

MARCH 16, 2020

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge

Councilman Franke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Franke, Vincent, Brown, West, Galloway

Absent: Cutler, Feikes

Minutes

Mayor Dermody stated each Council member received an advance copy of the minutes from the March 2, 2020 meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Councilman Franke moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried.

Petitions & Comments

None

Update from Ashley Dickinson, La Porte Hospital, CEO

Ashley Dickinson, La Porte Hospital, CEO gave an update on the preparedness measures La Porte Hospital and Starke Hospital have in place as it relates to COVID-19 and our community.

Additional safety measures are being enforced at La Porte Hospital for the well-being of patients, caregivers, and the community. Some of those changes include increased visitor restrictions, limited entry points into the hospital and screening all persons coming into the hospital for signs and symptoms of illness. Visitor restrictions are in place for only certain areas of the hospital and include no admittance for people under the age of eighteen, people who have travelled internationally or people who have been in contact with someone with a respiratory illness within the past fourteen days. All other visitors, as of March 17, 2020 are no longer permitted. La Porte Hospital has cancelled all activities, classes, and the volunteer program as well as patient visits based on the urgency of the patient needs. Ms. Dickinson noted that La Porte Hospital does have plans in place to deal with an influx of patients should that situation arise and advised that they remain alert and ready to provide care for the community. Ms. Dickinson answered questions from the Council.

Introduction of a Resolution Expanding the Boundaries of the Urban Enterprise Zone

Councilwoman Brown moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Brown read a Resolution Expanding the Boundaries of the Urban Enterprise Zone in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody invited Bert Cook, Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership to give additional explanation. Mr. Cook explained the expansion would bring three new properties into the Zone. The first property is the fire station on Boyd Blvd. which is in the process of being sold to a developer, the second property is along Pine Lake Avenue owned by the Patel family with future development planned and the third property is the old Maple Lane Mall, now owned by Rural King.

Nick Otis, Attorney for the City, added there are no negative impacts on these properties should they be included in the boundary expansion and Mr. Cook agreed.

Discussion was held about incentives and past projects that have materialized in the Urban Enterprise Zone.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Resolution No. R-2-2020

Councilman Vincent moved to adopt the Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2-2020
RESOLUTION EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Other Business

Mayor Dermody introduced the City's new City Planner, Tom Casey.

Mayor Dermody stated the City is open for business and will remain open to business while doing our part in social distancing. We are accessible and available by phone and email.

Adjourn

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

Approved: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: April 20, 2020