

## **JANUARY 19, 2021**

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session via Zoom Web Conferencing on Monday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

Councilman Galloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### **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 Cutler and unanimously carried.

### **Petitions & Comments**

Mayor Dermody opened public comment and asked City Attorney Nick Otis to field questions and comments on Facebook Live. Mr. Throgmorton stated, "Justice for All". Mayor Dermody thanked Mr. Throgmorton for his kind comment. Mr. Delorme asked what the City's legal opinion is regarding golf carts. Mayor Dermody stated that you cannot cross a state highway with a golf cart and asked Councilman Franke for some clarification. Councilman Franke stated that to operate a golf cart within city limits, the golf cart must be registered and meet various safety requirements.

### **National Mentoring Month Proclamation:**

Mayor Dermody stated that January is National Mentoring Month. Mayor Dermody noted that he and many of those present at the meeting have participated in the mentoring program, Slicer Champions. He thanked all who have participated in the mentoring program. Mayor Dermody read the National Mentoring Month Proclamation issued by the City of LaPorte in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody stated that our community is very lucky to have people like Julie Sinclair and Bert Sappenfield who run the Slicer Champions Mentoring Program. Councilman Franke stated that he has been involved with the Mentoring Program for three years and has developed a wonderful relationship with his mentee. He stated that it has been just as rewarding for him as it has been for his mentee. He plans to continue to participate in the program to help make an impact on the lives of our younger generation. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated that she agrees with Councilman Franke. The program is very meaningful and impactful not only for her mentee, but also for her. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated that this program gives her hope for the future of our young people.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**School Board:** Councilman Franke reported the School Board met on January 11, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Educational Services Center. LaPorte County is currently in the red COVID status. LaPorte Community School Corporation moved to a new 3-

day per week schedule while the County is in red COVID status next semester. The next School Board meeting will be held on February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the next meeting will be held January 27, 2021 at 5:15 P.M. via zoom.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority held a meeting on Wednesday January 13, 2021 via zoom. Fuel sales increased by 53% from 2019 to 2020. The Arizona Commemorative Airforce is hopeful to bring a B-25 to La Porte this August. The Arizona Commemorative Airforce was very excited about both the turnout and support from the community last year and look forward to being in La Porte again late this summer.

**Tree Commission:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported that the Tree Commission will meet on January 21, 2021 via zoom at 5:00 P.M.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported that the Police Merit Commission met on January 12, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. at the Police Department. The Police Department is currently down by two Officers and in March, will be down another Officer because Karl Jackson is retiring. The Police Department ordered a generator and 10 new Police cars. Councilman Galloway reported they are looking to start a SWAT team in the spring and get two officers trained in hostage negotiation. Currently, there are eight to ten applications in the pipeline. Councilman Galloway reported the next Police Merit Commission meeting is February 9, 2021.

**Business Improvement District:** Councilwoman Cutler reported that the Business Improvement Board met January 11, 2021 and approved current officers, John Spiggle, Treasurer, Robin Clark, Vice President and Thaddeus Cutler, President to resume their roles for 2021. Also discussed was the remaining appointment, which the Board will ask the Council review to and approve.

**Plan Commission:** Councilman Vincent reported the next Plan Commission meeting will be held February 9, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

**Fire Merit Commission:** Councilwoman West reported the next Fire Merit Commission meeting is Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will be meeting at 4:00 P.M. via Zoom on January 20, 2021.

**Business Improvement District Appointment:** Councilwoman Culter made a motion to read the Business Improvement District Board's appointment request; motion was seconded by Councilwomen Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwomen Cutler stated that the Business Improvement District Board asks the Council to consider Erica Kanney, an Operations Manager at Duneland Media located in downtown La Porte which falls within the Business Improvement District. Councilwoman Feikes moved to approve the appointment of Erica Kanney to the Business Improvement

District Board; motion was seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 12-2013, an Ordinance Setting Requirements for Mobile Vendors of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana**

Councilwoman Cutler moved to read the Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwomen Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwomen Cutler read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 12-2013, an Ordinance Setting Requirements for Mobile Vendors of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana.

Second and final reading of the Ordinance will take place at the first meeting in February.

**Introduction of an Ordinance of the City of La Porte Concerning Outside City Water and Sewage Collections Services**

Councilwomen Feikes moved to read the Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwomen Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwomen Feikes read an Ordinance of the City of La Porte Concerning Outside City Water and Sewage Collection Services.

Mayor Dermody followed up by stating that we are focusing our efforts on those inside City limits, however, should a non-resident request to hook up to City services, we will require them to sign an annexation waiver. City Attorney Nick Otis discussed the need for annexation as well as the annexation process.

Mayor Dermody asked Bert Cook, the Executive Director of LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership if he had any thoughts. Mr. Cook echoed what Mayor Dermody said. Mr. Cook believes this is a way for us to grow our city both residentially and industrially. Mayor Dermody stated that Indiana Senate has a bill that is reaching the floor in the next few weeks. Senator Mike Bohacek has assured Mayor Dermody that he will not vote to pass this bill in support of the City of La Porte.

Lisa Pierzakowski, Center Township Trustee asked via Facebook live if residents will have the opportunity to speak for or against the annexation. Mayor Dermody stated that as part of the process the public will be able to speak. City Attorney Otis followed up and stated that the public will be given the opportunity to speak with any future annexations.

Second and Final reading of the Ordinance will take place at the first meeting in February.

**Other Business :**

Mayor Dermody stated that on February 10, 2021, the City of La Porte will host a Town Hall meeting at 6:00 P.M. via zoom. All department heads will be in attendance to discuss goals for 2021 and residents will be able to ask questions.

Mayor Dermody reported we will be requesting the Board of Works to approve Baird for underwriting or placement services for our bond for NewPorte Landing remediation. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated that because the bond amount is smaller, we have more flexibility. The cost to use Baird's services will be the same whether they place the bond or do the underwriting; the cost is far less than going on the open market for a bond.

Mayor Dermody reported the City will be talking with the County on the North/South Connector. Mayor Dermody asked Mr. Bert Cook for input on subject. Mr. Cook stated that the truck traffic downtown has been a topic of discussion for a long time and he is pleased to see that we are gaining some traction. Mr. Cook applauds City Engineer Nick Minich for the work he is doing on this project.

City Attorney Nick Otis stated 701/705 Maple has been condemned and that a receiver has been appointment by the Circuit Court. The receiver is a third- party that advises the mortgage holder and manages the building. Code Enforcement Director, Jeff Bachelor will be meeting with him next Thursday to begin a process of making that building livable for people in our community.

Mayor Dermody congratulated Detective Victor Aguilar on his recent arrest from the shooting at Lucky's Bar. Mayor Dermody reiterated that we will not tolerate this type of behavior in our community. Jeff Bachelor, Code Enforcement Director, our Police Department, and the State are working tirelessly to shut this business down to keep our residents save.

Councilman Galloway asked for clarification on proceeding with Baird for the bond. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated that Baird is for placement services only. Councilman Galloway advised that both liaisons are voting members on the Plan Commission.

**Adjournment**

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

**Approved**

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**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: February 2, 2021**