

## **June 20, 2022**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, June 20, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

### **Pledge**

Councilman Galloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**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**

Cedric McCoy, 709 "D" Street, read an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" dated April 16, 1963. Mr. McCoy reported on Juneteenth, Mayor Dermody posted a simple graphic and informational text copy to his mayoral Facebook page which garnered local comments and likes but also became what Mr. McCoy described as a hotbed of invalidation, dog whistles and general racist sentiment from much of the community. Mr. McCoy stated Mayor Dermody knowingly allowed this to happen by posting about Juneteenth in what Mr. McCoy describes as a "milk toast fashion" and encouraged Mayor Dermody to make a formal public statement on the City's stance on such racism instead of offering empty sentiment and Facebook lives promising change.

Mayor Dermody responded to Mr. McCoy's comments noting not one comment was deleted from his mayoral Facebook post. Mayor Dermody noted it is a public page and public comments are protected under the first amendment whether Mayor Dermody like or dislikes comments being made. Mayor Dermody also stated his approach to any situation that presents challenges is a face-to-face meeting. Mayor Dermody reported Facebook is meant to update information and he does not live on it as there are too many things going on in the community to do so. Mayor Dermody also noted he has an Open Door Policy and invites anyone, including Mr. Cedric McCoy to come speak to him in person on how the City can improve.

Mayor Dermody thanked the efforts of Mr. Jim Roy who donates flags every year that line our streets in celebration of the Fourth of July holiday, Independence Day - recognizing those that fight for our freedom. Since September 11, 2001, Jim Roy has donated American Flags that are hung throughout the City of La Porte. Mayor Dermody noted Mr. Jim Roy has been named an Outstanding Citizen and has been given a Key to the City by past Administrations for his contribution to the City. Mayor Dermody wished to recognize Mr. Jim Roy for his contribution to the City of La Porte and present him with his own flag. Mr. Jim Roy noted presently, there are approximately six hundred flags that are hung throughout the community. Two years ago, Mr. Roy noted he donated the Armed Forces, Police and Fire flags. This year, Mr. Roy was delighted to report the green line flag – representing EMT. Mr. Roy is proud to celebrate the contribution of those that serve our community. Mayor Dermody presented Jim Roy with a special flag thanking him for his unwavering support to the City of La Porte.

### **Diversity and Inclusion Presentation**

Marvin McCoy, President of Diversity and Inclusion Commission introduced committee members and discussed what the Diversity and Inclusion Commission has done and what they plan to do in the future for the City of La Porte. Mr. McCoy made a presentation in celebration of the Juneteenth Holiday. Ms. Affeld made a presentation in celebration of Pride Month.

### **Attorney General Todd Rokita Outreach – John Cannon**

John Cannon, Outreach Representative from Attorney General Todd Rokita's office addressed the Council. Mr. Cannon covers thirteen counties throughout Northwest Indiana. He and six other colleagues cover the State of Indiana. Mr. Cannon reported several new laws will take effect in the State of Indiana beginning on July 1, 2022. Mr. Cannon reported information regarding unclaimed property, robo call scams, identity theft, Medicaid fraud, and the Opioid Settlement. Mayor Dermody asked Mr. Cannon what the Attorney General's Office can do regarding the underage sale of THC and tobacco in local vape shops. Mr. Cannon noted teaming up with the Secretary of State would be a good option and he would get back with Mayor Dermody in the near future.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 5:15 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Diversity and Inclusion Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Diversity and Inclusion Commission will meet Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Airport Authority:** The Airport Authority will meet Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 5:15 P.M. at the Airport.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** The Historic Preservation Commission will meet June 21, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes reported Park Board met on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. There have been instances of beach goers taking over the beach house covered concrete pad for private parties. A new policy was put in place to prohibit exclusive private use of this space at the beach house. Signs will be posted. Lakefest is being held July 29, 2022 through July 31, 2022. Councilwoman Feikes reported permission was given for the Park to remain open past the normal closing time of 10:00 P.M. to accommodate events happening during Lakefest. Councilwoman Feikes also noted Park Board will allow off-road parking for Lakefest. Councilwoman Feikes noted Park Board approved the style and scope of the project to replace the balcony seating at the Civic Auditorium. The new seating will be padded, and each chair will have a drink holder. The new seating allows for wider, handicap accessible aisles and the installation of much needed handrails. Finally, Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Department will be more diligent patrolling the parks after dark and will now be ticketing and/or towing any vehicles parked past Park hours or parked overnight.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes reported due to the Fourth of July Holiday, Traffic Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at the Police Station

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported Police Merit Commission met Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 2:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

**Business Improvement District Board:** Councilwoman Cutler reported at the June Business Improvement District Board meeting, City Planner Craig Phillips presented quotes to the board for the repair of sidewalk pavers and planters on Lincolnway. Councilwoman Cutler reported the quotes presented were approved, and repairs will begin in preparation of the upcoming Fourth of July Parade. Councilwoman Cutler reported Mayor Dermody attended the meeting and spoke with Business Improvement District Board Members about long-term decisions for the Business Improvement District and thanked the Business Improvement District

Board for their work. Councilwoman Cutler reported Jim Kaminski discussed the quarterly long-term planning meeting held in May and shared that it is important that the decision-making of the Business Improvement District is driven by the City's future design plans for the Business Improvement District as the infrastructure is aging out. The irrigation for the planters are not all in working order. Mofield Properties will continue to water those planters individually until the repairs can be made. Finally, Christmas decorations in the Business Improvement District were discussed and money was approved for some additional upgrades to the downtown décor. Lastly, Councilwoman Cutler reported Erica Kanney stepped down from her position on the board as she is no longer employed within the Business Improvement District. This leaves an open seat however it will not affect quorum. Those interested in serving on the board must work, live, own a business or property within the Business Improvement District to serve. Cutler announced the next Business Improvement District meeting will be Monday July 11, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall.

**Urban Enterprise Association:** Councilwoman Cutler reported Urban Enterprise Association meeting in June was canceled for lack of business. There will be no meeting in July. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 17, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at the LEAP office.

**Introduction of a Resolution Authorizing Temporary Loans from Major Moves Fund to the Fire Lease/Debt Service Fund and 2017 RD G.O. Bond Fund**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to Introduce a Resolution for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read a Resolution Authorizing Temporary Loans from Major Moves Fund to the Fire/Lease Debt Service Fund and 2017 RDC G.O. Bond Fund in its entirety.

**Motion/Vote to Adopt**

Councilman Galloway made a motion to approve a Resolution Authorizing Temporary Loans from Major Move Fund to the Fire/Lease Debt Service Fund and 2017 RDC G.O. Bond Fund; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Clerk Treasurer Parthun stated she cannot say for sure that the temporary loan will be necessary, however, in the situation that we do not receive June Property Tax Settlement funds by the end of June, she is asking that the Resolution be approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-8-2022**  
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY LOAN FROM MAJOR**  
**MOVES FUND TO THE CITY'S FIRE LEASE/DEBT SERVICE FUND AND**  
**2017 G.O. BOND**

**Introduction of a Resolution Approving the Financing of SPHD-3.0 ASPHALT DUMP TRAILER for Street Department through Indiana Bond Bank**

Councilwoman Cutler moved to Introduce a Resolution for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes Cutler read a Resolution Approving the Financing of SPHD-3.0 ASPAHLT DUMP TRAILER for Street Department through Indiana Bond Bank in its entirety.

**Motion/Vote to Adopt**

Councilman Franke made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving the Financing of SPHD-3.0 ASPHALT DUMP TRAILER for Street Department through Indian Bond Bank; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-9-2022**  
**A RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING OF SPHD – 3.0 ASPHALT DUMP**  
**TRAILER FOR STREET DEPARTMENT THROUGH INDIANA BOND BANK**

Clerk Treasurer Parthun stated at the prior Board of Public Works and Safety Meeting, Street Department Director Jeff Bachelor asked for permission to replace a hot asphalt machine. The equipment company offered financing however, Indiana Bond Bank was able to save \$5,400 in interest. The expense will be paid by the Street Department's budget each year.

**Other Business**

Mayor Dermody reported the second round of meetings with 39 North Conservancy District homeowners and asked the public to please reach out if they would like to participate. Councilman Franke stated there are mistruths on social media and these meetings are meant to pass along accurate data. Mayor Dermody wished the public a Happy Fourth of July and noted there will be a Fireworks Display at Fox Park on that date.

**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: July 5, 2022**