**September 15, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Moryl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Franke, Huffman, Feikes, Konieczny, Galloway, Buchanan, 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 seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody asked for a moment of silence for those that have lost their life over the past couple of weeks. We as a Nation are faced with all the unnecessary violence that has happened across the country. I hope we all can focus together and when we disagree and stop the hate, we can all do better.

**Petitions & Comments**

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue, stated not all of the crosswalks and intersections are painted throughout the City. He stated he hopes the Street Department budgets more for street paving next year than they do for tree removal. Mr. Ogle stated speeding on Indiana Avenue has not slowed down even though it is supposed to be open for local traffic only. He reported he attended a meeting and was under the impression the City and INDOT would be posting a speed limit sign at Hathaway and Indiana. Councilman Buchanan stated the City suggested to INDOT that a digital speed limit sign be placed. He does not know if they are going to do it during construction or not.

Sierra Sue Jesch, Jefferson Avenue, addressed the Council regarding the Police Department and the need for more police officers. She stated the department has not had a power shift in over twenty years which was taken away for more pencil pushers at City Hall. Mayor Dermody stated he believes the Council as well as himself agree that there is a need for more officers. However, when the City has lost thirty percent of revenue we have to look for ways to make up that revenue. Councilman Franke reported he worked with Chief Drangmeister to apply for a grant for more officers. The City will not know if we are awarded the grant until the end of the month. The City will have to match the grant and purchase equipment, uniforms, vehicles, health insurance etc. as those will not be reimbursable.

Charity Hlavsa, 602 Lincolnway, informed the Council “Spooktacular” will be held on October 10, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Any business that wants to participate please reach out to Jessica Granger at Thode’s. Ms. Hlavsa reported the Small Business Coalition has taken over the “Cookie Walk” from the City and it will be held on December 13, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Again, if anyone is interested in participating please contact Jessica Granger.

Kyle Cashmer, 2222 Woodlawn Drive, stated he is present tonight to advocate for the Beechwood Lakes rezoning. He stated Beechwood Golf Course is excited about the synergy that the neighborhood will have with the golf course.

Nick Otis, City Attorney, reported there was a comment online regarding speed limit signs on Crescent Drive. Councilman Franke reported the Street Department will be placing signs on current poles during the Indiana Avenue Construction.

Mayor Dermody reported the school corporation requested a speed bump in front of Riley Elementary as there have been a couple of close calls with the crossing guard. Councilwoman Feikes stated a speed cushion was placed.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will be meeting Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Finance Committee:** Councilman Franke reported the Finance Committee has been meeting with departments regarding the 2026 budgets.

**Sustainability Commission:** Councilwoman Huffman reported the next Sustainability Commission meeting will be held on September 23, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Park & Recreation:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Park Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the Traffic Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission met on September 9, 2025. The department has applied for a grant for additional manpower. They are currently fully staffed on paper; however, a couple are at the academy.

**Fire Merit Commission:** Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission met on September 3, 2025. Performance training has started for all personnel and should be completed by December. Oral interviews for promotional exams will take place on October 22nd and 23rd. The next Fire Merit Commission will be on October 1, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at 18th Street Fire Station.

**Business Improvement District:** Councilwoman West reported the BID Board met on September 8, 2025. The high school building trades students will be making new lids and slats for the downtown receptacles that have been damaged over the years from wear-n-tear. The Street Department will be doing the installation. The next BID Board meeting will be on Monday, October 14th at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Urban Enterprise Association:** Councilwoman West reported at the
August 20th UEA meeting the Board approved a grant for Dunkin Donuts for interior improvements. A request from Jeff Batchelor. Code Enforcement Director, to use the remaining $10,000 for a dumpster program monitor was approved. The ribbon cutting for the mural at Hot Spot Café, which was partially funded by UEA, was well attended. The next UEA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Plan Commission:** Councilman Buchanan reported the Plan Commission met on Tuesday, September 9th. The Commission heard comments and presentation on a zone map change for the Beechwood Lakes Project as well as a final plat petition for phase 2 of the Hunter Woods Project. Both were approved unanimously by the Plan Commission members.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission in scheduled to meet tomorrow September 16th at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Air Fair this past weekend was remarkably successful. Their next meeting will be on October 8, 2015, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

Mayor Dermody advised he met with Vonda Owens today who is trying to maneuver what the future of libraries will look like based on property tax reductions. He stated he reassured her that people in La Porte are aware of the value of libraries in our communities.

**Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Proclamation**

Mayor Dermody asked former teacher, Councilwoman West to read a Proclamation. Councilwoman West read a Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 15th through 19th as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. The Proclamation was presented to David Shepherd a proud member of the Association for Adult and Family Continuing Education.

**Accepting of Filing of Petitions of Super Voluntary Annexation by the City of La Porte, La Porte County, and Sate of Indiana**

Councilman Franke moved to read a Petition of Super Voluntary Annexation by the City of La Porte, La Porte County and State of Indiana; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read a Petition of Super Voluntary Annexation by the City of La Porte, La Porte County, and State of Indiana in its entirety.

Nick Otis, City Attorney, stated there are two (2) other parcels that pertain to this voluntary annexation. He advised he does not believe the Council needs to read them as he will explain. Mr. Otis stated the City owns a parcel of land that is adjacent to this parcel, however, it is not within the City limits. The second is a parcel of land that is owned by the County. Mr. Otis stated the reasoning for these annexations is for a proposed ten (10) million-dollar project at the Indiana National Guard Armory which would include tying into City water and sewage. He stated tonight the Council would need to approve the petition for the three (3) parcels and moving forward he will work with the Clerk-Treasurer to set a public hearing for the annexation at the Council’s October 20th meeting.

**Motion/Vote – Accept the Filing of Petitions of Super Voluntary Annexation by the City of La Porte, La Porte County, and the State of Indiana**

Councilman Buchanan moved to accept the three (3) petitions as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**Introduction 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**

Councilman Buchanan moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman 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 in its entirety.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Development Corporation, stated he has spoken to both the Council and Redevelopment Commission regarding this project over the past four (4) years and the many processes it takes to keep this project moving forward. This is one of those processes. Mr. Cook reported John Kavchek is present via zoom and Charlie Ray, the engineer for the project is in the audience should the Council have specific questions. He reported at their last meeting; the City Plan Commission gave a unanimous recommendation to move this zoning change forward to the Council. He stated previously the Council approved the development agreement for the Beechwood Lakes Project.

Craig Phillips, Director of Community Development and Planning, stated as the Council is aware, there are many different types of housing projects happening in the City, from affordable housing to high-end housing and everything in between.. He stated across the nation people are looking for a lower maintenance landscape and still have the type of housing they desire. This particular project includes those types of homes.

Second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

**Public Hearing and Introduction of a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for the Major Moves Fund, Fund 2244**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for the Major Moves Fund, Fund 2244 in its entirety.

Mr. Otis explained at tomorrow’s Board of Public Works and Safety meeting a proposed agreement between the City and DHS (Spectrum Recycling) for relocation costs will be presented for the Board’s approval. He stated the City has been in litigation with Spectrum for over a year and a half and has reached an agreement. This is for the Tipton street overpass project with INDOT.

As this Resolution requires a public hearing, Mayor Dermody declared the public hearing open. Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer stated the public hearing was advertised in the Herald-Dispatch on September 5, 2025. As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-28-2025**

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

**RESOLUTION R-28-2025**

**RESOLUTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

**FOR THE MAJOR MOVES FUND, FUND 2244**

**Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2025 Budgets**

Councilman Galloway moved to read a Resolution for the first time in its entirety; motion was 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-29-2025**

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

**R-29-2025**

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

**Other Business**

Mayor Dermody announced the City will begin hosting “Minutes with the Mayor” starting this Thursday, September 18th from 8-9 a.m. here at City Hall. He stated the day, and time will change every week to give anyone who wishes to meet with him a chance to do so.

**Adjourn**

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

**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: October 6, 2025**