

February 6, 2023

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, February 6, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Pledge

Councilman Franke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present All present

Absent

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

Brian Kajer, 406 Niesen St La Porte suggested more than a two way stop at the broad intersection coming into New Porte Landing. Traffic in New Porte Landing is getting busier, and he would like to see a three way stop.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on Wednesday January 25, 2023. Claims were approved and an executive meeting was held.

School Board: Councilman Franke reported the School Board will meet on February 13, 2023, at the Educational Service Center.

Park Board: Councilwoman Feikes reported Park Board met Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at the Park Office at 4:00 P.M. Election of officers was held and resulted in retention of all previous officers; President Mitch Feikes, Vice President Nicole Messecar and Secretary Roberta Mumaw. Approval was given for Culvers Give Back Nights for Maple City Travel Baseball. The first one will be held Wednesday April 5, 2023. Youth Sports will also be fundraising with Domino's "Slice the Price" card. Each card will cost \$15 with a 50% profit. The Domino's team handles all the organization and paperwork. Beechwood Golf Professional, Kyle Cashmer, was given permission to attend the PGA Spring Meeting in Muncie in February. The Board also authorized Mark Schreiber to put out an RFP to get proposals from concession vendors. The goal is to get a vendor that will run the

concession stands at Kesling, Lions, and Ron Reed fields this baseball season. The next Park Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Feikes reported a change to the Traffic Commission meeting being held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The meeting will now be held in the Council Chambers at 5:00 P.M. Immediately following the meeting there will be a joint workshop regarding the Downtown Parking Study being presented by Walker Consulting.

Police Merit Commission: Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission will hold it's next meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

Business Improvement District Board: Councilwoman Cutler reported the Business Improvement District will meet on Monday February 13, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Urban Enterprise Association: Councilwoman Cutler reported the Urban Enterprise Association will meet on Wednesday February 15, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at the LEAP office.

Fire Merit Commission: Councilwoman West reported the following promotions: Eddy Wineland – Captain, Tom Lusco – Captain, Steve Klimczak – Battalion Chief, Michael Boardman – Fire Instructor. Councilwoman West noted when attending these meeting many of the firefighters are in attendance. She acknowledges great team morale amongst the fireman and attributed that to the great leadership of Chief Andy Snyder and Assistant Chief Kelly Burke. The next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at Fire Station 1.

Airport Authority: Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority met on January 11, 2023, at 5:15 P.M. at the Airport. At the meeting they voted on their Board of Finance Officers for the 2023 fiscal year. The appointments are as follows; Edward Volk – President, Richard Schmitt – Vice President, Dale Fischer – Secretary, Fran Milo – Assistant Secretary, James Shearin – Treasurer. After two years of record-breaking fuel sales, the Airport is seeing fuel sales and consumption return to pre-Covid rates. While the airport remains busy, a return to commercial flying by the masses is attributed to this change. Finally, I would like to acknowledge, thank and congratulate Mr. Edward L Volk on his dedication and tenure on the Airport Board. In January of 2023, Mr. Volk celebrated his 50 years of service on the board. Councilwoman Konieczny share the press release that was issued on January 11, 2023, written by Rachel Boulahanis, the Airport Manager of

Planning & Outreach celebrating the service of Mr. Volk. Councilwoman Konieczny invited Airport Director, Eric Bobcek to say a few words. Mr. Bobeck noted Mr. Volk has been the driving force to all of the extension projects at the La Porte Municipal Airport. He praised Mr. Volk for all his hard work when taking over to create and good relationship with the FAA. Mayor Dermody thanked Mr. Volk for his dedication to the Airport and the community. The next Airport Authority meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, at 5:15 P.M. at the Airport.

Historic Preservation Commission: Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Historic Preservation Commission in conjunction with Indiana Landmarks will be hosting a masonry workshop this Saturday, February 11th from 10:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. CST here in La Porte. In this hands-on workshop, Imrich Kuric, owner of I-Fix-Bricks, demonstrates how to address common issues in historic masonry, including repointing, types of mortar, efflorescence, spalling and moisture issues. Admission is \$5 per person or free for Indiana Landmarks members. Pre-registration is required and is now closed. The next Historic Preservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Healthcare Foundation of La Porte – City of La Porte Housing Strategy Presentation: Mayor Dermody stated on day one of this administration taking over we set a new standard for quality of living. The first place we looked at was 701 Maple, moving on to Tibma Bakery, and lastly adding high end housing at The Banks. Mayor Dermody noted we are committed to improve housing for all. Healthcare Foundation of La Porte took the lead on a housing study in our community by partnering with a consultant to provide the housing data that we need to move forward. Mayor Dermody invited Maria Fruth, CEO of Healthcare Foundation of La Porte to speak. Mrs. Fruth stated her excitement in presenting the study in their initiative that they call The City of La Porte Housing Strategy. Mrs. Fruth noted along with the help of her excellent committee they used a Consulting Firm, SB Friedman, and also consulted many people of the community. Mrs. Fruth explained why the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte took on the role of facilitating this study. Healthcare is much more than physical health and housing can be a vast determination of one's health. Mrs. Fruth introduced Lance Dorn of SB Friedman to the Council. Mr. Dorn discussed the housing market today, housing market segments, housing development community, and housing production and preservation strategy. Mayor Dermody invited the public to ask questions.

Charity Hlvasa asked if the results of the study are unique to La Porte or is this something they are seeing all over the country? Mr. Dorn stated the lack of new housing is something that is more specific to La Porte but the overall lack of housing inventory is something that is happening nationwide.

Brian Kajer, 406 Niesen, asked what numbers were used to figure out the honest mean? Mr. Dorn referenced page fourteen of the study in which the various classifications are listed.

Sandy Keller, 515 E 18th Street La Porte – works with Habitat for Humanity - mentioned a Co-op based model that can be used to reach the lower income families. Residents are members of the Co-op, but the Co-op maintains ownership on the property. She encourages us to learn about other solutions. She gathers from the study there is not a focus on ownership for the 25% and under. The Co-op based model is a great solution to ownership for the 25% and under. Ms. Keller is curious during the study if anything regarding zoning and multi-unit dwellings was discussed or discovered. She stated many cities have gone away with single family home zoning. Mayor Dermody stated his concerns with allowing more multi-unit dwellings as many of our police calls are to these multi-unit dwellings. He invited Director of Community Development and Planning, Craig Phillips to speak on the matter. Mr. Phillips noted it is a tool other communities have started to use however we have to be very careful. There is a lot to consider, and very high standards would have to be set. Including making sure all the facilities are available for tenants. Parking in the area would have to be taken into consideration as well.

John Albers, Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church noted Co-op is very similar to rental except it can be attached to a mortgage to help people build credit. Selling on contract can be less risky for a nonprofit. He noted he is part of a Clergy group called Faith and Community United. He would love for us to include them when our next steps are figured out. Mayor Dermody stated, as he has mentioned to other faith-based groups, that the City would love to partner with them to come up with solutions for the many empty buildings they own.

Mitch Feikes, 1328 Lakeside Street, stated as a builder in La Porte the biggest issues are labor and subcontractors. If more subcontractors were available, he could build more houses. He has not built a spec house in two years because the demand is so high the priority is for homeowners. Mr. Feikes stated most residents that build in his development are people coming from outside city limits. Mr. Feikes stressed the importance of finding people who want to go into trades, and more importantly people who want to work. Inflation is also a major concern and it's difficult to get the materials to build the homes.

The full presentation can be found at [Healthcare Foundation of La Porte | La Porte County Indiana \(hflaporte.org\)](https://www.healthcarefoundationoflaporte.org/)

Annual Investment Report:

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated on an annual basis, the State requires the Clerk-Treasurer to present the Council an Annual Investment Report. For 2022, the City of La Porte earned \$46,293.91 for seven different funds that are invested in the State's Hoosier Fund with Lake City Bank. As a reference, in 2021, the City earned \$9,208.03 for the same seven funds – an increase in 2022 of \$37,085.88. The Hoosier Fund is a money market fund allowed by State Statute specially for units of government per Indiana Code 36-1-7-1. Funds are pooled together to earn more interest, as advised by Baker Tilly. We earn interest daily and can access the funds, if needed, within twenty-four hours with no penalties. The current daily yield is 4.30%. The daily yield last year currently was .30%. We have been investing in the Hoosier fund for the past ten years.

Interest earned on the City's checking accounts for 2022 was \$146,055.13 between nineteen checking accounts at local banks. This is an increase of \$99,009.30 from 2021.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun advised there is no action needed from Council, this is for informational purposes only.

Two-Year Old Checks: Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated checks issued for 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 outstanding checks. Our office attempts to contact vendors to see if invoices are still outstanding and if so, we reissue the checks. I am asking Council for approval to redeposit these checks back into the original fund they were written from.

Councilman Franke made a motion to approve the redeposit of the two-year-old checks; Councilman Vincent seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Regulating the Use of Golf Carts Within the Corporate Limits of City of La Porte

Councilman Franke made a motion to read an Ordinance by title only; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Regulating the Use of Golf Carts Within the Corporate Limits of the City of La Porte by title only. Councilman Franke made a motion to suspend the rules and approve the Ordinance tonight as minor changes were made; motion was seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

Motion to Vote/Approve: Councilman Franke made a motion to approve An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Regulating the Use of Golf Carts

Within the Corporate Limits of the City of La Porte; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE 3-2023
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF
GOLF CARTS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF
LA PORTE

An Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion was seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance. Second and final reading will take place at the February 21, 2023, meeting.

A Resolution by the City of La Porte Common Council to Purchase Land from Rhoda Farms

Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to read a resolution in its entirety; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read a Resolution by the City of La Porte Common Council to Purchase Land from Rhoda Farms in its entirety. Motion to Vote/Approve: Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to approve a Resolution by the City of La Porte Common Council to Purchase Land from Rhoda Farms; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION NO. R-3-2023
A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF LA PORTE COMMON COUNCIL TO
PURCHASE LAND FROM RHODA FARMS

Other Business

Mayor Dermody noted the Board of Public Works will hold a discussion and answer questions regarding the trash bids at the Board of Works meeting on February 7, 2023. This Saturday February 11, 2023, 10 Band a Pearl Jam Tribute will be performing at the Civic Auditorium.

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: February 21, 2023