**JUNE 21, 2021**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 6:00pm.

**Pledge**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Cutler.

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

**Absent:** None

**Minutes**

As each Council member received an advance copy of the minutes from the previous meeting, Mayor Dermody asked if there were any corrections or additions. Councilman Galloway moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**Petitions & Comments**

Sierra Sue Jesch from Jefferson Avenue asked if the security cameras were ever purchased for the Police officers and she stated she was informed that they were in fact purchased and she is happy because they protect the City against liability, protects Police Officers and helps prosecute those who break the law. Detective Jim Ferguson commented that the cameras were purchased last year and complaints against officers have gone down, and they have high evidentiary value. Every Officer is issued one.

Steve England of 2358 N 150 E stated he would like to know where the money came from for the kayak launch, he would like to see white sand put down there instead of the concrete that can scratch the kayaks and suggested the old campground at Stone Lake be cleaned up and opened back up.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Franke stated the Police Merit Commission met on June 8th where there was a nomination of medal of distinguished service for Patrol Specialist Brandon Wilkerson and the Commission approved the hire of Tyler Knotts who transferred from the Gary Police Department.

**School Board:** Councilman Franke stated the School Board will meet on July 12th at 6pm at the Educational Services Center.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** Councilman Franke stated the Diversity and Inclusion meeting will take place on June 24th at 5pm in the Council Chambers.

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke stated the Redevelopment Commission will meet on June 30th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes stated the Park Board met on June 16th and they welcomed Joe Ault as a new member who replaces Drew Mullen. The Lakefest 2021 schedule has been announced. There are lots of amazing events taking place Friday July 30th through Sunday August 1st throughout our parks and downtown including concerts, volleyball tournaments, a downtown dance, kayak sunset paddles, a venetian boat parade and a 5K run. Approval was given for overnight security and off-road parking at Soldiers Memorial Park and Fox park on the 30th and 31st. Permission was once again granted to allow Fox Park to remain open past 10:00pm during the annual Firefighters “Rock the Park” taking place on July 24th. Mark Schreiber recognized Pam Carroll at the meeting for organizing the night bike rides, art camps, all of the youth sports activities and the movie nights in the parks. He thanked her and her staff for all of their incredible work.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes stated that due to the Fourth of July holiday weekend and our next Council meeting being Tuesday July 6th the July Traffic Commission meeting has been moved to July 13th at 6:00pm at the Police Station.

**Mayor’s Veterans Committee:** Councilman Galloway stated the Mayor’s Veterans Committee had their brick dedication on June 12th with over 200 people in attendance to show our veterans’ support.

**Urban Enterprise Association:** Councilwoman Cutler stated the UEA will met on June 23rd at 4pm.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** Councilwoman Konieczny stated the HPC met on Tuesday June 15th where the commission received a revised copy of the Indiana Landmark’s Residential & Commercial Design Guidelines specifically for local designation for the City of La Porte. The Commission members stated that the document will be a great tool for both current homeowners with the historic designation and a great road map for those homeowner’s that might be interested in getting their property designated. The Commission tabled approving the final draft until the document is complete with logos and illustrations. They hope to have the complete document finalized by the end of the summer. They are in the process of creating a coloring book geared to 3rd & 4th graders highlighting designated properties in the City of La Porte. The coloring book will provide a history on property and while it is geared towards elementary school students it is bound to be fun for people of all ages. They will meet on Tuesday July 20th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers.

**Tree Commission:** Councilwoman Konieczny stated the Tree Commission met on Thursday June 17th at 5pm. The Tre Commission maned a booth at the La Porte Farmer’s Market two weeks ago. They said that the visitors were very inquisitive and supportive about trees in general and our City’s street trees. The Commission will make their next appearance at the Farmer’s Market on July 17th where their theme will be “Stump Steve, our local certified arborist”. The City of La Porte is actively accepting applications and performing interviews for seasonal part time tree worker. We are offering competitive pay in a fun and safe work environment. Proper training will be provided to those who are hired. The next Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 15th at 5pm in Council Chambers.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny stated the Airport Authority met on Wednesday June 9th at 5:15pm via zoom. Gary Wilson from the FAA confirmed receipt of the forecast sent for review on behalf of the Airport’s Master Plan and runway re-orientation. This is the next step in creating the Master Plan. Lead time for review can take up to 6 months but they are hopeful that it will be reviewed sooner. Fuel sales continue to remain strong as we lead into June. In May they sold over 9,300 gallons of jet fuel. To put jet fuel in perspective, in 2019 as of June the YTD sales were over 18,000 gallons of fuel, YTD totals for June 2021, the airport has sold over 26,000 gallons of fuel. We are 44% ahead of YTD numbers. She noted that later in the meeting she will introduce an Ordinance on behalf of the Airport Authority asking to make an additional appropriation for Cumulative Building Fund. The Airport has been presented with potential opportunities that were not foreseeable last year therefore these funds, while liquid and available were not included in the 2021 budget. They will meet again on Wednesday July 14th in person at 5:15pm at the Airport.

Mayor Dermody noted the Mayor’s Ball will be held on October 9th.

**4th of July- Capital of the Day Proclamation**

Mayor Dermody read a Proclamation from Governor Eric Holcomb proclaiming La Porte as Capital of the Day. The Mayor’s Assistant presented the Proclamation to Joy and Dawn Zigler from the Jaycees and Drum Osbourne from Kiwanis.

Mayor Dermody stated we are very fortunate that La Porte is known for our 4th of July Parade and Capital of the Day and thanked Annette Loeffler for making it happen.

**Second and Final Reading of An Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Placing Stop Signs on Lake Shore Drive and Chestnut Street**

Councilman Franke moved to read on Ordinance Amending Section 94-322 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Placing Stop Signs on Lake Shore Drive and Chestnut Street for the second and final reading by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. The Ordinance was read by title only.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 15-2021**

Councilman Vincent mad a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE 15-2021**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 94-322 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA, PLACING STOP SIGNS ON LAKE SHORE DRIVE AND CHESTNUT STREET**

**Public Hearing and Introduction of an Ordinance Approving Additional Appropriation for La Porte Municipal Airport Authority**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to introduce an Ordinance Approving Additional Appropriation for La Porte Municipal Airport Authority in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. The Ordinance was read in its entirety.

As this Ordinance requires a public hearing, Mayor Dermody declared the public hearing open. The City Attorney Nick Otis reported the public hearing was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on June 11th and in the Regional News on June 10th.

The Mayor asked if there were any public comments regarding this Ordinance. As there were none, he declared the public hearing closed.

Ed Volk attorney for the La Porte Municipal Airport stated they are asking for approval of this Ordinance because they have the money in the bank however, they need the approval of the State of Indiana and with this Ordinance they can move forward with their request to the State. He introduced Dale Fisher who is the secretary and Jim Shearin who has been with the airport for 28 years.

Mayor Dermody asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, the Mayor advised the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting on July 6th.

**Other Business**

Mayor Dermody thanked our Communications Director Jess Bruder for putting on the 50’s Cruise in Friday Night Event on June 18th and stated the 4th of July Parade and Lake Fest are the two new upcoming events.

**Adjourn**

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

**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Thomas P Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: July 6, 2021**