

FEBRUARY 3, 2020

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge

Councilwoman West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: West, Galloway, Franke, Vincent, Brown and Feikes

Absent: Cutler

Minutes

Mayor Dermody stated each Council member received an advance copy of the minutes from the January 27th meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Councilwoman Feikes moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

Petitions & Comments

Mayor Dermody invited the LaPorte High School Bowling Team coaches, Chris Karlin and Toby Kraus to the podium to share some exciting news. Mr. Kraus reported for the first time in LaPorte High School history, the Bowling Team qualified to go to State this past weekend and placed eleventh out of twelve teams. Mayor Dermody and the Council congratulated the team on this great achievement and asked all the members to come forward for a picture.

Brian Kajer, 406 Niesen, reported he received a written warning for trimming a tree in the treelawn in front of his home as residents are not allowed to trim or cut down trees in the treelawn. He stated a neighbor was given a warning for not cleaning up a tree in front of her home after a storm, even though the tree was in the treelawn. Mr. Kajer stated the City needs to decide whether the trees in the treelawns are the responsibility of the homeowner or the City. He stated you can't have it both ways. Mr. Kajer reported he has continually brought up the condition of several residences in the City that need to be cleaned up. They are 333 Park Street, 329 Park Street, 1205 Woodward, 106 Tecumseh and 524 Haviland. He stated all of these properties are owned by LLC's and investment companies who need to be held accountable for the condition of their properties. Mr. Kajer stated the City also needs to do something with 407 E. Lincolnway. Mayor Dermody thanked Mr. Kajer and advised the City will be addressing 407 E. Lincolnway at the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting for demolition and will take the other addresses under advisement. The Mayor reported the Street Department is currently working on removing seventeen trees that are on the top of our list that need to be removed.

Councilman Galloway advised if a resident wants to trim the trees in the treelawn in front of their homes they need to contact the Engineering Department to fill out a form for permission.

Deborah Layton, 322 Clear Lake Boulevard, addressed the Council regarding the condition of Clear Lake Boulevard near her home. Mayor Dermody stated someone would be in contact with her tomorrow.

Standing Committee Reports

Airport Authority: Councilwoman Brown reported the Airport Authority will be meeting on February 13, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Feikes will meet tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at the Police Station.

Park Department: Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Department will be holding a meeting tomorrow to discuss the design for the Stone Lake shoreline improvements. The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at Cummings Lodge.

Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Galloway reported the Redevelopment Commission elected officers at their last meeting. JT McDermott was elected to the Downtown Historic Design Standards Committee.

Police Department: Councilman Franke reported the Police Merit Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

School Board Liaison: Councilman Franke reported the School Board will meet on Monday, February 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center.

Council Appointment to Plan Commission

Mayor Dermody stated the Council needs to make an appointment to the Plan Commission and opened the floor for nominations.

Motion/Vote – Appointment to Plan Commission

Councilwoman Feikes moved to reappoint Jerry Jackson as the Council's appointment to the Plan Commission. She reported Mr. Jackson as served in this capacity for at least eight years. Motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote – Remove Council's Appointment to the Main Street Association Board from the Table

Councilman Franke moved to remove the Council's appointment to the Main Street Association Board from the table and nominated Julie West; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 27-2016, an Ordinance for Establishment of City Cash Change Funds and Petty Cash Funds for the City of LaPorte, Indiana

Councilman Vincent moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Vincent read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 27-2016, an Ordinance for Establishment of City Cash Change Funds and Petty Cash Funds for the City of LaPorte, Indiana by title only.

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer, advised this Ordinance is to add two (2) additional cash change drawers for the Park Department for internal control reasons.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 3-2020

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

**ORDINANCE 3-2020
ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 27-2016, AN ORDINANCE FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY CASH CHANGE FUNDS AND PETTY CASH FUNDS
FOR THE CITY OF LAPORTE, INDIANA**

Introduction of a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of LaPorte, Indiana, Honoring the League of Women Voters on the 100th Anniversary of their Founding

Councilwoman Feikes moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway. Councilwoman Feikes read a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of LaPorte, Indiana, Honoring the League of Women Voters on the 100th Anniversary of their Founding in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody invited those present from the League of Women Voters to come forward and address the Council. He congratulated them on their 100th anniversary.

Joann Enquist, President of the LaPorte County League of Women Voters, Gloria Thode and Barbara Collins thanked the Mayor and Council for presenting the Resolution honoring the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters. She advised the LaPorte County Chapter will be celebrating their 100th year in 2021. Ms. Enquist reported there is a celebration planned for February 11th with a guest speaker.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-1-2020

Councilwoman Feikes moved to approve the Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION R-1-2020
RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAPORTE, INDIANA,
HONORING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ON THE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FOUNDING**

Introduction of an Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work on Public Works Projects

Councilman Franke moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work on Public Works Projects in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody invited Bert Cook to the podium for the cliff note version of what this all means. Bert Cook, Executive Director of LEAP, this Ordinance ensures that the City is hiring the best possible service providers for our community. He reported the City is one of the last communities in Northwest Indiana who have passed this type of legislation.

Tony Oss, representing Larson-Danielson Construction; Marci Kunstek, 2654 S. 400 E.; Dewey Pearman, Executive Director Construction Advancement Foundation of Northwest Indiana; and John Carr, Business Representative with the Carpenter's Union and the President of the LaPorte-Starke-Pulaski Building Trades all spoke in favor the passage of this Ordinance stating it will sending a clear message to unscrupulous contractors that they are not welcome in the City of LaPorte and helps promote apprenticeship programs.

Mayor Dermody asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council.

Motion/Vote – Suspend the Rules

Councilwoman Feikes moved to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the second and final time; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work on Public Works Projects

Councilman Franke moved to read the Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work on Public Works Projects for the second and final time by title only.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 4-2020

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

. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work on Public Works Projects in its entirety.

**ORDINANCE 4-2020
ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBLE BIDDING PRACTICES AND
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING BIDS TO PERFORM
CONSTRUCTION WORK ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS**

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 18-2019 of the City of LaPorte, Indiana to Establish Salary for New Positions in the Department of Transportation and the Utilities Department

Councilman Galloway moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 18-2019 of the City of LaPorte, Indiana to Establish Salary for New Positions in the Department of Transportation and the Utilities Department in its entirety.

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer, gave a little background information to the Council on the structure of the Utilities Office and her vision moving forward. She stated there are two goals for these changes: 1) to retain strong, professional employees who are the face of the City's utilities and 2) to create a path for advancement should an employee leave by creating tiered job titles with corresponding job duties in conjunction with tiered compensation.

Mayor Dermody stated he does not believe the City needs a Director for the Transportation Department however, he does think we need a Manager to manage the day to day functions of the department including personnel and to consistently improve the processes that we have in place.

Councilman Galloway stated these changes will go into effect once the Ordinance is adopted. Mayor Dermody stated that is correct. He advised the hope it to announce a TransPorte Director on February 19th after the final reading and hopefully passage of this Ordinance.

Mayor Dermody asked if there were any other questions or comments. Seeing none he stated this Ordinance will be placed on the February 18th Council agenda for the second and final reading.

Other Business

Mayor Dermody encouraged the public to attend the Lakeshore Drive/Stone Lake meeting tomorrow evening at Cummings Lodge at 6:00 p.m. He stated the meeting is to hear ideas from the public on how to improve our lakes along Lakeshore Drive which is now a one-way street.

Adjourn

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

Approved: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: February 18, 2020