

March 4, 2024

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Konieczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Dermody stated each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the previous meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Councilwoman Feikes moved to approve the minutes as presented, motion was seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

George Callas, Tornado Dr. La Porte addressed the Council. Mr. Callas first thanked Councilwoman Konieczny for getting the streetlights fixed by the ATM at Flagstar Bank. Mr. Callas would also like to note there has been a hydrant leaking on Virginia Avenue for a while now and is still not fixed. He's been told they are waiting on parts. He also thanked John Kramer from HRP for helping him and for the work on I Street. Mr. Callas voiced his frustration with those who put complaints on social media who won't share their name.

Dawn Blackman, 707 W. 200 N., voiced her opposition to the Park Street Development.

Kevin Sheeler, 1866 N. 100 W., voiced his opposition to the Park Street Development.

Jessica Sheeler, 1866 N. 100 W., voiced her opposition to the Park Street Development with discussion on the North/South Corridor.

Mayor Dermody noted our focus on the corridor right now is listening and trying to do so internally by finding a solution to the truck traffic problem.

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue, addressed the Council concerning construction before 7:00 A.M. As he is a retired man, he would like to see construction not start before 7:00 A.M.

Emily Robben, 402 Truesdell Avenue, asked for the Council members to act appropriately during meetings. She noted that multiple members were on their phones during the last meeting. She also stated she was frustrated with having prepared her three minutes last meeting only to have the agenda item she came to speak on removed. She expressed her displeasure with how the meeting minutes from the previous meeting were written as she had asked for a copy prior to the meeting from Clerk-Treasurer Parthun.

Mayor Dermody addressed Ms. Robben's public comment. He stated all the Council members take their jobs as Council members very seriously. He noted she has never come to the Mayor's office or the Council members individually to discuss a single issue. Just because these are elected officials does not mean they have to take unfair and uneducated criticism. Regarding the Police Chief, you have a right to your opinion. But when looking at the law the appointment of Chief Buell was done legally, and he is the right man for the job. Our officers and the public want improvement and our focus is and will continue to be on keeping the community safe.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission:

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on Wednesday February 28, 2024, at 5:15 P.M. in Council Chambers. Public Bids for the Don George Property on Pine Lake Avenue were opened. There was one bid which was accepted for a purchase price of \$40,000. Baker Tilly was rehired as the Financial Advisor for the Redevelopment Commission. An agreement was approved for the transfer of land in Newport Landing for a new dental office.

Sustainability Commission:

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Commission will meet Thursday March 14, 2024, in Council Chambers.

Park Board:

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board met on February 21, 2024. Emily Archambault was introduced as the Assistant Director. Emily is a La Porte native and formally with the Share Foundation. It was approved by the Board to put guest and building policies into place at the Civic Auditorium to protect patrons. Some items in the policy are a list of prohibited items, rules regarding disorderly conduct, and inspection of bags prior to admission at Civic events. The 2023 Annual Report was presented

and accepted along with the Hiking/Mountain Bike Trail Usage Rules. Bill Lott attended the meeting to present a possible mountain bike skills practice area to be located at Soldiers Memorial Park. They are working with the Healthcare Foundation to secure funding. A donation was given to the Park Department for the placement of a kayak launch at Kiwanis Teledyne Park. Approval was given to apply for a REAL services grant for the Activity Center for Older Adults. The grant, if awarded, would go for the purchase of new tables, chairs, etc. at the Center. There was discussion regarding the 2024 Lakefest happening this summer. Talks included pyrotechnics, a headliner act, allowing parking in the grass during the festival at both Fox and Soldiers Memorial Parks, an extension of Park hours and allowing overnight parking for the racing crews and staff.

Traffic Commission:

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Traffic Commission will be meeting tomorrow, March 5, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Police Merit Commission: Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission will be meeting on March 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Mayors Veterans Committee:

Councilman Galloway reported the Mayors Veterans Committee will meet on Monday March 11, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

Historic Preservation Commission:

Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission met on February 21, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. The Commission renewed the annual assistance agreement between the Historic Preservation Commission and the Indiana Landmark Commission.

Fire Merit Commission:

Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission will meet next on Wednesday March 6, 2024, at Fire Station #1.

Urban Enterprise Association:

Councilwoman West reported a press release was sent out on February 29, 2024, sharing a lot of the successes for our local businesses and residents within the Urban Enterprise Association. \$123,000 was awarded to aid thirteen business owners with the monies being awarded to not only improve façade renovations but with their expanded programs they were able to help provide monies for internal renovations and upgrades. The Urban Enterprise Association also award tens of thousands of dollars in special grants to benefit the community, including the City's popular

Dumpster program. In partnership with the City of La Porte Park and Recreation Department, the Urban Enterprise Association Awarded \$40,000 to support the expansion of the parking lot along Truesdell Ave near the Amphitheater in Fox Park. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 4:00 P.M.

Airport Authority:

Councilwoman Konieczny reported at the last Airport Authority meeting exciting news was shared about the Air Race Classic. For the first time in history, The La Porte Municipal Airport will be a part of the Air Race Classic. The Air Race Classic is a national all-women's air race. The Airport Authority will meet next Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is a Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are a Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte: Councilwoman West moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is a Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are a Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte by title only.

Motion/Vote: Ord. No. 2-2024

Councilman Buchanan made a motion to approve an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is a Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are a Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2-2024
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF
LA PORTE, INDIANA AS ENACTED AUGUST 21, 2017, WHICH IS PART OF
CHAPTER 82 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE BY
AMENDING THE OFFICAL ZONE MAP THAT ARE A PART OF THE ZONING
ORDINANCE INORDER TO RE-ZONE TWO PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE IN
THE CITY OF LA PORTE**

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Establishing a Four-Way Stop at the Intersection of Lake and Tyler Street: Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Establishing a Four-Way Stop at the Intersection of Lake and Tyler Street by title only.

Motion/Vote: Ord. No. 3-2024

Councilman Galloway moved to approve an Ordinance Establishing a Four-Way Stop at the Intersection of Lake and Tyler Street; motion was seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3-2024
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FOUR-WAY STOP AT THE
INTERSECTION OF LAKE AND TYLER STREET**

Introduction of a Petition for Annexation for Qualls Real Estate Holding, LLC: Councilman Franke moved to read a Petition for Annexation for Qualls Real Estate Holding, LLC in its entirety; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Councilman Franke moved to accept the petition as presented; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Huffman and unanimously carried.

Public Hearing and Introduction of a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for General Fund; Fund No. 1101: Councilman Buchanan moved to read a Resolution in its entirety; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for General Fund; Fund No. 1101 in its entirety.

Public Hearing: Mayor Dermody opened the Public Hearing. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated these were funds from the sale of property that were not budgeted. To use the funds, an additional appropriation needs to be completed. City Attorney Nick Otis stated the Affidavit of Publication was published in the Herald Dispatch on February 16, 2024. There being no further comment Mayor Dermody closed the public hearing.

Motion/Vote: R-5-2024

Councilman Buchanan made a motion to approve a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for General Fund; Fund No. 1101 as presented; motion was seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

R-5-2024
A RESOLUTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL
FUND; FUND NO. 1101

Other Business

Mayor Dermody reminded the public that he is accessible any time day or night. Mayor Dermody also wanted to remind everyone that Elected Officials are human too. Real life happens for our Council members and our Clerk-Treasurer. Those looking at their phones are not doing so to be disrespectful. The public has no idea what is happening in their lives, ill family members, children at home, etc. Real life happens for them too.

Adjourn

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

Approved: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: March 18, 2024