**April 18, 2022**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilwoman Konieczny led the pledge of allegiance.

**Present** Cutler, Vincent, Feikes, Galloway, Franke, Konieczny

**Absent** West

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

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

Charles Isley, 1116 Indiana Avenue, Apt. A: Mr. Isley thanked Council for their bipartisan cooperation regarding the drainage concerns on Indiana Avenue and noted their swift response.

La Porte City Police Chief Paul Brettin presented a framed copy of the current Police Department roster to Mayor Dermody and thanked him for his support.

Mayor Dermody welcomed Andrea Smith as City of La Porte’s new Human Resources Director and invited her to speak. Andrea Smith, Human Resources Director, came from Michigan City and noted she is excited to continue to move City of La Porte forward. Ms. Smith noted her door is always open and welcomes the public and employees to engage her with anything they need. Council members welcomed Andrea Smith.

Mayor Dermody welcomed Coach Louie Kuzdas from La Porte High School’s Wrestling team who introduced La Porte’s first ever two-time State Champion Wrestler, Ashton Jackson. Coach Kuzdas noted he is honored to introduce Ashton Jackson, a champion on and off the mat and congratulated Ashton for his hard work, grit, and perseverance academically and in wrestling with an undefeated 50-0 season. Mayor Dermody congratulated Ashton Jackson and invited him to speak. Ashton Jackson thanked his coaches and noted his excitement to continue to work hard in the off-season and come back for his third state championship next year. Ashton Jackson introduced his mother and father, his Nana and his Aunt. Coach Kuzdas stated Ashton is rewriting the record books and is a special young man. Mayor Dermody invited Ashton and his family to take a picture with City Council.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Sustainability Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Sustainability Commission will have its first meeting April 25, 2022, at City Hall at 4:00 P.M.

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported Redevelopment Commission will meet April 27, 2022, at City Hall at 5:15 P.M.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** Councilman Franke reported the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will not meet again until the new Human Resource Director is in place, but there is a tentative date of April 28, 2022.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes reported Park Board will meet April 20, 200 at 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported due to the Primary Elections on May 3, 2022, the Traffic Commission will meet on May 10, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the Police Department.

**Mayor’s Veteran’s Committee**: Councilman Galloway reported Mayor’s Veteran’s Committee met April 11, 2022 and elected new officers. Councilman Galloway noted there are 47 bricks for the dedication ceremony and Mayor’s Veteran’s Committee voted to keep all brick uniform. Laura Blankenship will sing the National Anthem at the Brick Dedication Ceremony. Councilman Galloway reported the next Mayor’s Veteran’s Committee meeting will be held May 9, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at the Park Department.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported Police Merit Commission met April 12, 2022, and there is a full-time secretary that has joined the team. There are two new hires waiting on INPRS approval. Councilman Galloway reported Emergency Response Team has equipment ordered.

**Business Improvement District:** Councilwoman Cutler reported at the April Business Improvement District meeting, the downtown planters were the main topic of discussion. Inspection and repairs of the irrigation system should occur in May so that the flowers will be planted by the end of May or first of June. The next Business Improvement District meeting will be May 9, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall and the quarterly long-term design planning meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

**Urban Enterprise Association:**  The April Urban Enterprise Association meeting was cancelled due to lack of business.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported that the Historic Preservation Commission in conjunction with many Corporate and Community sponsors worked on distributing the City of La Porte Historic Preservation Coloring Books to all third-grade students throughout the La Porte Community School Corporation. The Historic Preservation Commission was awarded a grant from Indiana Humanities to produce the coloring books, illustrated by Peggy Michaels and researched and written by Bruce Johnson. The printing and distribution were made possible by the following sponsors: American Licorice, Bethany Church, Garwood Orchards, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Hatfield Pest Control, McCoy Wildlife Control, State Representative Jim and Becky Pressel, Mayor Tom and Jackie Dermody, Barry’s Photography, 96.7 The Eagle and HometownNews.com.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported fuel sales remain strong with jet fuel at $5.25 per gallon, 100LL at $5.35 per gallon, 100LLSS at $5.20 per gallon and 90 REC at $4.40 per gallon. Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority was able to secure and purchase additional acreage from an adjoining landowner which will be instrumental for both the future growth of the airport and the highly anticipated runway re-orientation project. The Airport Authority will meet May 11, 2022, at 5:15 P.M. at the Airport.

**Second and Final Reading of** **an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte**

Councilwoman Cutler moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion was seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte by title only. City Planner Craig Phillips explained to the Council this amendment is to re-zone the area from R1B Single Family District to the R2A Townhouse Residential District. Mr. Phillips noted the property was acquired by land swap with the La Porte Community School Corporation and stated he is available for any questions.

**Motion/Vote to Adopt**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 7-2022**

**an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte**

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Human Resources Department**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Human Resources Department by title only.

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun noted Corinne Fitzgerald has graciously agreed to come out of retirement to fill a part-time position in the Human Resources Department.

**Motion/Vote to Adopt**

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to adopt an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Human Resources Department; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 8-2022**

**an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Human Resources Department**

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 2-103 in Chapter 2 of the La Porte Municipal Code Establishing a Commission on Sustainability** Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Amending Section 2-103 in Chapter 2 of the La Porte Municipal Code Establishing a Commission on Sustainability by title only.

City Attorney Nick Otis noted this amendment was due to an error in staggered terms.

**Motion/Vote to Adopt:** Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to adopt an Ordinance Amending Section 2-103 in Chapter 2 of the La Porte Municipal Code Establishing a Commission on Sustainability; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 9-2022**

**Ordinance Amending Section 2-103 in Chapter 2 of the**

**La Porte Municipal Code Establishing a**

**Commission on Sustainability**

**Introduction of an Ordinance Reestablishing the Cumulative Capital Development Fund Under Indiana Code 36-9-15.5** Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance Reestablishing the Cumulative Capital Development Fund Under Indiana Code 36-9-15.5 in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Reestablishing the Cumulative Capital Development Fund Under Indiana Code 36-9-15.5 in its entirety.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted this is an administrative function to allow City of La Porte to capture the maximum levy bringing the Cumulative Capital Development rate back to .05 and must be done every few years.

**Public Hearing for an Ordinance Reestablishing the Cumulative Capital Development Fund Under Indiana Code 36-9-15.5**

As this Ordinance requires a public hearing, Mayor Dermody declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present or on livestream who wished to address the Council regarding this Ordinance.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun reported proof of publication in the Herald Dispatch on April 7, 2022, and April 14, 2022, as required by State statute.

There being no public comment, Mayor Dermody declared the public hearing closed and noted the second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the May 2, 2022 Council meeting.

**Introduction of an Ordinance Authorizing the Collection of an Administrative Fee for Municipality’s Urban Enterprise Association** Councilman Vincent made a motion to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilman Vincent read an Ordinance Authorizing the Collection of an Administrative Fee for Municipality’s Urban Enterprise Association in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody invited Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook for a brief summarization. Bert Cook reported the administration of Urban Enterprise Zones was previously handled by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and the IEDC subsequently handed over control to local governments with an Urban Enterprise Zone. The Urban Enterprise Association has paid a 1% fee for the past two years to the AIEZ and they essentially collect the fee and return it back to the Association. The Urban Enterprise Association Board has discussed this in great length and decided sending the fees to the AIEZ holds no value. Mary Ann Richards provides the administrative services to the Urban Enterprise Association and will continue to do so. The 1% fee that with this ordinance will come back to local control is approximately $15,000 per year, so just a portion of what it costs to administer the Urban Enterprise Zone.

Mayor Dermody reported this Ordinance will be presented again on May 2, 2022.

**Other Business:** Mayor Dermody noted Spring Clean-up is April 25-29 and residents must adhere to RTS rules as it concerns pick-up of large items. Mayor Dermody also wished residents a happy Dyngus Day and noted Chief Brettin and his team will be out patrolling. Lastly, Mayor Dermody reported he and Clerk-Treasurer Parthun will keep residents updated regarding the La Porte County tax billing error.

**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: May 2, 2022**