

May 19, 2025

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Franke

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Jennifer Heath, Director of the Foundation for Behavioral Health at Swanson Center, addressed the Council regarding Mental Health Awareness Month. Ms. Heath reported there is a crisis line listed on their website and #988 suicide hotline available to individuals who have mental health issues. She stated the County Commissioners passed a Resolution earlier this month proclaiming May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Ms. Heath stated the Swanson Center will be hosting a 2025 Run for Hope event on September 13th in Trail Creek to raise awareness.

Mayor Dermody asked Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer, to read a Resolution to Raise Awareness for Mental Health Month. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun read the Resolution in its entirety.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-15-2025

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION R-15-2025

RESOLUTION TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Chris Moryl, 812 E. Jefferson, thanked the Street Department for addressing asphalt issues on North Lawrence and trying to rectify a street issue on Bond and Jefferson. Ms. Moryl inquired about the status of the Coke Building and also information about the redistricting. Nick Otis, Attorney for the City, stated there is information available in the Clerk-Treasurer's office regarding redistricting.

Cindy Sinn, 1111 Longwood, addressed the Council regarding the situation involving her mother and her two little dogs that were attacked by the

neighbor's dogs, killing one and seriously injuring the other and cornering her mother in her backyard. Ms. Sinn stated her mother is afraid to go outside and is being harassed by the neighbor. Mayor Dermody and City Attorney Otis both told Ms. Sinn to speak with the police officer in the back of the room for help as they are aware of the situation and there are things that can be done to stop the harassment.

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 seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried.

Standing Committee Reports

Sustainability Commission: Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Commission will be meeting on May 27, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Park & Recreation: Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will meet this Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Traffic Commission meeting will take place on June 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Mayor's Veterans Committee: Councilman Galloway reported the Mayor's Veterans Committee met on May 12th and finalized the plans for the Brick Dedication to be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Soldier's Memorial Park.

Police Merit Commission: Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission met on May 13th with nothing of significance to report. Moving forward the Chief will be providing a report for the Commission.

Urban Enterprise Association: Councilwoman West reported new UEA Grants were awarded to Big C Lumber and BAR 814 Holdings, LLC. Bill Gertner was appointed as a new Board member replacing Tracy Connors. All UEA forms are listed on the City and LEAP's website. The next UEA meeting will be this Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Business Improvement District: Councilwoman West reported at the BID meeting on May 12th, the Board voted to remove five (5) trees and three (3) stumps along Monroe between Lincolnway and State Street and replace them with lighted bollards. These bollards will also have electrical outlets, helping supply electricity for downtown events. The UEA will be funding this project. The next BID Board meeting will be on June 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Fire Merit Commission: Councilwoman West stated congratulations are in order for the City of La Porte Fire Department, they are the Champions of the Family Advocates Battle of the Badges Whiffle Ball Tournament. This tournament was a fundraiser to raise awareness and support National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Family Advocates builds connections in our community and strengthens relationships that can help unite us all to promote safe and healthy youth in our community. Last week, our local YMCA hosted the La Porte Fire Department Dive Team in-house, using their pool for training to keep our community safe. The next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the 18th Street Fire Station.

Historic Preservation Commission: Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission will be meeting on May 20th at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Also, the HPC is partnering with Preserve Historic La Porte for a workshop on May 27th "Preparing for Pipes" for questions and answers regarding the Indiana Avenue Project.. This event is free to Indiana Avenue residents and members of Preserve Historic La Porte with advance registration.

Introduction of an Ordinance Prohibiting Alcoholic Beverages and Smoking at Plaza 618

Councilman Buchanan moved to introduce an Ordinance; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read an Ordinance Prohibiting Alcoholic Beverages and Smoking at Plaza 618 for the first time in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody stated the intent of Plaza 618 is for families and individuals to come together and enjoy the downtown along with the splash pad. This Ordinance was drafted to keep alcohol and smoking away from this area so that the Plaza can be utilized the way it was intended.

Motion/Vote – Suspend Rules and Read Ordinance for Second and Final Time

Councilman Galloway moved to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the second and final time; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried.

Motion-Vote – Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Prohibiting Alcoholic Beverages and Smoking at Plaza 618

Councilman Galloway moved to read the Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Galloway read an Ordinance Prohibiting Alcoholic Beverages and Smoking at Plaza 618 by title only.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 2-2025

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

**ORDINANCE 2-2025
ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
AND SMOKING AT PLAZA 618**

Charity Hlavsa, Hot Spot Café and La Porte Small Business Coalition, addressed the Council regarding this Ordinance. She stated although she doesn't totally agree with everything in the Ordinance, she does acknowledge the drinking and smoking in Plaza 618 is not pleasant and does not help promote the small businesses downtown.

Chris Moryl asked how this Ordinance is going to be enforced. The Mayor stated between concerned citizens and business owners, the Police Department and Code Enforcement.

Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2025 Budgets

Councilman Galloway moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2025 Budgets in its entirety.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-16-2025

Councilman Buchanan moved to adopt the Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION R-16-2025
RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2025 BUDGETS

Other Business

None

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: June 2, 2025