

January 16, 2024

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Huffman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Franke, Huffman, West, Galloway, Buchanan, Konieczny

Absent: Feikes

Approval of Minutes

In Mayor Dermody's absence President Pro-Tem, Councilman Franke stated each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the previous meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Councilwoman Konieczny moved to approve the minutes as presented, motion was seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Brian Kajer 406 Niesen Street addressed the Council. Mr. Kajer wanted to thank the City of La Porte Street Department for a job well done.

City of La Porte Police Department Commendation Award

City of La Porte Police Chief Paul Brettin honored Police Officers and a former Dispatcher for actions they took in the line of duty on December 1, 2023. The Commendation Award was given to the following officers; Officer JT Martin, Officer Cody Benson, and Officer Reuben Ingram along with Dispatcher Jermy Van Gieson. On December 1, 2023, officers were dispatched to the City of La Porte Police Station in reference to a frantic female who they later found out was battered by her boyfriend. The female had her head slammed into a car door multiple times, was strangled, and kicked in the abdomen area (12 weeks pregnant). The suspect also rammed the female's car with his car and took her phone. Officers Benson, Martin, and Ingram acted quickly with the information they were given and attempted to locate the suspect. Dispatcher Jeremy Van Gieson was on point with his information and locations of the suspect and helped us in taking the suspect into custody with no further incident. For the amount of time these officers have had on the department, they did a great job on the whole case and worked together. The information gathered, pictures taken, and quick arrest of the suspect was a great example of teamwork by all of them.

Standing Committee Reports

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Huffman reported the Traffic Commission met on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department. This was Chief Brettin's last meeting after thirty years of service. Councilwoman Huffman thank Chief Brettin for his service. Chief Brettin will be with the department until May but no longer serving in Chief capacity. The Traffic Commission voted Karly Feikes as Chairperson and myself Lauren Huffman as Secretary.

Park & Recreation: Councilwoman Huffman reported the Park Board will meet on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

Sustainability Commission:

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Commission will meet Monday, January 22, 2024, at 4:00 P.>m in Council Chambers.

Police Merit Commission:

Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission met on January 9, 2024. The Department will be having agility and written testing on January 11, 2023. They have six applicants. Julie Smith will be retiring on January 24, 2024, and Chief Brettin's retirement is set for May 23, 2024.

Airport Authority:

Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority met on January 10, 2024. The election of board of finance officers commenced. The appointments will be the same as the recent past and are as follows: President – Edward Volk, Vice-President – Richard J Schmitt, Secretary – Dale Fischer, Asst Secretary – Fran Milo, and Treasurer – James Shearin. Veregy was awarded the solar array project which was out for bid. The project should begin later this year. There is an FAA grant that could cover up to 90% of the cost of this project.

Historic Preservation Commission:

Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission will meet Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Fire Merit Commission:

Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission met January 3, 2024. Election of officers was held and is as follows: Allison Zoll – President, Josh Huelat – Vice President and Ian Eldridge – Secretary. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Redevelopment Commission:

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will meet on Wednesday January 31, 2024, at 5:15 P.M. in Council Chambers. An executive session will take place ahead of time at 4:30 P.M. in the Mayor's office.

Urban Enterprise Zone Association Board – Council Appointment due to Resignation – Local Manufacturing Business Representative – Current Term: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2025

Councilwoman West made a motion to appoint two new members to the Urban Enterprise Zone; motion was seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West moved to appoint Colton Phelan as the Manufacturing Representative to replace Frank Cardello and to appoint Courtney Dickman as the Residential Representative to replace James Barnhart. Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to approve the appointments as presented by Councilwoman West; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried.

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 29-2023, to Amend Salaries in the Police Department

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 29-2023, to Amend Salaries in the Police Department by title only.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance No. 1-2024

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1-2024
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 29-2023, TO AMEND
SALARIES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Adjourn

Councilman Galloway moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

Approved: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: February 5, 2024