**August 4, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilwoman Konieczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

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

Absent: West

**Petitions & Comments**

Sierra Sue Jesch, Jefferson Avenue, addressed the Council regarding the downtown as it is not friendly for mobility. There are not enough benches, and the brick sidewalks are a trip hazard.

Councilman Galloway reported the VFW has replaced their benches with metal ones as they are not expensive and have low maintenance.

**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 Galloway and unanimously carried.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on Wednesday, July 30th at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Claims were approved and a resident addressed the Commission about the pavers in NewPorte Landing. Mayor Dermody advised the pavers that need attention will be done this week.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the Traffic Commission will be meeting tomorrow evening, August 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

**Park & Recreation:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will be meeting on Wednesday, August 20th at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Air Fare will be returning to the Airport on September 13th and 14th with more information available in the near future. The next Airport meeting will be held Wednesday, August 14th at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

**Second & Final Reading of 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 Official Zone Map that are a Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone One Parcel of Real Estate in the City of La Porte (39N)**

Councilman Buchanan moved to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read 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 Official Zone Map that are a Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone One Parcel of Real Estate in the City of La Porte (39N) by title only.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, stated this Ordinance comes to the Council from the Plan Commission with a favorable recommendation to change the zoning for a parcel of land on 39 North from B3 Highway Commercial District to R3A Low-Rise Multiple Family Residential District. This property backs up to Tiffany Woods, which is a residential neighborhood and there are concerns if the property stays zoned as a B3 it could be developed as a commercial property. Mr. Cook stated Ryan Metz and Mike Sullivan, Atrium Capital & Lincolnshire Investments were present if the Council had questions that he could not answer.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance No. 7-2025**

Councilwoman Huffman moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 7-2025**

**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 OFFICIAL**

**ZONE MAP THAT ARE A PART OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE**

**IN ORDER TO RE-ZONE ONE PARCEL OF REAL**

**ESTATE IN THE CITY OF LA PORTE (39N)**

**Waiver of Non-Compliance of Form EZ-2 for Greater Hilands, LLC dba Aldi Grocery Store for Real Property Associated with Enterprise Zone Investment Deductions**

Councilman Franke moved to read a Waiver of Non-Compliance of Form EZ-2 for Greater Hilands, LLC dba Aldi Grocery Store for Real Property Associated with Enterprise Zone Investment Deductions in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read the document in its entirety.

Bert Cook addressed the Council regarding the waiver of non-compliance for Greater Hilands, LLC dba Aldi Grocery Store. He stated the Council has done these before typically on tax abatements. Mr. Cook stated the property changed hands and the deadline for filing was missed and as soon as they realized this they contacted the appropriate parties to inquire what could be done. Each business who has an EZ-2 deduction is allowed one (1) waiver for non-compliance.

**Motion/Vote – Approve Waiver of Non-Compliance of Form EZ-2 for Greater Hilands, LLC dba Aldi Grocery Store**

Councilman Franke moved to approve the Waiver of Non-Compliance of Form EZ-2 for Greater Hilands, LLC dba Aldi Grocery Store for Real Property Associated with Enterprise Zone Investment Deductions as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

**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.

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer, reported she provided the Council with their packet, the requests from departments as well as the Resolution approved by the Redevelopment Commission. If they have any questions, she would be happy to answer them.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution No. R-23-2025**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R-23-2025**

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2025 BUDGETS**

Mayor Dermody stated there was one comment online with regard to Ms. Jesch’s comments. He stated Craig Phillips, Director of Community Development and Planning, is present and asked him to come forward to explain the Business Improvement Districts plan for the downtown. Mr. Phillips stated annually the BID District analyzes the condition of the sidewalk pavers and creates a list with the areas that need the most attention at the top. Based on the budget of $85,000 for all improvements/maintenance in the BID District, those areas are fixed. Mr. Phillips stated he will reach out to Ms. Jesch for the exact sidewalk areas she is referring to. He stated several benches have been removed as they are unable to be repaired and are unsafe. He stated a new style of bench has been selected and when the BID finds a source of funding, they will begin to replace benches in phases.

**Other Business**

Mayor Dermody stated the City is inviting local officials to a meeting with Baker Tilly to discuss Senate Bill 1 and the financial impact it is going to have on every service in this County, including schools, libraries, trustees, and the county.

**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: August 18, 2025**