

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session via Zoom Web Conferencing on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge

Councilwoman Konieczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dermody welcomed Councilwoman Konieczny to her first Council meeting. Councilwoman Konieczny thanked the Mayor and stated it is her honor and pleasure to serve the citizens of La Porte and she hopes she will represent La Porte proud.

Present: Konieczny, 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 West and unanimously carried.

Councilman Galloway noted that tonight is November 16th not the 2nd.

Petitions & Comments

Mayor Dermody opened public comment and stated that during these unprecedented times, it is imperative to be flexible and he asked the public to participate by asking questions or making comments via Facebook Live.

Standing Committee Reports

Fire Department: Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission met on November 4th. At that time, it was announced the Board of Public Works and Safety approved the purchase of a new fire rescue boat with grant funds from the Healthcare Foundation. The boat will be housed at Station #3 during the off-season and will be docked at Pine Lake during the summer months. The old boat will be kept for use on the smaller lakes in the City. The next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held on December 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the 18th Street Fire Station.

Plan Commission: Councilwoman West reported the Plan Commission met on November 10th. Discussion was held on making an amendment to the Ordinance to increase the mobile permit fees with a daily rate of \$20, weekly rate of \$50 and a yearly rate of \$500. Councilwoman West reported the Commission also discussed the City's current Sign Ordinance to clean-up and limit new signs within the City. Those businesses that have signs and are no longer in business would be required to remove their sign and signage would be limited as well. Discussion was held regarding murals and will require an application for approval prior to any mural being painted. The next Plan Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Police Merit Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Police Merit Commission met last Tuesday at which time Officer Drangmeister and Officer Uhelmann were promoted to Sergeant. Discussion was held regarding a new promotion strategy which may include an interview process with the Merit Board.

School Board: Councilman Franke reported the School Board met on November 9th at which time the budget was approved. Discussion was held regarding COVID-19 and the protocols that are in place to protect the students and staff.

Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Franke stated the Redevelopment Commission will be meeting this Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Mayor's Veterans Committee: On behalf of the Mayor's Veterans Committee and VFW Post 1130, Councilman Galloway thanked all those that were involved in putting together the Annual Veteran's Day Celebration. He stated although it wasn't an in-person event, the program was done very well.

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Park & Recreation: Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will be meeting this Wednesday, November 18th via zoom at 4:00 p.m.

Tax Abatement Compliance Forms

Tom Casey, Director of Community Development and Planning, reported on tonight's agenda there are six tax abatement compliance forms for the Council's approval. He advised Bryan Snook, SEH Consulting as well as himself, has reviewed each submission and have found that all are in compliance with their respective tax abatements. Mr. Casey stated it is good to remember the goals set forth in the tax abatement are estimated to be completed by the end of the tax abatement whether it is for five or ten years.

Councilman Galloway stated after reviewing the CF1's it is apparent in light of the Country's current situation with COVID-19, all these companies have made their best effort to comply and keep moving forward as best as they can.

Motion/Vote - Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - MonoSol

As it pertains to MonoSol, Councilwoman Feikes moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote - Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - Winn Machine

As it pertains to Winn Machine, Councilwoman Feikes moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote - Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - Jaeger-Unitek

As it pertains to Jaeger-Unitek, Councilwoman Feikes moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote - Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - B&B Manufacturing

As it pertains to B&B Manufacturing, Councilwoman Cutler moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote - Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - Howmet Casting and Services

As it pertains to Howmet Casting and Services, Councilwoman Feikes moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Motion/Vote - Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - American Licorice

As it pertains to American Licorice, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Prohibiting New or Replacement Water Wells within City Limits

Councilman Galloway moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read an Ordinance Prohibiting Water Wells within City Limits by title only.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership stated this Ordinance reflects a policy that mirrors that of La Porte County which states there are no water wells in the City of La Porte. It has been a longstanding policy of ours but will now be an Ordinance. This Ordinance provides clarity for Kensington who is developing part of NewPorte Landing.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance 32-2020

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

**ORDINANCE 32-2020
ORDINANCE PROHIBITING NEW OR REPLACEMENT WATER
WELLS WITHIN CITY LIMITS**

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 and 94-326 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana (Abby Lane and Prince William Court)

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 and 94-324 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana (Abby Lane and Prince William Court) by title only.

Councilwoman Feikes reported this is in Whispering Meadows Subdivision and is to change yield signs to stop signs. She advised the Ordinance following this one is to go ahead and authorize stop signs for the next phase.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance 33-2020

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

**ORDINANCE 33-2020
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94-322 AND 94-326 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE
OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
(Abby Lane and Prince William Court)**

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Placing Stop Signs on Katie Lane, Josh Lane, Josh Circle, Allison Lane and Dean Court

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Placing Stop Signs on Katie Lane, Josh Lane, Josh Circle, Allison Lane and Dean Court by title only.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance 34-2020

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

**ORDINANCE 34-2020
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94-322 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE
OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA, PLACING STOP SIGNS ON
KATIE LANE, JOSH LANE, JOSH CIRCLE, ALLISON LANE AND DEAN COURT**

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Adding Section 94-238 - Prohibited Parking 10:00 P.M. to Sunrise, Monday through Sunday (Lakeshore Drive along Stone Lake)

Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Adding Section 94-238 - Prohibited Parking 10:00 P.M. to Sunrise, Monday through Sunday (Lakeshore Drive along Stone Lake) title only.

Motion/Vote Adopt Ordinance 35-2020

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

Councilman Franke stated this Ordinance is keeping in line with current restrictions regarding park property.

The motion to adopt was unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE 35-2020
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94-238 - PROHIBITED PARKING
10:00 P.M. TO SUNRISE, MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY
(Lakeshore Drive along Stone Lake)

Introduction of a Resolution to Provide for Reimbursement of Public Health and Public Safety Payroll Costs with Cares Act Funding

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to read a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read a Resolution to Provide for Reimbursement of Public Health and Public Safety Payroll Costs with Cares Act Funding in its entirety.

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun explained that this Resolution will allow the City of La Porte to capture the additional \$673,000 allocated from the State of Indiana.

Motion/Vote Adopt Resolution R-17-2020

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

RESOLUTION R-17-2020
RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND PUBLIC SAFETY PAYROLL COSTS WITH
CARES ACT FUNDING

Introduction of an Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Ordinance No. 4-2020 to Establish Responsible Bidding and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work on Public Works Projects

Councilwoman Cutler moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read an Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Ordinance No. 4-2020 to Establish Responsible Bidding and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work on Public Works Projects.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, stated the Responsible Bidder Ordinance passed earlier this year has continued to evolve. Adding some new information and replicating a model that is being used across the State of Indiana will allow safe, quality projects to be constructed by experts that will allow the best opportunity for those projects to be built by local people within our community.

City Attorney Nick Otis discussed the Lakeside Sewer Relocation Project. It went to the lowest bidder, a non-local contractor, who did not initially submit all necessary items supporting their apprenticeship training. Mr. Otis asked Nick Minich, City Engineer if weekly payroll requirements within the new Ordinance was too much information.

Mayor Dermody stated he would follow up with Mr. Minich and asked John Carr, President of La Porte, Starke and Pulaski Building Trades for his input.

Mr. Carr noted that the changes to the new Responsible Bidder Ordinance mostly deal with the Apprenticeship Program area. The Building Trades affiliates work with all of the high school building trades programs and create a pipeline into the affiliates programs to ensure and define the responsive bidder.

Marcella Kunsteck, 2654 S. 400 E., with the Indiana Illinois & Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting, a Labor Management Organization established to promote, support and encourage fair contracting. Ms. Kunsteck stated that the City of La Porte is a fantastic role model for just that. She stated she is in support of the new Responsible Bidder Ordinance and asked the Council for their consideration. Adoption of the Ordinance supports local workers and allows our tax dollars to recirculate back into the community by using local workers and contractors.

Mayor Dermody stated that the second reading would be at the first meeting in December.

Other Business

Mayor Dermody thanked Council for their support of the recent Executive Order as the COVID numbers in La Porte County continue to climb. Mayor Dermody encourages the public to take the necessary precautions and follow restrictions to flatten the curve. Mayor Dermody reported that Jeff Batchelor, Code Enforcement Director went to Walmart and AI's and was delighted to hear that everyone was wearing masks. Mayor Dermody reminded the public that this is not a political issue, it is a safety issue. It is imperative to do what is necessary, to not overwhelm our healthcare system and to keep our economy going.

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: December 7, 2020