

**November 20, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilwoman West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

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

Absent: Vincent

**Approval of 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 was seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**City of La Porte Police Accommodation and Commendation of Distinguished Service**

Police Chief Paul Brettin along with Police Merit Commission members announced a Police Accommodation Award for Officer Ryan Allen and a Commendation of Distinguished Service Award for Corporal Adam Jaskowiak for their extraordinary service during a fire on November 4, 2023, at 1409 Monroe Street.

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

None

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Sustainability Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Sustainability Commission will meet November 27, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will meet November 29, 2023, at 5:15 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Traffic Commission meeting will be December 5, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the Police Station.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Park Board meeting will meet on December 20, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway announced a Police Accommodation Award for Officer Ryan Allen and a Commendation of Distinguished Service Award for Corporal Adam Jaskowiak for their extraordinary service during a fire on November 4, 2023, at 1409 Monroe Street.

**Business Improvement District Board:** Councilwoman Cutler reported the Business Improvement District Board approved electrical repairs of outlets per Community Development and Planning Director Craig Phillips for \$3,900 for the snowflakes and wreaths being installed downtown. In addition, Councilwoman Cutler reported the large snowflake swag purchased by the Urban Enterprise Association for the Business Improvement District has been installed on Monroe Street and looks beautiful. Councilwoman Cutler reported the irrigation system, which CDP Director Phillips has been working on, is no longer functional and moving forward, plants downtown will have to be watered manually. Councilwoman Cutler reported a tree was removed in front of Royale with Cheese on Michigan Avenue and no explanation was given as to why or who removed it and Phillips is looking into it. Councilwoman Cutler noted the Downtown Pattern Book was completed and will be available on the City of La Porte website. Jim Kaminski, member of the Business Improvement District Board stated the next step of the plan is to look into the renewal of the Business Improvement District including what the district will look like, how it will be funded and if levy would need to be raised to cover the maintenance costs that the Business Improvement District oversees. Councilwoman Cutler reported the next Business Improvement District meeting will be held on December 11, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall.

**Urban Enterprise Association Board:** Councilwoman Cutler reported the Urban Enterprise Association Board held their annual budget meeting prior to their regular meeting. Councilwoman Cutler reported the 2024 proposed budget was reviewed and a suggestion to consider a marketing consultant for the business and residential grants, as well as a special grant request for a GED lab program were discussed. Councilwoman Cutler reported a 50/50 grant was approved for Dental Office Enterprises for a solar panel project. Other contract renewals approved and reported by Councilwoman Cutler were for EZ Consultant, Code Enforcement and Downtown Event Coordination. Councilwoman Cutler reported there will be no December Urban Enterprise Association meeting.

**Fire Merit Commission:** Councilwoman West reported the annual fire performance ratings are progressing well and should be complete well in advance of the December 10, 2023, deadline. Councilwoman West reported there has been discussion on the consideration of hiring firefighters beginning at the age of 18 however, with La Porte Fire Department being under a merit system, state statute prevents the department from hiring anyone under the age of 21. Councilwoman West reported a new state law was passed mandating all departments not under a merit system will now have to implement one before January of 2025 which will then restrict them from hiring anyone under the age of 21. Councilwoman West reported the next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held on December 6, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Fire Station No. 1.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority met Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 5:15 P.M. at the Airport.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** Councilman Konieczny reported the November meeting for Historic Preservation Commission has been cancelled and the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Creating Funds for the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury Equitable Sharing for State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies Asset Forfeiture Programs:**

**Fund No. 2445 – Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Asset Forfeiture Fund, Fund No. 2446 – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Asset Forfeiture Fund, Fund No. 2447 – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Asset Forfeiture Fund**

Councilman Galloway made a motion to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only: motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read an Ordinance Creating Funds for the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury Equitable Sharing for State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies Asset Forfeiture Programs:

**Fund No. 2445 – Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Asset Forfeiture Fund, Fund No. 2446 – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Asset Forfeiture Fund, Fund No. 2447 – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Asset Forfeiture Fund by title only.**

Police Chief Brettin stated this is City of La Porte's participation in the drug unit HIDTA - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area where City of La Porte Police Department in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies,

seizes funds from drug dealers which are then divided among the Departments that participate.

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun stated there is guidance that we are required to follow for accounting and record keeping for each of these funds so this Ordinance allows us to create the fund so that then the funds can be spent according to the federal guidelines outlined.

**Motion/Vote:** Councilman Franke made a motion to adopt an Ordinance Creating Funds for the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury Equitable Sharing for State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies Asset Forfeiture Programs: Fund No. 2445 – Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Asset Forfeiture Fund, Fund No. 2446 – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Asset Forfeiture Fund, Fund No. 2447 – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Asset Forfeiture Fund; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 32-2023**

**ORDINANCE CREATING FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY EQUITABLE SHARING FOR STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAMS: FUND NO. 2445 – DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) ASSET FORFEITURE FUND, FUND NO. 2446 – BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF) ASSET FORFEITURE FUND, FUND NO. 2447 – FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) ASSET FORFEITURE FUND**

#### **Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401 – Clear Lake Loop**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only: motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401 – Civic Improvements by title only.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun explained that in an effort of transparency and to allow for Public Hearings and Public Comments, the City did not budget any American Rescue Plan funds. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun explained Ordinance No 13-2021, Resolution R-12-2022 and R-18-2022 outlined the Council's plan to spend the funds, as is federally required, and that there are several "Transformational City of La Porte Projects" and these additional

appropriations tonight will be expenditures of two of these approved projects and within the budgets for two of these projects.

**Motion/Vote:** Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to adopt an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401 – Clear Lake Loop; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 33-2023**  
**ORDINANCE FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR ARP**  
**CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND – FUND NO. 2401 –**  
**CLEAR LAKE LOOP**

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401 – Civic Improvements**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only: motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401 – Civic Improvements by title only.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun again explained that in an effort of transparency and to allow for Public Hearings and Public Comments, the City did not budget any American Rescue Plan funds. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun explained Ordinance No 13-2021, Resolution R-12-2022 and R-18-2022 outlined the Council's plan to spend the funds, as is federally required, and that there are several "Transformational City of La Porte Projects" and these additional appropriations tonight will be expenditures of two of these approved projects and within the budgets for two of these projects.

**Motion/Vote:** Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to adopt an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401 – Civic Improvements; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 34-2023**  
**ORDINANCE FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR ARP**  
**CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND – FUND NO. 2401 – CIVIC**  
**IMPROVEMENTS**

**Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2023 Budget**

Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to read a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2023 Budget in its entirety.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated budgets are estimates and by year end, Department Heads have transfers to complete to clear up their appropriations.

**Motion/Vote Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2023 Budget:**

Councilman Franke made a motion to adopt a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2023 Budget; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-29-2023  
RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2023 BUDGET**

**Other Business:**

Mayor Dermody wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and asked City Attorney Otis to share information on the La Porte Education Foundation 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot. Attorney Otis reported there were currently 544 participants signed up for the 5K. Mayor Dermody reported a wonderful turnout for the Rumors Concert. The Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band nearly sold-out the Civic Auditorium. Mayor Dermody thanked the Sales Family for their service to the community at the American Legion where they cook and serve a Thanksgiving meal and noted more information on the free meal will be available tomorrow. Finally, Mayor Dermody announced the Santa Parade is Saturday, November 25 at 3:30 P.M.

**Adjourn**

Councilman Galloway moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: December 4, 2023