**August 15, 2022**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday August 15, 2022, at 6:03 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Pledge**

Councilman Franke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Absent** None

**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 West and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody requested a moment of silence in honor of Jackie Walorski, Emma Thomson, and Zach Potts.

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

Brian Kajer, 406 Niesen St, addressed the Council, and Burt Cook, to thank them for all their hard work and trying to turn La Porte into a prosperous City. Respectfully, Mr. Kajer stated there are still slum lords using loopholes within the system, and this is why the houses that burned on John and Monroe, six to eight months ago, are still standing. Mr. Kajer stated these landlords do not carry the proper insurance on their properties and often claim to be self-insured.

Mayor Dermody agreed with Mr. Kajer and stated the Monroe Street house bid for demo opens tomorrow. Mayor Dermody stated there is an insurance process that these homes must go through and unfortunately the City cannot intervene but both homes are on the list to eventually come down.

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Ave, addressed the Council regarding his tree lawn that had not been reseeded from the work done a few weeks prior. Mr. Ogle stated he asked the team reseeding the tree lawn across the street and his was done within two hours. In addition, Mr. Ogle expressed his concerns regarding his trash not being picked up on Friday by RTS, Recycle Track Systems. Mr. Ogle stated he reached out to RTS and was told he would receive an email, which he did, but as of today his trash has still not been picked up. Mr. Ogle stated he wanted to make sure he did not receive an Ordinance violation for having his can still at the street past the 24-hour period of trash pick-up.

Mayor Dermody responded by stating Mr. Ogle would receive a response back with RTS tonight. Mayor Dermody reminded everyone that the trash contract is up this year, and they look forward to reviewing all bids and quotes.

Rose Kneifel addressed the Council regarding her concerns that the Salvation Army does not offer much food anymore. Ms. Kneifel stated she has been going to the Salvation Army for food for years and as of recently the shelves have been empty and the meat they have been serving is not good. Ms. Kneifel stated the elderly just need some help being able to eat.

Laurie Silva addressed the Council and expanded on Ms. Kneifel’s concerns regarding the Salvation Army and them no longer offering hot meals for the elderly. In addition, Ms. Silva addressed her concerns regarding affordable housing. Ms. Silva stated the City is supposed to have affordable housing and they do not. Ms. Silva stated her income would only allow her to spend $441 per month toward rent and therefore she must live in her car.

Mayor Dermody responded by stating they would follow up with the Salvation Army tomorrow. In addition, Councilman Franke stated the Pax center is a great resource and wished Ms. Silva the best.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**School Board:** Councilman Franke reported the School Board met on Monday August 8, 2022: They are feeling ahead of the national teacher staffing shortage with only a few open positions. Councilman Franke reported data since 2019 was discussed to see how schools performed during the pandemic. 3rd grade had a net increase of 1.03% for ELA, 3% above the state average. Hailmann Elementary had the highest proficiency out of all Elementary Schools and the 4th Grade had a 1%, with Critchfield having the highest proficiency. The High School is implementing a stricter student ID policy for students and staff; IDs must be worn at all times and will be used for cafeteria food and the media center. Athletics are going cashless therefore students will be required to purchase a pass online to attend sporting events. July 29, 2022 was the groundbreaking for the new transportation garage with excavation starting within the next week or two. In addition, the Hailmann Elementary and High School parking lots got new asphalt and striping. The CFO is working with Baker Tilly to make sure the circuit brakers are calculated correctly.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes reported Park Board will meet on Wednesday August 17, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes reported due to the Labor Day Holiday the Traffic Commission will meet on Tuesday September 16, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Police Station

**Mayor’s Veterans Committee**: Councilman Galloway reported the Mayor’s Veterans Committee met August 8, 2022 and the Veteran’s Day speaker will be Todd Rokita, Indiana Attorney General. Arrangements for a meal after this meeting at the VFW are trying to be set up. The next meeting will be Tuesday September 20, 2022.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported Police Merit Commission met August 9, 2022. Councilman Galloway stated the meeting was 10 minutes long and he did not receive a report.

**Business Improvement District Board:** Councilwoman Cutler reported at the Business Improvement District Board meeting this month, claims for over $93,000 for recent repairs to planters, pavers, and removal of electrical boxes were presented. John Spiggle made a motion to request additional appropriations from City Council and it was approved. Mofield Properties submitted a quote for snow removal costs expected this winter, and the contract was approved. John Spiggle presented the BID budget for 2023 and it was also approved. In addition, currently in the BID district the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra banners are being installed, celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

**Urban Enterprise Association:** Councilwoman Cutler reported this month’s meeting of the UEA will be held Wednesday August 17, 2022, at 4:00 P.M. in the LEAP offices.

**Fire Merit Commission:** Councilwoman West reported the first applicant of the hiring list for the Fire Merrit Commission is proceeding through the hiring process and all is going well, according to Chief Snyder. Commission Member Edward Gondek submitted his letter of retirement to Mayor Dermody after 22 ½ years of service. Councilwoman West thanked Edward for his service and commitment to our fire department.

**Landlord and Rental Housing Committee**: Councilwoman West reported this committee, led by Jeff Batchelor, met on August 4th, 2022, to discuss and review the forms and answer any questions as they move forward with requiring the registration of all rental housing units which are or will exist in the city. The purpose of this initiative is to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the city. This initiative will come before the Council in the near future.

**Historic Preservation Commission:**  Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Historic Preservation Commission will meet tomorrow, Tuesday August 16, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported La Porte Municipal Airport had a successful Air Fair two weeks ago with over two thousand people in attendance over the two days. Councilwoman Konieczny offered a special thank you to all of the staff, volunteers, and the Boy Scout Troop who ran the pancake breakfast, for all their hard work for this amazing event. The Airport Authority’s next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 14, 2022, at 5:15 P.M. at the airport.

**Introduction of an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Establishing Allowable Costs in Accordance with Sub Part E of 2 C.F.R. 200:**

Councilwoman West moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Establishing Allowable Costs In Accordance With Sub Part E of 2 C.F.R 200.

Clerk Treasurer Parthun clarified this Ordinance is something that is required by State Board of Accounts because we receive Federally Funded Grants. City Attorney Nick Otis stated we were already doing these things; we just did not have a policy.

This Ordinance will move to the first meeting in September; Tuesday September 6, 2022.

**Introduction of a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Authorizing Electronic Funds Transfer**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to introduces a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Authorizing Electronic Funds Transfer for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Authorizing Electronic Funds Transfer for the first and only time in its entirety.

**Motion to Adopt/Vote**

Councilman Franke made a motion to Adopt a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Authorizing Electronic Funds Transfer; motion by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Clerk Treasurer Parthun clarified by stating there are very specific reasons an electronic funds transfer would need to take place, as outlined in the Resolution, and a resolution is required by the State Board of Accounts.

**resolution no. R-16-2022**

**Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Authorizing**

**Electronic Funds Transfer**

**Introduction of a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Transfer Funds Within The 2022 Budget**

Councilman Vincent moved to Introduce a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Transfer Funds Within The 2022 Budget; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Vincent read a Resolution of the City of La Porte Indiana to Transfer Funds Within The 2022 Budget for the first and only time in its entirety.

**Motion to Adopt/Vote**

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to Adopt a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Transfer Funds Within The 2022 Budget; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried.

**resolution no. R-17-2022**

**Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana to Transfer Funds Within The 2022 Budget**

**Other Business:**

Mayor Dermody noted they would be going to the America Legion tonight to talk about Patton Cemetery; there are approximately 900 veterans that are buried in Patton Cemetery. Mayor Dermody stated they have run out of funds and although this is not City property, they will be looking at future opportunities of how to fund Maintenance; approximately $22,000 or more per year. In addition, Mayor Dermody noted Cheeseburger in Paradise, a free downtown event, will be Friday starting around 6:00 P.M.

**Adjourn**

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

**Approve: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

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

**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: September 6, 2022**