**SEPTEMBER 7, 2022**

**2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met on Monday, September 7, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers for a 2023 Budget Workshop.

**Roll Call**

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

Absent: West

Mayor Dermody gave the following 2023 Budget Presentation:

**2023 Budget Overview:**

* 2023 Budget Challenges
* 2023 Budget Priorities:
  + Maintaining a structurally balanced general fund budget
  + Bolstering public safety
  + Improving our essential services
* Budget Summary
* 2023 Goals
* Questions

**Budget Challenges and Assumptions:**

Mayor Dermody reported it is estimated the City will lose an estimated, roughly 28% of our operating budget due to the circuit breaker (tax caps) and it is essential the City continues to grow our net assessed value. On the horizon is a potential assessment freeze by State Legislators for low-income and senior homeowners which will impact the City’s net assessed value.

**2022 Budget Priorities**

* Maintaining a structurally balanced general fund budget
  + Continue to create efficiencies and find funding alternatives to strengthen our city’s future.
    - 2022 was the first structurally balanced general fund since 2015!
  + Find new ways to attract and keep talent.
* Bolstering Public Safety
  + Utilizing the LIT tax funds to create a competitive wage for our public servants, allow for the purchase of new technology, etc.
  + Cracking down on drug trafficking through law and code enforcement.
  + Creating support for those struggling with mental health and addiction.
    - Social workers/paramedicine
* Improving our Essential Services
  + Maximizing dollars to continue improving our roads, sidewalks, and water/wastewater infrastructure.
  + Committing funds to keep our Street crew on the roads

**Budget Summary**

Mayor Dermody summarized in graph form each fund estimated for 2023 including estimated cash balance, estimated receipts and disbursements, estimated ending cash, estimated net cash flow and estimated cash reserves. General Fund is a structurally balanced budget, however there is work to do in the Park Fund to offset the increase in levy.

**2022 Goals: Status Report**

* **Fiscal Responsibility**
  + Work towards balancing the Park Fund in the coming years
    - Using alternative dollars to fund future programming
  + Explore all future revenue options
    - Civic Auditorium improvements, La Porte events, etc.

**Growing our Community**

* + Focus on growing our net assessment
    - Net assessed value increased 8 percent – what we’re doing is working.
  + Increase all types of housing for LaPorte
    - HFL Housing Study, Beechwood Lakes, Tibma Bakery, 18th Street, 701 Maple, Lows Point
  + Explore annexation opportunities in currently serviced areas
    - The Barr Property (217 acres), 39 North Conservancy District

**2023 Goals**

* + Creating support for those struggling with mental health and addiction.
  + Continuing to maximize efficiencies and find creative revenue opportunities to balance all funds.
  + Continue efforts to grow our net assessment.

**Adjourn**

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

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

**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

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

**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: October 3, 2022**