

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Monday, September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge

Councilman Galloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: None

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 stated there would be an opportunity for people to comment during a specific agenda item. Charles McGraff, 2026 Indiana Avenue, stated that he has a neighbor with 7-10 dogs and would like to see an ordinance that requires residents to have a reasonable amount of dogs that can be controlled as this has been an ongoing issue for him and his wife for several years. Larry Pinkerton, 1612 L Street, discussed his opposition to the closing of the Detroit Street railroad crossing. Mark Wright, 1647 Stone Lake Drive, stated that ice damming from thirteen years ago caused water damage and eventually mold to his home in La Porte and that insurance companies will not cover mold. Mr. Wright provided his phone number for Code Enforcement regarding this subject matter. He also stated that he would like to see a floating pier along the bicycle path on Lake Shore Drive. Candace Wright, 1647 Stone Lake Drive, discussed her opposition with the Ordinance Amending Section 58, Article II.

Standing Committee Reports

Park & Recreation: Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board met on September 16. Improvements at Kiwanis Teledyne Park are moving along with funds from the Clear Water Indiana Grant. Also reported, Fall Ball has begun. However, Adult Basketball at the Civic is postponed until January 2021. Councilwoman Feikes also reported that there is a Volunteer Workday planned for Saturday, September 26th at Fort La Play Porte from 8 AM until Noon. Councilwoman Feikes reported that the Park Department is scheduling renovations for various tennis courts around the City to bring sports back to our neighborhoods. There is currently a Patronicity campaign with the potential of receiving \$20,000 in matching funds from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's CreatINg Places initiative.

Mayor's Veterans Committee: Councilman Galloway reported the Mayor's Veterans Committee met on September 5 and will have one more meeting on October 12

before Veteran's Day on November 11. They are discussing the possibility of a Veteran's Day Presentation due to COVID.

Business Improvement District: Councilwoman Cutler reported at the September meeting, the 2021 budget was approved. Upcoming snow removal was discussed, and Dale Moffield said he would be submitting a proposal with no changes for the upcoming season. Councilwoman Cutler reported the next BID Board meeting will be held via Zoom, due to the Columbus Day holiday, on October 12 at 5 PM.

Urban Enterprise Association: Councilwoman Cutler reported the UEA board meeting for September was moved to Council Chambers for an in-person meeting. She reported that discussion was held regarding the upcoming annual planning session in November. The UEA suspended any further Business Grant applications for 2020 as well as making any decisions for the 2021 **Façade** Grant program until after the planning session. The City of La Porte, Councilwoman Cutler reported, is invited to this planning session.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of LaPorte, Indiana, Placing a Stop Sign on Ohio Street at its intersection with Lawrence

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of LaPorte, Indiana, Placing a Stop Sign on Ohio Street at its intersection with Lawrence by title only.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance 15-2020

Councilwoman Brown moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway.

Mayor Dermody stated the City Engineer, Nick Minich, is working on other ways to slow traffic in areas where speed is an issue. The Mayor asked if the Council had any comments or questions, there were none.

The motion to adopt the Ordinance was unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE 15-2020
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94- 322 OF THE
MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF LAPORTE, INDIANA , PLACING A STOP
SIGN ON OHIO STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH LAWRENCE STREET**

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 58, Article II - Human Rights Commission

Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Amending Section 58, Article II - Human Rights Commission by title only.

Motion/Vote - Amend Ordinance

Councilman Franke moved to amend the Ordinance; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes. Councilwoman West read the following amendment:

Amendments include two (2) Appointed Members by Common Council, three (3) Appointed Members by the Mayor, and one (1) Appointed Council Liaison with staggered terms

The motion to amend the Ordinance was unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody opened the floor for public comment.

Larry Pinkerton, 1612 L Street, discussed his opposition of the Ordinance. Mark Wright, 1647 Stone Lake Drive, discussed his opposition of the Ordinance. Mayor Dermody reported that the LGBTQ language is not new to the Ordinance and that additions made were to ensure La Porte is a welcoming community to all. Bill Lott, 91 Franklin Court, stated he is in support of the Ordinance and thanks the Council for taking it under consideration. Blake Boardman, 1108 Ohio Street, discussed his support for this Ordinance. Cedric McCoy, 709 D Street, asked the Council to consider a transparent application process, rather than appointments to the board to allow more accessibility to the board and to promote interest in the board from the community, creating more buy-in to the process and its outcomes. Additionally, Mr. McCoy suggested staffing the board with members of minority groups and youth. Mayor Dermody advised that there will be an application process.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance 16-2020

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Ordinance as amended; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler.

Councilman Franke discussed his support of the Ordinance. City Attorney, Nick Otis discussed the City's obligation, as an employer, to train and educate its employees on a newly protected class per the recent Supreme Court ruling as it relates to the LGBTQ community.

The motion to adopt the Ordinance, as amended, was unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE 16-2020
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 58, ARTICLE II - HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section Ordinance 18-2019 of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Establish Salary for a New Position in Wastewater/ Stormwater Department

Councilwoman Brown moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Brown read an Ordinance Amending Section Ordinance 18-2019 of the City of La Porte Indiana to Establish Salary for a New Position in Wastewater/ Stormwater Department by title only.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance 17-2020

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

**ORDINANCE 17-2020
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 18-2019 OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE,
INDIANA TO ESTABLISH SALARY FOR A NEW POSITION IN WASTEWATER/
STORMWATER DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Dermody presented a brief overview of the proposed 2021 budget for Civil City.

Mark Wright, 1647 Stone Lake Drive, asked which corporations the Administration is targeting that will pay higher wages. Mr. Wright is concerned about the lack of higher paying jobs in La Porte.

Mayor Dermody replied that we do have job openings in La Porte, but we have a lack of qualified candidates. He also noted that from an Economic Development standpoint, if a business were interested in La Porte, we need a spec building to move an interested business into.

Public Hearing and Introduction of an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 Civil City

Councilwoman Feikes moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance for Appropriation and Tax Rates for 2021 Civil City in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody stated this Ordinance requires a public hearing and declared the public hearing open. The Clerk-Treasurer presented proof of publication on the State's Gateway site on September 11, 2020 at 12:41 PM.

Mayor Dermody asked if anyone wished to address the Council regarding the 2021 Civil City Budget. As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and advised the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

Public Hearing and Introduction of an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 Redevelopment Commission

Councilwoman Cutler moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read an Ordinance for Appropriation and Tax Rates for 2021 Redevelopment Commission in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody stated this Ordinance requires a public hearing and declared the public hearing open. The Clerk-Treasurer presented proof of publication on the State's Gateway site on September 10, 2020 at 3:24 PM.

Mayor Dermody asked if anyone wished to address the Council regarding the 2021 Redevelopment Budget. As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and advised the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

Public Hearing and Introduction of an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 Airport

Councilwoman Cutler moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read an Ordinance for Appropriation and Tax Rates for 2021 Airport in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody stated this Ordinance requires a public hearing and declared the public hearing open. The Clerk-Treasurer presented proof of publication on the State's Gateway site on September 10, 2020 at 3:24 PM.

Mayor Dermody asked if anyone wished to address the Council regarding the 2021 Airport Budget. As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and advised the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

Mayor Dermody introduced Ed Volk, attorney for La Porte Municipal Airport who stated the 2021 budget is consistent with recent years. Jim Shearin shared the same sentiments as Mr. Volk and thanked the Clerk-Treasurer's office for their help with the 2021 budget submission.

Introduction of an Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana for the year 2021

Councilman Vincent moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Brown and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Vincent read an Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana for the year 2021 in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, the Mayor advised the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

Introduction of an Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of La Porte from the General Fund

Councilman Galloway moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read an Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of La Porte from the General Fund in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, the Mayor advised the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

Introduction of an Ordinance to Establish Sales of Beverages by Children

Councilman Franke moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance to Establish Sales of Beverages by Children in its entirety. Mayor Dermody asked if there were any questions or comments.

Motion/Vote - Suspend Rules

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

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance to Establish Sales of Beverages by Children

Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance to Establish Sales of Beverages by Children by title only.

Blake Boardman addressed the Council regarding this Ordinance. He stated this is close to his and his sons' hearts and thanked the Council for their support.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance 18-2020

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

**ORDINANCE 18-2020
ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH SALES OF BEVERAGES
BY CHILDREN**

Public Hearing and Introduction of a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for Community Development Block Grant

Councilwoman West moved to introduce a Resolution in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for Community Development Block Grant.

Mayor Dermody stated Mary Ann Richards, CDBG Manager, is present via Zoom and asked if she would like to explain this Resolution to the Council.

Mary Ann Richards reported that this funding is money that was not used in the previous program year and we are appropriating it for use in 2020 for demolitions. She advised in addition to the demolition of Tibma Bakery, which was in this year's budget, there are an additional 4-5 structures that could be taken down this year.

Mayor Dermody stated this Resolution requires a public hearing and declared the public hearing open. The Clerk-Treasurer presented proof of publication from the La Porte County Herald Dispatch on September 10, 2020. Mayor Dermody asked if anyone wished to address the Council regarding the 2021 Redevelopment Budget. As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Resolution R-15-2020

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

**RESOLUTION R- 15-2020
RESOLUTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

Introduction of a Resolution Authorizing Reduction of 2020 Budget Appropriations

Councilwoman Cutler moved to introduce a Resolution in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read a Resolution Authorizing Reduction of 2020 Budget Appropriations.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Resolution R-16-2020

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

**RESOLUTION R-16-2020
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF
2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

Other Business

Attorney Nick Otis stated that on the Facebook Live Feed, people were critical of the public notices for the budget process. However, Mr. Otis reported that the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer put on a Budget Workshop that was properly noticed, this Council meeting was properly noticed and the regular Council meeting on October 5, 2020 is

scheduled and will be noticed. These are just three of the opportunities for the public to learn more about the City's budget and how it works.

Mayor Dermody noted that we will soon need to address the \$81 million dollars of water and sewage infrastructure that are in desperate need for repairs and improvements.

As of now, the City is planning on Trick or Treat from 5-7 PM on October 31st.

Mayor Dermody reported that the State is planning to spray pesticides to address EEE.

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: October 5, 2020