

# The Common Council of the City of LaPorte

March 01, 2010

## Convene

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on March 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Attendance: Councilman Logwood, Present: Councilwoman Renner, Present: Councilwoman Hammons, Present: Councilman Heichel, Present: Councilman Schmitt, Absent: Councilman Luscomb, Present: Councilman Pressler, Present.

## Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Pressler.

Mayor Chroback noted the presentation of the Mayoral Awards will be pushed back to later in the meeting to allow additional time for one of the recipients to arrive who is currently playing basketball for Boston Middle School.

## Minutes

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

## Approval of Minutes

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

## Petitions & Comments

Sierra Sue Jesch, 1672 Stone Lake Drive, thanked Mayor Chroback, City Attorney, Don Baugher, the Clerk-Treasurer, Teresa Ludlow, and her deputy for attending the Police Department's 100th Birthday Celebration earlier today. Mayor Chroback reported March 1, 1910 the City of LaPorte's Police Department was formed. The Police Department is hosting an Open House today until 8:00 p.m. in honor of this milestone.

## Standing Committee Reports

**Airport Authority:** Councilman Luscomb reported the Airport Authority will meet on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

**BID:** Councilwoman Hammons reported the BID Board met this evening. She stated the Forester is currently trimming trees in the BID area and if someone from that area needs to have a tree trimmed they should contact Mary Jane Thomas.

**Fire Department:** Councilman Heichel reported the Fire Merit Commission will meet on Wednesday,

March 3, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the 18th Street Fire Station.

**NewPorte Landing:** Mayor Chroback reported the NewPorte Landing Committee will be meeting on March 16th.

**Park & Recreation:** Councilman Pressler reported the Park Board will meet on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilwoman Hammons reported the Redevelopment Commission at their last meeting approved three proposals which include: one for the landfill contract for additional work, one for the abandonment of three landfill wells and one for the groundwater level monitoring and sampling of landfill wells for the second quarter.

**Sewer/Water Committee:** Councilwoman Renner reported an Ordinance pertaining to sewer hook-up is on tonight's agenda.

**School Board Liaison:** Councilman Pressler reported the School Board will meet on Tuesday, March 16th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Building.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilman Logwood reported the Traffic Commission will meet tomorrow evening, March 2nd, in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

**Joint Ordinance Steering Committee:** Councilman Heichel reported the Joint Ordinance Steering Committee met one and half weeks ago at which time the final elements were finished. A final draft of the Plan should be completed within the next few days.

### **Appointment - Urban Enterprise Zone**

Mayor Chroback stated the Council has a business appointment to fill for the Urban Enterprise Zone and inquired if there were any nominations at this time. Councilman Pressler stated they are still looking for someone. The Mayor advised if they need help in finding someone to please let her know.

### **Presentation of Mayoral Awards**

Mayor Chroback stated it is her distinct pleasure to present the Mayoral Awards. She asked Matt Cook, Director of Human Resource, who chairs the committee to come forward and explain the history of the program. Mr. Cook reported the program started in 2007 and is based on a similar program in Kingston, New York. The City's program is designed to recognize students for things they would not normally get recognition for, whether it is working extra part-time hours to help with the rent, standing up to a bully on the playground or helping other students learn. Mayor Chroback noted there were fourteen nominations this time. Before presenting the awards to the two recipients, the Mayor stated she would like to recognize the other students who were nominated. The honorable mentions are: David Applegarth, Kaden Schroeder, Kelsey Henry, Summer Huber, Morgan Machler, Kaylee Marvel, Gabrielle Morton, Haley Taylor and Molly Iverson all from various elementary schools. The middle school honorable mentions were: Johnna Belkiewitz, Lucas Moore, Caitlyn Tuholski and Kaitlin Edquist. Mr. Cook stated he wanted to thank all the area businesses who have donated gift certificates for this program and this quarters' sponsor, GIS. Mayor Chroback presented a Mayoral Award along with a gift certificate to Ashley Olling, Crichfield Elementary School. As the next recipient was unable to attend, the Mayor presented the award for Emma Dickson to her principal, Dave Burkholtz. Mr. Burkholtz stated it was an honor to accept the award on behalf of Emma. Mayor Chroback noted Jim Dermody, Assistant Superintendent of the LaPorte Community School Corporation, was present at tonight's awards ceremony.

### **Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Section I of Ordinance No. 39-2007**

Councilwoman Renner moved to remove the Ordinance Amending Section I of Ordinance No. 39-2007 from the table and read it for the first time in full; motion seconded by Councilman Logwood and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Renner read an Ordinance Amending Section I of Ordinance No. 39-2007 in its entirety.

Mayor Chroback reported the Sewer Committee met two weeks ago and this Ordinance is a result of their recommendations. Councilwoman Renner noted the exemption with regard to individuals who are 62 and older was recommended by Jerry Jackson, Director of Sewage. Discussion was held with regard to the proposed changes. Mayor Chroback informed the Council she would ask Mr. Jackson to attend the next Council meeting to answer questions from the Council.

Second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

### **Other Business**

Councilman Logwood announced the Landlord Task Force will have their first meeting on March 29th, at 7:00 p.m. at the 18th Street Fire Station. All Council members, the public and press are invited to attend.

Councilman Pressler asked for a moment of silence in honor of Corporal Birchfield.

Councilman Heichel advised he will not be at the next Council meeting on March 15th as he will be attending a Defense Support of Civil Activities Workshop for the Army in Colorado.

Councilman Heichel stated he received a telephone call regarding the condition of the State flag at City Hall. Mayor Chroback advised this matter was already brought to her attention and the flag will be replaced. Councilman Heichel informed the Mayor he would be glad to properly dispose of the flag if so needed. The Mayor thanked Councilman Heichel for the offer and stated her office would be in contact with him if his services were needed.

### **Adjourn**

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

### **Signatures**

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

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

Approved: March 15, 2010