. Minich stated the ADA Project is essentially ADA complaints and this will address all complaints currently in the system and any additional work will focus on meeting our obligation to correct any ADA deficiencies.

Motion/Vote – Approval 2025 ADA Sidewalk Program Quote Award

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve 2025 ADA Sidewalk Program Quote Award as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Dedication of Right-of-Way Plat

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Dedication of Right-of-Way Plat. This is for East Shore Townhome development. Mr. Minich stated the normal subdivision process is not gone through when there is a condo project like this. A subdivision is dividing land to create more buildable lots, but they are not creating more buildable lots. Mr. Minich stated the way we accept right-of-way, which would be the road going into that development would be through approval by the Board of Works through dedication of the right-of-way giving access to that development. Mr. Minich noted the city will have utilities in this development and it is designed with the potential for future development into the next property.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Dedication of Right of Way

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Dedication of Right of Way as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

City Engineer Nick Minich made a request to remove from the table Truesdell Construction Project Close-Out and Change Order.

Motion/Vote – Remove from the table Truesdell Construction Project Close-Out and Change Order

Ms. Romine made a motion to remove from the table Truesdell Construction Project Close-Out and Change Order; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Truesdell Construction Project Close-Out and Change Order

City Engineer Nick Minich presented Truesdell Construction Project Close-Out and Change Order. Mr. Minich stated this is change order #4 and is for all the little clean up items throughout the project and a final price adjustment based on quantities. The change order is in the amount of \$92,072.37 and brings the total contract price to \$8,504,927.29. Mr. Minich noted this is approximately a 10% increase but reminded everyone that this did include the addition of Marquette Alley and the trail link between Clear Lake Loop Trail and the trail head and some of the filling of the basin. Mr. Minich emphasized that although the overall cost is over 10%, the Truesdell portion was actually under, but we were able to take advantage of Reith-Riley working in that area to get some other things done at a overall cost savings.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Truesdell Construction Project Change Order #4

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Truesdell Construction Project Change Order #4 in the amount of \$92,072.37 as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Mr. Minich presented the final pay application for close-out in the amount of \$991,387.24. Mr. Minich stated this payment will remove retainage and pay out the change order items. He noted this project has been paid from various funds and his request is for approval pending work with the Clerk-Treasurer's office to identify the proper funds for this amount.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Truesdell Construction Project Close-Out

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Truesdell Construction Project Close-Out as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Other Business:

Mayor Dermody reminded employees that the employee picnic will be held on September 12th from 11:30 – 2:00 at Cummings Lodge.

Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson noted that with the 4.3 inches of rain last night they had a combined sewer overflow at the sewage treatment plant, which is the first time in five years, and he will be filing a report with IDEM. In addition, Mr. Jackson reported their generator was acting up and barely kept the treatment plant operating but they are now back to operating normally. Mayor Dermody questioned if any of the work that is being done at the treatment plant could have prevented this. Mr. Jackson stated the generator will be replaced as part of the headworks project and that would have been beneficial during this rainfall. Mayor Dermody noted this work that needs to be done is done through the rate increases and emphasized the importance of being able to get this work done.

Mayor Dermody announced tomorrow the city will host Baker Tilly and close to 50 elected officials from various areas of government. Baker Tilly will walk everyone through Senate Bill One and the opportunities that present based on the legislature allowing local units of government to take the heat potentially raising taxes of some sort in exchange for the few hundred dollars received in savings on property tax bills. Mayor Dermody stated this will be a two and a half hour meeting and recognized Executive Assistant Annette Loeffler for organizing it.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Wednesday September 3, 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

Approve: _____

Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: September 3, 2025