

March 21, 2022

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Pledge

Mike Riehle from La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership led the Pledge of Allegiance

Present Cutler, West, Feikes, Galloway, Cutler

Absent Franke, Vincent, Konieczny

Mayor Dermody thanked Ashley Dickinson and Northwest Health for the donation of Council chairs for Council Chambers.

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 Cutler and unanimously carried.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

None

Standing Committee Reports

Park Board: Councilwomen Feikes reported Park Board met Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office and noted Todd Taylor attended the meeting to ask the board to allow permanent wells be drilled in two areas of Park property. Approval was granted approximately one year ago to drill test wells. Councilwoman Feikes reported the permanent wells will be placed at the sites of the test wells and the Water Department will utilize directional boring for the pipe installation which will follow the utilities' right of ways to get water to the plant. Councilwoman Feikes also noted approval was granted to establish an \$18 annual membership fee for the Senior Center that was recently taken over by the Park Department. Councilwoman Feikes reported the Collective Artisan Market will be ta the Civic Auditorium on March 26, 2022 and approval was granted for ten percent of bar net sales to go towards the rental of the auditorium. Councilwoman Feikes also reported youth sports give back nights will be held at Wings, Etc. on April 27, May 18, June 16 and July 20, 2022. Councilwoman Feikes reported Beechwood Golf Course has officially opened for the season on March 16, 2022 with Spring rates of \$25 during weekdays, \$30 for weekends, and a Wednesday special of \$25 for greens fee

and a cart. Councilwoman Feikes noted on April 16, 2022, Midnight Rider – The Allman Brothers Tribute Band will be at the Civic Auditorium with an opening act by the Head Honchos. doors open at 6:00 P.M.

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 met March 8, 2022 at 2:00 P.M. the Police Station and five new officers began Field Training with the potential of an addition officer being sworn in with five years' of law enforcement experience. Councilman Galloway reported there are seven new leased vehicles; five Durangos and two Chargers.

Mayor's Veteran's Committee: Councilman Galloway reported Mayor's Veteran's Committee met March 14, 2022 and voted that medals given to Veteran's out must go through the committee first. Councilman Galloway also thanked Boy Scout Troop 271 and Eagle Scout Nolan Ryan who rebricked the Veteran's Memorial Walkway. Councilman Galloway stated it looks great. Councilman Galloway also noted the VFW will hold a chili-cook off Sunday, March 27, 2022 at noon.

Business Improvement District Board: Councilwoman Cutler reported at the March 14, 2022 Business Improvement District Meeting, Becky Pressel, of Family Advocates, presented a request to install blue ribbons on select light posts in the downtown. Councilwoman Cutler reported this would occur in the month of April during Child Abuse Awareness month; the Board unanimously approved. Councilwoman Cutler also reported the long-term planning committee reported Becky Parkison will represent the Redevelopment Commission at future meetings. Councilwoman Cutler reported the Board approved a weekly BID district cleaning contract with Molfield Properties beginning April 1, 2022 and that the next Business Improvement District meeting will be held April 11, 2022 at 5 P.M. at City Hall.

Urban Enterprise Association: Councilwoman Cutler reported the Urban Enterprise Association met March 16, 2022 and business grant requests were reviewed for window replacement at 808 Madison; tuck pointing, and window replacement at the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership offices at 605 Michigan Avenue; and vine removal and exterior paint at 811 Monroe. Councilwoman Cutler reported each is a 50/50 grant and all were approved by the Board. The next Urban Enterprise Association meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at LEAP offices.

Plan Commission: Councilwoman West reported the City petitioned to rezone the area located approximately within the 200 and 500 block on the south side of west 18th Street and west of A Street from a zone of R1B (Single Family Residential) to R2A zone (Townhouse Residential) which is a combined area of approximately 4.88 acres. Councilwoman West reported the purpose of petitioning to rezone the properties is to expand the ability for development of single family, single family attached, two family or townhouse residential dwelling units. Councilwoman West noted the intent for the proposed residential development is for the residential units with alley access from 18th Street to minimize the number of individual driveway approaches along the west 18th Street frontage. Councilwoman West reported the Commission heard concerns from residents from Regency Parkway and homeowners located within the 4.88 acres. Councilwoman West reported the Plan Commission unanimously passed the rezoning request and noted by doing this, the Commission is encouraging infill and redevelopment of land within City limits compatible with the existing neighborhood. In addition, a variety of housing types will be offered helping maintain affordability for residents. Councilwoman West reported the City will have a development agreement with the developer before any movement will be made to begin this process. Councilwoman West reported Vickie Gushrowski was nominated and accepted the position of committee member of the Downtown Design Review Committee. Councilwoman West reported Election of Officers was as follows: Jerry Jackson, President; Miles Fettingier, Vice President.

Fire Merit Commission: Councilwoman West reported the next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held April 6, 2022 at Fire Station 1.

Honoring the service of Karen Burden on the Board of Zoning Appeals

Mayor Dermody stated Karen Burden was first appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals in 1994 by Mayor Elmo Gonzales. She served twenty-eight years and was re-appointed by every Mayor: Carl Krentz, Kathy Chrobak, Leigh Morris, Blair Milo and Mark Krentz. She worked with seven administrations, three different engineers, four different city planners and several city attorneys, always aiding the Board to move the City of La Porte forward. Karen was a valued member of the Board of Zoning Appeals because of her deep dedication to the people of La Porte. Her institutional knowledge cannot be replaced, but she leaves the Board knowing that she has given the current members a great base to move forward.

Karen Burden thanked Mayor Dermody and stated she has enjoyed the past twenty-eight years but looks forward to retiring and passing the baton.

Mayor Dermody presented Karen Burden with a key to the City of La Porte.

Second and Final Reading 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 second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously passed. Councilwoman Feikes read 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) by title only.

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.

Motion/Vote to Adopt 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 made a motion to adopt 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); motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3-2022
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)**

Second and Final Reading 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 second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously passed. Councilwoman Cutler read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana for the Year 2022.

Mayor Dermody 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 could use more help and the bookkeeper from Utility Billing will also be able to help in the Clerk-Treasurer's office.

Motion/Vote to Adopt an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana for the Year 2022:

Councilman Galloway made a motion to adopt an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana for the Year 2022; motion was seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 4-2022
ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1-2022 FIXING SALARIES OF
APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE,
INDIANA FOR THE YEAR 2022**

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 To Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Public Safety Department

Councilman Galloway moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 To Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Public Safety Department.

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun reported the Police Department agreed to work within their budget to hire a full-time Administrative Assistant to manage Police Department budgets, prepare payroll, prepare claims, and all other general administrative duties as assigned.

Mayor Dermody noted this will be presented again at the April 4, 2022 Council meeting.

Public Hearing and Introduction of an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; Fund No. 2401

Councilwoman West moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance of an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; Fund No. 2401 in its entirety.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted that the additional appropriation was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on March 12, 2022.

Public Hearing for an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; Fund No. 2401

As this Ordinance requires a public hearing, Mayor Dermody declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present or on livestream who wished to address the Council regarding this Ordinance.

As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and noted the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the April 4, 2022 Council meeting.

Mayor Dermody reported the Clear Lake Loop design will be phenomenal for the residents of this community combined with NewPorte Landing and none of this would be possible without Healthcare Foundation of La Porte. Additionally, Truesdell will be repaired.

Other Business: None

Adjourn

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

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: April 4, 2022