

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte

November 02, 2009

Convene

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on November 2, 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 Heichel.

Minutes

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilwoman Renner moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Hammons and unanimously carried.

Petitions & Comments

None

Mayor Chrobak welcomed the students from LaPorte High School.

Standing Committee Reports

BID Board: Councilwoman Hammons reported the BID Board met this evening at which time they approved a contract with Mofield Property Services for snow removal. She announced the Santa Parade will be held on Saturday, November 28th. A 20-foot Christmas tree with a train for children to ride on will be included with Santa's Chalet at Central Station Plaza. This will be funded through the Mayor's Ball.

Airport Authority: Councilman Luscomb reported in May the Airport Board awarded a contract to Walsh & Kelly in the amount of \$662,803.89 for construction projects at the Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration is paying 95% of the cost and the Indiana Department of Transportation will pay 2.5%. The balance will be paid by the Airport. The contract includes six separate projects which are as follows:

1. Reconstruction of the original ramp constructed in the mid-1980's.
2. An expansion of the ramp area to accommodate more & larger aircraft.
3. Additional and improved lighting in the terminal area.
4. Reconstruction of the ramp area on the east side of the field around the self-serve fuel pumps.
5. Repairs to the primary taxiway.
6. Construction of a temporary ramp shoulder for use in construction which becomes additional ramp area upon completion of the project.

Councilman Luscomb reported the bulk of the project is complete with the exception of the reconstruction of the small ramp area on the east side near the fuel pumps which has been delayed because of heavy rains during the month of October.

Councilman Luscomb noted as of 2008, the LaPorte Municipal Airport had seventy-three based aircraft compared to twenty-two at the Starke County Airport, twenty-five at the Plymouth Airport, forty-seven for Michigan City and one hundred sixty-eight at the Porter County Airport. He stated according to the 2005 Economic Impact Study of the Aviation Association of Indiana, the LaPorte Municipal Airport has an annual economic impact of approximately \$2,500,000.00 each year. Also, the Indiana Department of Transportation's records indicate the LaPorte Airport had over 20,000 take-offs and landings in the year 2008.

Councilman Luscomb stated even in these troubled times, or perhaps especially in these troubled economic times; the airport remains an important piece of the economic development puzzle. While the presence of an airport cannot assure economic vitality in the community, the absence of an airport is always an impediment to economic development. Councilman Luscomb reported these facts and figures were furnished by Ed Volk, President of the LaPorte Municipal Airport Authority. Mayor Chrobak requested Councilman Luscomb provide a copy of the report for the Council and herself.

Mayor's Veteran's Committee: Councilman Heichel reminded everyone a Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Auditorium. Councilman Heichel informed the Council he has provided information to them regarding a program called "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve" which encourages employers to make a statement supporting our Armed Forces. He reported there are quite a few employers within the City that have committed to this cause and if it is okay with the Council and Mayor he would like to spearhead this project for the City. Mayor Chrobak stated that would be fine.

Park & Recreation: Councilman Pressler reported the Park Board will meet Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

Traffic Commission: Councilman Schmitt stated the Traffic Commission will meet tomorrow evening, November 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He stated a public hearing will be held regarding reversing the flow of traffic on Chicago Street, which is located between the Post Office and LaPorte Hospital.

Joint Ordinance Steering Committee: Councilman Heichel reported the Joint Ordinance Steering Committee met a week ago Thursday. The Committee reviewed the first half of the Consolidated Plan for supporting the Zoning Ordinance that supports the Comprehensive Plan. He noted a special exception will be included for the City with regard to areas zoned A-2, which are agricultural districts that could be used for non-farm rural residential development. There was a void with regard to wireless communication facility towers and if the City would annex property into the City it would affect the City's utilities, therefore the change.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 94-231 of the Municipal Code (Clay Street)

Councilman Heichel moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Pressler and unanimously carried. Councilman Heichel read an Ordinance Amending Section 94-231 of the Municipal Code of the City of LaPorte, Indiana, (Clay Street) by title only.

Mayor Chrobak reminded everyone the Traffic Commission recommended this change.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance No. 19-2009

Councilman Heichel made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented; Councilwoman Hammons 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. 19-2009
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94-231 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF
THE CITY OF LAPORTE, INDIANA
(Clay Street)**

Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2009 Budgets (CDBG)

Councilwoman Renner moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilman Luscomb and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Renner read a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2009 Budgets (CDBG) in its entirety.

Teresa Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer, informed the Council when paying the third quarter PERF payment for Community Development Block Grant the appropriation was short by \$280.00. This transfer will cover that payment.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Resolution R-18-2009

Councilwoman Renner made a motion to adopt the Resolution 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).

**RESOLUTION R-18-2009
RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2009 BUDGETS (CDBG)**

Other Business

Councilman Pressler informed the Council he has been working with the City Attorney on rules of procedure for introducing Resolutions and Ordinances. He advised he will be referring this matter to the By-Laws and Ordinance Committee for their consideration and recommendation. A copy has been provided to the Council for informational purposes only.

Adjourn

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

Signatures

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen A. Chroback, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Teresa L. Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: November 16, 2009