

OCTOBER 5, 2020

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met virtually on October 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge

Councilwoman West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: Galloway

Minutes

Mayor Dermody stated each Council member received an advance copy of the minutes from the last meeting as well as the Budget Workshop 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 stated as this meeting is being held virtually and live on Facebook due to possible exposure to COVID-19, public comment will be done at the end of the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Brown stated she will be attending tomorrow night's Traffic Commission meeting. Councilman Vincent also stated he will be attending the meeting. Councilwoman Feikes advised the Traffic Commission meeting tomorrow night will be held via zoom. For those who would like to attend please call 1-800-444-2801 code #9809848.

Fire Department: Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the 18th Street Fire Station. She read a statement thanking Dot Kesling and the Wishing Tree Foundation for their continued support of providing carbon monoxide units free to the public.

BID Board: Councilwoman Cutler reported the BID Board will be meeting next Monday, October 12th via zoom.

Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on September 30th at which representatives of the Quall Family were present regarding proposed improvements in the Thomas Rose Industrial Park. The Board approved to move forward with the project. Also, an update was given on the boardwalk.

Police Department: Councilman Franke reported the Police Merit Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 2:00 at the Police Station.

School Board Liaison: Councilman Franke advised the School Board will be meeting on October 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center. He reported Bethany Church is sponsoring a meet the candidates night tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 (Civil City)

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 for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 (Civil City) by title only.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 (Redevelopment Commission)

Councilwoman Cutler moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 (Redevelopment Commission) by title only.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 (Airport)

Councilwoman Brown moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Brown read an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 (Airport) by title only.

Second & Final Reading 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 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 Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana, for the Year 2021 by title only.

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of La Porte from the General Fund

Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of La Porte from the General Fund by title only.

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 18-2019 of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Establish Salary for a New Position in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer

Councilwoman West moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 18-2019 of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Establish Salary for a New Position in the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer in its entirety.

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer, stated as the Council already knows, Joanne Layman, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, will be retiring sometime next year. She reported the Council approved the salary and position of a Deputy Clerk-Treasurer in Training, to start full-time in January. Ms. Parthun stated if the Council approves this Ordinance, she would like to hire the person to fill the position part-time starting in November. She asked if there were any questions. As there were none, the Mayor stated this Ordinance will be placed on the next regular Council meeting for final consideration.

Utilities Presentation

Jerry Jackson, Director of Wastewater, gave a slide presentation for the Wastewater/Stormwater Department 2020 Capital Project Planning. This included a history of the City's current stormwater/wastewater system and the problems associated with these systems. A list of the projects includes but are not limited to:

Stormwater Projects:

B Street Flood Control	Cost \$200,000 (est.)
Sewer Separation I – L Street & 10 th to 18 th Street	Cost \$2.54M (est.)
Southmoor Road Flood Control	Cost \$50,000 (est.)
Monroe Manor Sewer Separation	Cost \$3M (est.)

Wastewater Projects:

Headworks Rehabilitation Project	Cost \$3.1M (est.)
Biotower Wall Replacement	Cost \$816,000 (est.)
Phosphorus Removal Facilities	Cost \$904,470 (est.)
Transition to Liquid Disinfection Agents	Cost \$252,000 (est.)

Mr. Jackson answered questions from the Council.

Public Comment via Facebook

Nick Otis, City Attorney, stated there is a comment on Facebook inquiring what the new rate structures will be for Water and Sewage. It was stated the City is still working with Baker Tilly, Financial Consultants, on the exact numbers. A question was asked if there will be incentives for commercial/industrial accounts who currently treat their own stormwater now. It was stated there will be adjustments made for stormwater fees site by site. There was a question regarding flood map changes. Mr. Jackson reported the City initiated the change with the DNR and Army Corp of Engineers and they agreed to the change. It has been a long process but has been approved and in the end a lot of houses were taken out of the flood plain which saves residents on their homeowner's insurance.

Mayor Dermody stated the City will continue to update the Council on the proposed changes. He advised this presentation will be given to the Board of Works tomorrow as their meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Otis advised that although the Council introduced the above Ordinances for their second reading, motions were not done for the actual passage of the Ordinances which will need to be done now.

Councilman Galloway joined the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 19-2020

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 for Civil City; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE 19-2020
ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES FOR 2021
(CIVIL CITY)**

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 20-2020

Councilwoman Cutler moved to adopt the Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 for the Redevelopment Commission; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and carried by a majority vote with Councilwoman Brown abstaining.

**ORDINANCE 20-2020
ORDINANCE FOR APROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES FOR 2021
(REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION)**

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 21-2020

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for 2021 for the Airport Authority; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE 21-2020
ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES FOR 2021
(AIRPORT AUTHORITY)**

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 22-2020

Councilwoman Cutler moved to adopt the Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana, for the Year 2021; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE 22-2020
ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES OF APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR 2021**

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 23-2020

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of La Porte from the General Fund; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE 23-2020
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS
OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE FROM THE GENERAL FUND**

Mr. Otis stated there was a comment on Facebook as to why the Council meeting was being done via zoom instead of in-person. Mayor Dermody stated it was done as a precautionary measure as there was a positive case of COVID-19 at TransPorte and several people, including himself and the Clerk-Treasurer attended a retirement party where this person was in attendance. He reported until the COVID-19 tests results come back the City will not take a chance of infecting others including our Council members and anyone from the public who would have attended the meeting. He stated TransPorte is currently closed and ServePro has thoroughly cleaned and disinfected the building.

Mr. Otis stated Brian Kajer is wondering why the City used someone outside the City for the new logo. Mayor Dermody reported the rebranding project was funded through a grant from the Urban Enterprise Association. He stated the City Planner worked with a firm he had good results from in the past. The Mayor reported currently the City is using 31 different logos. He stated in order to compete with other communities the City of La Porte needs to have one identity and focus on what is unique to our community which is our lakes and parks.

Mr. Otis stated Jaclyn Snider stated there has been some crime going on at Patton Cemetery and around the Civic Auditorium and asked what the City is doing to curtail these activities. Mayor Dermody stated the City is currently working to get our manpower back up to 44 Police Officers. The Mayor stated he will make sure Chief Brettin is aware of her concerns.

Adjourn

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

Approved: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: October 19, 2020

