

March 7, 2022

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Pledge

Amanda Haverstick from the Herald Dispatch led the Pledge of Allegiance

Present Konieczny, Feikes, West, Galloway, Cutler, Franke, Vincent

Absent none

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 Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue, addressed the Council about paint on the street at intersections, crosswalks and lane changes, specifically at Madison and Washington Streets. Mayor Dermody asked for Mr. Ogle's contact information and told him he would be notified by the appropriate department with the painting schedule.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met February 23, 2022 and approved a design contract for Monroe Streetscape. Additionally, Councilman Franke reported a parking study contract was approved which will take a close look at downtown parking.

Diversity and Inclusion Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Diversity and Inclusion Commission met on February 24, 2022 to discuss dates when the Indiana Civil Rights Commission Director can come to the City. Also discussed was a potential Diversity and Inclusion Club for the Middle School.

School Board: Councilman Franke reported School Board will meet March 14, 2022 at the Educational Services Center.

Park Board: Councilwomen Feikes reported Park Board will meet Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

Traffic Commission: Councilwomen Feikes reported the Traffic Commission will be meeting the second Tuesday in April, April 12, due to spring break conflicts at 6:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

Police Merit Commission: Councilman Galloway reported Police Merit Commission will meet March 8, 2022 at 2:00 P.M. the Police Station.

Mayor's Veteran's Committee: Councilman Galloway reported the first Mayor's Veteran's Committee meeting in 2022 will be held on March 14, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

Business Improvement District Board: Councilwoman Cutler reported the next Business Improvement District Meeting will be Monday March 14, 2022 at 5 P.M. at City Hall.

Urban Enterprise Association: Councilwoman Cutler reported the next Urban Enterprise Association Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Fire Merit Commission: Councilwoman West reported firefighter application packets are available online at cityoflaporte.com and can be picked up in person at Station 1. Councilwoman West also reported social media ads are being scheduled and additional information will be posted regarding the application process through Duneland Media. Councilwoman West also reported radio ads with B100, WCOE and Hometown News will run through the end of March. Chief Snyder reported to Councilwoman West midyear performance ratings will be distributed in March and are expected to be complete by May 1, 2022. Finally, Chief Andy Snyder reported to Councilwoman West that he received a letter of retirement from Battalion Chief Rob Sabie. It was presented to the Board of Works, and they authorized the Merit Commission to move forward hiring his replacement. They also authorized the Merit Commission to make all necessary promotions to fill the vacancy in rank and any subsequent positions. Chief Andy Snyder submitted a letter to the Merit Commission requesting the vacancy created in Battalion Chief be filled at their earliest convenience. The Commission submitted a letter to Chief Andy Snyder with the top three names from the Battalion Chief list. Chief Andy Snyder submitted a letter to the Merit Commission recommending Kelly Burke, the top name on the list, to be appointed to fill the vacancy. The Merit Commission agreed, and Kelly Burke accepted the position. However, since Kelly Burke currently holds the appointed position of Assistant Chief, he cannot hold a merited rank at the same time. Therefore, if at a point in time he is no longer in an appointed position, his new merit rank will be Battalion Chief. Since this still left a vacancy of Battalion Chief, the process started over and Chief Snyder submitted a letter to the Merit Commission recommending Doug Beirnacki, the top name on the list to be appointed to fill the vacancy. The Merit Commission agreed, and Doug Biernacki accepted the position as Battalion Chief. With Doug's promotion to Battalion Chief, a vacancy in the position of Captain was created. Chief Andy Snyder submitted a letter to the Merit Commission requesting

an open position of Captain be filled at their earliest convenience. The Merit Commission submitted a letter to Chief Andy Snyder with the top three names from the Captain list. Chief Andy Snyder submitted a letter to the Merit Commission recommending Zachary Kanney, the top name on the Captain list, to be appointed to fill the vacancy. The Merit Commission agreed, and Zachary Kanney accepted the position of Captain.

Mayor Dermody thanked Rob Sabie for 31 years of service to the City of La Porte.

Airport Authority: Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority will meet Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 5:15 P.M. presumably via zoom.

Historic Preservation Commission: Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Historic Preservation Commission will meet on Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Two-Year-Old Checks:

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun reported checks issued by the City are good for a two-year period. At the end of each year, State Statute requires the Clerk-Treasurer to present a list of those outstanding checks. When possible, the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer attempts to contact vendors to see if invoices are still outstanding and if so, reissues the checks. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun asked for Council approval to redeposit the funds back into the accounts they were originally written from.

Motion/Vote to Approve:

Councilman Galloway made a motion to approve Two-Year-Old Checks; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Section 94-321 and 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana (State Street between Tyler Street and First Street)

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously passed.

Councilwoman Feikes reported this request came from the Hospital to the Traffic Commission directly. Pedestrian traffic has increased in this area due to the hospital parking lot being across the street, in addition to the street being narrower, it makes sense to slow the speed.

Mayor Dermody asked if there were any public comments regarding this matter. Sierra Sue Jesch, 204 Jefferson Avenue, agreed to slow the speed limit to 20 MPH and stated she travels that road often.

Mayor Dermody stated this Ordinance will move to the March 21, 2022 meeting.

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana for Year 2022

Councilwoman Cutler moved to read an Ordinance for the first time by title and amendments only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously passed.

Councilwoman Cutler read amendments: Human Resource Director Salary: \$70,000
Utilities Customer Service Representative: \$35,000

Mayor Dermody thanked Jen Noll for her service to the City of La Porte and noted the private and public sector market for a Human Resources Director has changed, however, the City is still in need of an experienced Human Resources Director that will uphold our new standards.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted Utility Billing has had a vacancy for a temporary position for several months reporting there have been a handful of individuals that haven't shown up for the interview. It is our intention to make this a permanent position as the Utility Billing area could use more help and the bookkeeper from Utility Billing will also be able to help in the Clerk-Treasurer's office, as well.

Mayor Dermody stated this Ordinance will move to the March 21, 2022 meeting.

Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2022 Budget

Councilman Galloway moved to read Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously passed.

Motion/Vote to Approve:

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to approve the transfer resolution; motion was seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

City Attorney Nick Otis reported Beechwood traded in ten golf carts and received five new golf carts. This additional money needed will cover the balance due for the five new golf carts. This is in addition to the golf carts Beechwood is leasing.

Other Business: None

Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilman Galloway moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: March 21, 2022