

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte

April 05, 2010

Convene

The Common Council of the City of LaPorte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on April 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Attendance: Councilman Logwood, Present: 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 Councilwoman Hammons.

Minutes

As each Council member received an advance copy of the minutes from the special and regular meeting of March 15th, 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

David Brant, 2013 Monroe, addressed the Council regarding the flooding in his backyard as well as his four neighbors. Mr. Brant explained prior to the Monroe Street Project he had flooding in his front yard and since the State redid Monroe Street he now has a flood in his backyard. Mayor Chroback inquired if Mr. Brant's property is adjacent to the Patton Cemetery. Mr. Brant stated it is. The Mayor stated she knows from living in the area that this is a natural wetland and unfortunately the water table is quite high right now. She informed Mr. Brant that she will have Jerry Jackson, Director of Wastewater, get in touch with Mr. Brant to see if the area can be drained. Mr. Brant noted he has owned the property for 16 years and he has never had a problem with water in his backyard.

John Hodowal, 2008 Monroe, (across the street from Mr. Brant) informed the Council there used to be a ditch that drained all of that water to the Kankakee River. Mr. Hodowal stated he believes this is going to be a health concern as there are many children in the area and with the standing water there will be mosquitoes breeding in the area. Mr. Hodowal informed the Council he has heard there is someone down the street who has blocked the drainage ditch so the water doesn't drain properly. Mr. Hodowal stated he personally does not have a problem with Mr. Jackson; however, it seems he goes only so far with the situation and then stops. Mayor Chroback stated she believes the problem lies in the fact the area they are talking about is not owned by the City and there is only so much Mr. Jackson can do to help the situation.

Standing Committee Reports

Airport Authority: Councilman Luscomb reported the Airport Authority will meet on Wednesday, April

14th, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

Park & Recreation: Mr. Pressler reported the Park Board will be meeting on April 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

Redevelopment Commission: Councilwoman Hammons reported the Redevelopment Commission scheduled for last week was cancelled.

School Board Liaison: Councilman Pressler reported the School Board announced at their meeting last month there were able to meet a \$1.6 million shortfall, primarily by offering incentives for early retirement. Collectively they will retire more than 830 years of experience at the end of this school year.

Traffic Commission: Mayor Chroback noted a Traffic Commission will be held tomorrow evening.

Joint Ordinance Steering Committee: Councilman Heichel stated he was unable to attend the last Joint Ordinance Steering Committee as he had a previous commitment with the UEA Board. Councilman Heichel reported he did receive a copy of the third draft of the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Chroback informed the Council she was able to attend the meeting at which time they were reviewing the subdivision standards. A synopsis of what was discussed as well as recommendations was sent to committee members.

Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code (Ridgefield & Kingsbury)

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 Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of LaPorte, Indiana by title only.

Councilman Pressler noted the Ordinance, if passed, will put stop signs at East 19th, East 20th and East 21st where they intersect with Kingsbury and Ridgefield.

Motion/Vote - Adopt Ordinance No. 9-2010

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

ORDINANCE NO. 9-2010 ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94-322 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF LAPORTE (Ridgefield and Kingsbury)

Other Business

Councilman Logwood asked if another Council person would like to take his place on the Traffic Commission, which meets the first Tuesday of every month, as he coaches his son's baseball team on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He stated he would either trade with someone through the summer months until baseball is done or it could be permanent.

Councilman Logwood informed the Council he held a Landlord Taskforce Committee meeting on Monday, March 29th, which was well attended by City officials and department heads as well as State
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Representative Pelath and various landlords. He stated a number of issues were discussed and several items were implemented by the City prior to the meeting. Councilman Logwood stated the Landlord Association believes Superior Court #3 is moving a lot better with the new Judge and because of what is unfolding within the Courts, they fear the current Judge will be moved to a different Court. The Landlord Association would like to have something for the next election cycle from the Council stating the City feels a speedy timeframe in the Courts is a good thing and if the Courts could move the docket along faster to accommodate those needs it helps everyone in the community.

Mayor Chroback encouraged residents to fill out and return their census forms. She noted she will be meeting with the Census Committee in the next couple weeks to determine what areas in the City have not filled out and returned their forms.

Mayor Chroback announced Cruise Night will be held on Saturday, June 12th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in participating can contact the Mayor's Office, the Michiana Antique Automobile Club or Mr. Bob Pointon.

Councilman Pressler requested the Clerk-Treasurer give a report to the Council on a regular basis, starting with the next meeting, in order to keep the Council informed of the City's cash flow. He noted he had previously talked with both the Clerk-Treasurer and Mayor regarding this matter and they were both in agreement.

Adjourn

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

Signatures

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen A. Chroback, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Teresa L. Ludlow, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: April 19, 2010