

JANUARY 4, 2021

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session via Zoom Web Conferencing on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge

Councilwoman Cutler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Konieczny, Feikes, Galloway, Cutler, Franke and West

Absent: Vincent

Mayor Dermody stated Councilman Vincent was absent due to the death of his father and expressed the City's sympathies to Councilman Vincent and his family.

Minutes

Mayor Dermody stated each Council member received an advance copy of the minutes from the previous meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Councilwoman Feikes moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

Petitions & Comments

Mayor Dermody opened public comment and asked City Attorney Nick Otis to field questions and comments on Facebook Live. There were no comments.

Standing Committee Reports

School Board: Councilman Franke reported the School Board will meet on January 11th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center. LaPorte County is currently in the red which means LaPorte Community Schools are currently on a virtual learning schedule five (5) days a week. The School Corporation will do updates on Wednesdays on the color status.

Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met last Wednesday and passed some bill payments. They discussed how things will be handled in 2021. The next meeting will be held December 30th (the last Wednesday of the month) at 5:15 p.m. via zoom.

Police Merit Commission: Councilman Franke reported there is a Police Merit Commission meeting on January 5th at 2:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Business Improvement District: Councilwoman Cutler reported that the next Business Improvement District meeting will be Monday January 11th at 5:00 p.m. via zoom.

Urban Enterprise Association: Councilwoman Cutler reported that the next meeting for the Urban Enterprise Association will be January 20th at 4:00 p.m. via zoom.

Airport Authority: Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority will be meeting next Wednesday January 13th most likely via zoom. She will have a report at next council meeting.

Tree Commission: Councilwoman Konieczny reported that the Tree Commission will meet on January 21st.

Fire Merit Commission: Councilwoman West reported the next Fire Merit Commission meeting is Wednesday January 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Feikes reported that the Traffic Commission will be meeting January 5th at 6:00 p.m.

President Pro-Tem Appointment:

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to re-appoint Tim Franke as President Pro-Tem; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cutler. Mayor Dermody asked if there was any discussion. Councilwoman Cutler stated Councilman Franke did a great job. Councilman Franke stated he appreciates everyone's faith in him.

The motion to re-appoint Tim Franke as President Pro-Tem was unanimously carried.

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 22-2020 of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Establish Salary for a New Position in the Engineering Department and Amending Positions in the Community Development and Planning Department and Housing and Building Code Enforcement Department

Councilwoman West moved to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 22-2020 of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Establish Salary for a New Position in the Engineering Department and Amending Positions in the Community Development and Planning Department and Housing and Building Code Enforcement Department by title only

Motion/ Adopt - Ordinance No. 1-2021

Councilwomen Konieczny moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1-2021
ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-2020 OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE,
INDIANA TO ESTABLISH SALARY FOR A NEW POSITION IN THE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND AMENDING POSITIONS IN THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
AND HOUSING AND BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT**

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Approving 2021 Budget for the City of La Porte Water Department

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance Approving 2021 Budget for the City of La Porte Water Department by title only.

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer, reported the Council has always approved budgets for Water and Sewage however, it has never been tracked in our accounting system. This will allow the City to be more transparent and be accountable to the citizens of La Porte.

Motion/ Adopt - Ordinance No. 2-2021

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2-2021
ORDINANCE APPROVING 2021 BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF LA PORTE WATER DEPARTMENT**

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Approving 2021 Budget for the City of La Porte Wastewater Department

Councilwoman Galloway moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read an Ordinance Approving 2021 Budget for the City of La Porte Wastewater Department by title only.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated that appropriations will now be tracked in our accounting system. City Council, Board of Works, and Department Heads will have appropriation reports moving forward for both the Wastewater and Water Departments.

Mayor Dermody praised Clerk-Treasurer Parthun for her work in getting this done. Mayor Dermody stated that the extended conversation was for Joanne Layman.

Motion/ Adopt - Ordinance No. 3-2021

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3-2021
ORDINANCE APPROVING 2021 BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF LA PORTE WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT**

Other Business

Mayor Dermody stated that after just under 35 years with the City of LaPorte Water Department Henry Snyder retired on December 31st. Mayor Dermody stated that he is very happy for Henry and thankful for his years of commitment to the City of LaPorte. Councilwoman Feikes also thanked Henry for his service.

Mayor Dermody stated as we kick off the New Year, we kick off another opportunity to partner up with LaPorte Community School Corporation. From this point forward residents can watch our City Council and Board of Works meetings on the School Corporation's new public access channel which is channel 98. Meetings will not be broadcasted live like they are on Facebook and YouTube but will be aired on a regular schedule. They are still working out some of the kinks, but they will be able to provide more concrete days and times soon. The School Corporation is excited about this opportunity to get their students involved in local government. Mayor Dermody stated that he is excited about this partnership and thanked the Council for approving it.

Mayor Dermody stated that long time former City Attorney Don Bagher has passed away. City Attorney Nick Otis stated that Mr. Baugher was instrumental in bringing NewPorte Landing to life. The City Attorney is working on something to recognize Mr. Baugher's contributions to NewPorte Landing. Bert Cook, Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, stated that he had the pleasure of working with Mr. Baugher over the years and you could always count on him to give great advice. He stated not only was Mr. Baugher instrumental in moving NewPorte Landing forward, he had his hand in a lot of other development/projects within the City.

Mayor Dermody stated that resident Tom Delorme and his wife Ruth had a public comment. They love seeing the developments and progress and are excited about the School Corporation's public access channel.

On a final note Mayor Dermody wanted to thank NIPSCO, the City Council, Red Cross, Street, Water, and Sewer Departments who were amazing this weekend during the winter storm. He reported 67,000 people were out of power and La Porte was the heaviest hit. Mayor Dermody stated we have some work to do to improve in the future, but it was an amazing job by all. Councilwoman Konieczny gave Mayor Dermody a shout out for keeping the lines of communication open to not only the Council but all the constituents. She stated that it was greatly received. Mayor Dermody stated in 2021 we are going to make La Porte better than it was in 2020.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilman Galloway moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Approved

Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: January 19, 2021