

# The Common Council of the City of LaPorte

August 03, 2009

## Convene

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on August 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Attendance: Councilman Logwood, Absent: Councilwoman Renner, Present: Councilwoman Hammons, Present: Councilman Heichel, Present: Councilman Schmitt, Present: Councilman Luscomb, Present: Councilman Pressler, Present.

## Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Pressler.

## Minutes

As each Council member received an advance copy of the minutes from the previous meeting the Mayor stated they would dispense with the reading of same and asked if there were any corrections or additions.

## Motion/Vote - Approval of Minutes

Councilman Pressler moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Heichel and unanimously carried.

## Petitions & Comments

None

## Standing Committee Reports

**Airport Authority:** Councilman Luscomb reported the Airport Authority will meet next Wednesday, August 12, 2009, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport. Also, the Airport's Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, August 16th.

**Fire Department:** Councilman Heichel reported the Fire Merit Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

**Park & Recreation:** Councilman Pressler reported the Park Board will meet on August 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

**Police Department:** Councilman Luscomb reported the Police Department has been awarded two grants as the result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. One grant is to be used to hire two officers for a period of three years with the City obligated to retain both for an additional year. The other grant is to purchase radios. Mayor Chrobak thanked Assistant Chief Heath for his contribution in attaining these two grants.

**Sewer/Water Committee:** Councilwoman Renner reported they are in the process of setting up the next meeting.

**School Liaison:** Councilman Pressler reported the School Board announced a slight change in the prices for school lunches this year. Elementary Schools were increased to \$1.75 which is a five cent increase, Middle Schools will be increased to \$2.00 and High School lunch prices remained the same. Councilman Pressler announced Lincoln Elementary School was awarded a grant in the amount of \$123,000.00 to provide fresh fruits and vegetables in addition to school lunches which is part of an FDA Wellness Initiative.

### **Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Repealing Section 42-58(4) of the Municipal Code (Civic Auditorium)**

Councilman Pressler moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Heichel and unanimously carried. Councilman Pressler read an Ordinance Repealing Section 42-58(4) of the Municipal Code of the City of LaPorte, Indiana by title only.

Councilman Pressler stated this Ordinance is just a formality as the common practice has been for patrons of the Civic to smoke outside the building. Mayor Chroback stated currently the rest of the Civic Auditorium is non-smoking and most people who attend functions on the main floor have the common courtesy to go outside. Councilman Heichel reported he received several telephone calls from people who think the City is trying to ban smoking. He stated that is not the case. Councilman Heichel reiterated what he said at the last meeting, he would not support any type of Ordinance banning smoking in other institutions, especially small businesses.

### **Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance No. 13-2009**

Councilman Pressler made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented; Councilman Heichel seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Councilman Logwood (Absent), Councilwoman Renner (Yes), Councilwoman Hammons (Yes), Councilman Heichel (Yes), Councilman Schmitt (Yes), Councilman Luscomb (Yes), Councilman Pressler (Yes).

## **ORDINANCE NO. 13-2009 ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 42-58(4) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF LAPORTE, INDIANA (Civic Auditorium - Smoking)**

### **Introduction of a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation - CDBG**

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

### **Public Hearing - Additional Appropriation (CDBG)**

As this Resolution requires a public hearing, the Mayor declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council regarding this matter.

Mary Ann Richards, Community Development Block Grant Program Manager, informed the Council the City was awarded additional funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$132,958.00. These funds were made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Ms. Richards reported the funds have to be used for Community Development Block Grant eligible activities and it has to be used very quickly. HUD is advising these funds should be used

within a three to four month period. The funds will be used to rehab sidewalks at corners (handicapped ramps) in an area with a high percentage of low to moderate income families. The areas chosen surround Boston Middle School and Lincoln Elementary School. (a map was provided to the Council) Councilman Heichel inquired if a plan had been done to use the 10% administrative funds. Ms. Richards reported a plan has not been done as they were waiting for Council approval. The funds will be used to cover the cost of buying equipment and expenses and will not be used to cover any salaries. Ms. Richards noted the CDBG Program does not use any local taxes; it is fully funded by Federal dollars. She informed the Council she will e-mail a plan to them once it is completed. Councilman Schmitt asked how many intersections this would cover. Ms. Richards reported there will be approximately twenty-five intersections or 750 square yards of concrete. She noted they are hoping the project will begin the middle of September and should be completed by the first of November.

The Mayor asked if there were any other questions or if anyone else wanted to address the Council regarding this matter. As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

**Motion/Vote - Adopt Resolution R-13-2009**

Councilwoman Renner made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented; Councilwoman Hammons seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Councilman Logwood (Absent), Councilwoman Renner (Yes), Councilwoman Hammons (Yes), Councilman Heichel (No), Councilman Schmitt (No), Councilman Luscomb (Yes), Councilman Pressler (Yes).

**RESOLUTION R-13-2009  
RESOLUTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**Other Business**

Mayor Chrobak announced Friday, August 7, 2009, Madagascar 2 will be the last “Friday Night at the Movies” shown for the summer. In conjunction with “Movie Night”, a car show will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Mayor reported this Saturday, August 8, 2009, will be the last “2nd Saturday” event in the downtown area. Downtown merchants will be open from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

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

**Signatures**

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen A. Chrobak, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa L. Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: August 17, 2009