

February 21, 2023

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Pledge

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

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Donna Johnson, 1037 Indiana Avenue, presented Christian Flag to the Council as a gift. It is her hope that the Council will vote to display the Flag in April in the display case at City Hall.

Police Chief Brettin introduced newly sworn-in Officer Rico Simpson who is joining the force with a total of twelve years of law enforcement experience; three years in the jail and nine years on the force. Chief Brettin stated Officer Simpson will be bringing his K-9 partner with him from the North Judson Police Department where Officer Simpson served as Deputy Chief. Officer Simpson stated he is very excited to be in La Porte.

Police Chief Brettin also recognized citizen Desiree L. Lynn who notified the La Porte City Police Department of a suspicious text conversation with a male subject who lived in Tipton, Indiana. According to Chief Brettin, the male subject tried soliciting inappropriate sexual activities with her and her children. Chief Bretting reported Ms. Lynn humored the suspect and assisted the La Porte Police Department with a controlled recorded phone conversation during which the suspect violated Indiana Code 35-42-4-6 (Soliciting a Minor for Sexual Activity). Chief Bretting reported the suspect was arrested on the same charges and thanked Ms. Lynn for assisting law enforcement.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will meet on Wednesday February 22, 2023, at 3:15 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Sustainability Commission: Councilman Franke reported the Sustainability Commission will be meeting on February 27, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

Park Board: Councilwoman Feikes reported Park Board met Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at the Park Office at 4:00 P.M. The new Park and Recreation Assistant Director Susie Wireman attended the meeting to introduce herself to the Board. A sub-committee was formed to set a policy regarding solicitation on park property. The committee will consist of two board members, two park and recreation members and City Attorney Nick Otis. Councilwoman Feikes reported there is a Rededication Concert being planned for the Civic Auditorium on September 22, 2023. Civic Director, Brett Binversie is in negotiations with a presently unnamed band to perform at the event. Councilwoman Feikes reported on March 10, 2023, VanHalen Tribute Band "Jump" will be performing at the Civic. Councilwoman Feikes reported the opening act, "The Classic Rock Experience" will begin at 7:00 P.M., however doors open at 6:00 P.M. Councilwoman Feikes noted tickets are available both online and at the Civic Auditorium. Councilwoman Feikes reported a used fairway and rough mower were both purchased for Beechwood Golf Course. An aerator was also purchased, but delivery time for this is eight to ten months.

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Feikes reported Traffic Commission will meet on March 7, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

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

Business Improvement District Board: Councilwoman Cutler reported at the January meeting of the Business Improvement District Board, City Planner, Craig Phillips presented the 2023 Banner Schedule for the downtown, and the board held their election of officers for 2023. Councilwoman Cutler reported all board members will remain the same as they were in 2022. Councilwoman Cutler reported at the February meeting, the board accepted the new contract for downtown maintenance with Amy Feikes. This contract was accepted earlier than in the past because the board would like to have "Spring Transitional Maintenance" rather than only snow removal and summer cleaning. Councilwoman Cutler reported the

long-term planning committee will meet on Tuesday March 7, at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall when they will review drafts of future streetscape designs for the district. Councilwoman Cutler reported the next Business Improvement District Board meeting will be Monday, March 13, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall.

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

Fire Merit Commission: Councilwoman West reported 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 will meet on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 5:15 P.M. at the Airport.

Historic Preservation Commission: Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Historic Preservation Commission in conjunction with Indiana Landmarks will host a masonry workshop on Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. CST. Councilwoman Konieczny reported during 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. Councilwoman Konieczny gave a special thank you to Commission members Bruce Johnson and Anna Weissman, Assistant City Planner David Heinold and Deb Purcell of Indiana Landmarks for coordinating and executing a very informative and well attend workshop. Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Historic Preservation Commission plans to host another workshop this fall and stated the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers.

An Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance No. 25-2022

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; motion was seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance No. 25-2022, To Amend Salaries in Department of Transportation, Engineering Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Civic Auditorium Non-Reverting, Community Development and Planning, Police Department, Stormwater and Motor Vehicle Highway by title only. Director of Human Resources, Andrea Smith stated a Mental Health Professional/Social Worker will be hired for the Police Department. Funding will come from HealthLinc and we will be working with Purdue

Northwest in the hiring process. Mrs. Smith would like to thank everyone who helped make this happened.

Motion to Vote/Approve: Councilman Vincent made a motion to approve an Ordinance Amending Salary Ordinance No. 25-2022, To Amend Salaries in Department of Transportation, Engineering Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Civic Auditorium Non-Reverting, Community Development and Planning, Police Department, Stormwater and Motor Vehicle Highway; motion was seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 4-2023
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 25-2022, TO
AMEND SALARIES IN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT,
CIVIC AUDITORIUM NON-REVERTING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PLANNING, POLICE DEPARTMENT, STORMWATER AND MOTOR
VEHICLE HIGHWAY

Introduction of a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for LIT – Public Safety and Major Moves Construction

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to read a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read a Resolution for an Additional Appropriation for LIT – Public Safety and Major Moves Construction in its entirety.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Dermody opened the public hearing. Attorney Jim Kaminski noted the notice was published on February 7, 2023, in the Herald Dispatch. There being no public comment Mayor Dermody closed the public hearing.

Motion to Vote/Approve:

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to approve a Resolution for An Additional Appropriation for LIT – Public Safety and Major Moves Construction as presented; motion was seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION R-4-2023
A RESOLUTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR LIT –
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MAJOR MOVES CONSTRUCTION

Other Business

Mayor Dermody noted the Board of Public Works will be deciding on the trash contract at their meeting on February 22, 2023.

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 6, 2023