

**May 3, 2023**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilwoman Feikes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Absent:** Cutler

**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 seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

D.W. Mistretta, 1603 W. Tiffany Woods Drive, addressed the Mayor regarding 39N and the fiscal plan. Mr. Mistretta had questions about three additional police officers and police cars in the fiscal plan noting there are 276 residents residing in 39N.

Carol Barker, 3577 N. 100 W., addressed the Council regarding 39N and the corridor noting the annexation does not affect her now but knows it will.

Chris Pinkerton, PO BOX 1811, addressed the Council regarding the homestead exemption and the 1% circuit breaker as it relates to 39N. Ms. Pinkerton noted the residents paid for three million in infrastructure and three million in interest. Ms. Pinkerton hopes to see the residents credited for the funds they invested to obtain utilities.

Sierra-Sue Jesch, Jefferson Avenue, commended Council on creating a reasonable area to walk on the sidewalk on Lincolnway near the building that collapsed. Ms. Jesch noted there are bricks that are not level in the Business Improvement Area, and they are trip hazards. In addition, Ms. Jesch noted the planters are too big for vehicles to see around.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Sustainability Committee:** Councilman Franke reported the Sustainability Committee met on April 24, 2023, and held election of officers. Councilman

Franke also reported this year's goals for the Sustainability Committee, which includes a partnership with NIPSCO for LED Lights.

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on Wednesday April 26, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers and approved claims.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board met on Wednesday April 19, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office. Councilwoman Feikes reported there was a moment of silence observed in honor of Chris Miller, Park Department Mechanic who passed away recently. Councilwoman Feikes also reported Superintendent Mark Schreiber gave an update on the 2023-2027 Master Plan noting he is hoping to have a full draft by May and approval by June. Councilwoman Feikes reported a three-year lease was approved with Northwest Health for the Activity Center for Older Adults that will now be housed on the first floor of the Heritage Place Building. Councilwoman Feikes stated the Blue Heron is reconfiguring their docks requesting a slight easement to allow for a loading pier at the north end Unity Park; they also asked for an easement of about twenty-five feet into Kiwanis Teledyne Park which the Park Board approved. Councilwoman Feikes reported a fee schedule was set to allow dedication plaques at three overlooks in the park system noting any money collected will be used for interpretive signage throughout the parks. Councilwoman Feikes also reported permission was given for horses to be allowed in Fox Park on July 20, 2023, for an Arts in the Park preconcert event. Finally, Councilwoman Feikes reported Civic Auditorium rental fees were waived for Team 265 (a park of Play for Jake Foundation) to do a heart screening event at the Civic Auditorium on May 13, 2023, from 8:00 AM – Noon.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes reported Traffic Commission will meet May 9, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

**Mayors Veterans Committee:**

Councilman Galloway reported the Mayors Veterans Committee will next meet on May 8, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. at the Park Department. Councilman Galloway also reported the Veteran's Brick Dedication Ceremony will be the first Saturday in June.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

**Fire Merit Commission:** Councilwoman West thanked Chief Snyder and the Fire Department for a wonderful Pancake Breakfast they held the prior

weekend. Councilwoman West also reported the next Fire Merit Commission will meet Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at Fire Station No. 1.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority will meet next Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5:15 P.M at the Airport.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported May is National Historic Preservation month and highlighted the two properties petitioning for local designation being presented to Council at tonight's meeting. Councilwoman Konieczny reported each applicant has conducted extensive research about their respective property and have filed the appropriate applications necessary for consideration by the City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission and by the City of La Porte Common Council for Local Designation. Councilwoman Konieczny also noted the Historic Preservation Commission's Chairperson, Anna Weissman and her husband Chris will be relocating to Germany. Councilwoman Konieczny reported during Ms. Weissman's tenure on the Historic Preservation Commission, she has been an integral part of rebranding the Commission and ensuring that the mission fosters outreach and education within our local community. Councilwoman Konieczny reported Ms. Weissman has, on Historic Preservation Commission's behalf, created various pieces of literature including the importance of local designation, the benefits of being locally designated, the importance of historic preservation for our community, has created an orientation binder for Commission members, created an online portal to complete Certificates of Approval, has spent endless hours researching properties, organized and hosted two workshops and was instrumental in the revision of the local guidelines all while leading the Commission with a positive, respectful and forward thinking attitude. Councilwoman Konieczny commended Ms. Weissman on her work with the Historic Preservation Commission and wished her and her husband the best in their future endeavors thanking her for her time and service. Councilwoman Konieczny reported the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held May 16, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Mayor Dermody noted the City of La Porte has been lucky to have Ms. Weissman leading the Historic Preservation Commission bringing quality members and focusing on education and outreach.

Anna Weissman thanked Mayor Dermody and Councilwoman Konieczny for their work with the Historic Preservation Commission.

### **Bike Month Proclamation and Presentation of Bicycle Friendly Community**

David Heinold, Assistant City Planner/ADA Coordinator for City of La Porte reported City of La Porte received the Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Mr. Heinold also reported May is National Bike Month noting there was a bike ride to City Hall before tonight's meeting to commemorate this occasion with the designation's sign and certificate highlighting City of La Porte and its bicycle advocates were helping keep the streets safer and more connected within City of La Porte and beyond. City of La Porte was the only Indiana community accepted for the Bronze Level designation at the December announcement which lasts until the Fall of 2026 creating a better quality of life, sustainability, and transportation options for all residents.

Mayor Dermody presented a Proclamation - Bike Month for May of 2023.

### **Second and Final Reading of An Ordinance Establishing a No Parking Zone on Both Sides of 8th Street Between C Street & E Street**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance Establishing a No Parking Zone on Both Side of 8th Street Between C Street & E Street by title only.

### **Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance No. 9-2023**

Councilman Vincent made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 9-2023; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

City Planner David Heinold noted this Ordinance is being done as part of the trail expansion to connect the schools and confirmed Chief Snyder spoke to affected residents who understood what the changes were meant to increase safety.

## **ORDINANCE NO. 9-2023 ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE ON BOTH SIDES OF 8TH STREET BETWEEN C STREET & E STREET**

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Establishing a No Parking Zone on Both Sides of A Street From 14th Street to 18th Street**

Councilman Vincent moved to introduce an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Vincent read an Ordinance Establishing a No Parking Zone on Both Sides of A Street From 14th Street to 18th Street by title only.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance No. 10-2023**

Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 10-2023; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

City Planner David Heinold noted this Ordinance is being presented as part of the trail expansion to connect the schools and his previous comments pertain to this Ordinance, as well regarding the Slicer Pathway Project.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10-2023  
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE ON BOTH SIDES OF  
A STREET FROM 14TH STREET TO 18TH STREET**

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Establishing No Parking on the  
West Side of A Street from 10th Street to 14th Street**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Establishing No Parking on the West Side of A Street from 10th Street to 14th Street by title only.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance No. 11-2023**

Councilman Vincent made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 11-2023; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

City Planner David Heinold noted this Ordinance is being presented as part of the trail expansion to connect the schools and his previous comments pertain to this Ordinance, as well regarding the Slicer Pathway Project.

**ORDINANCE NO. 11-2023  
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NO PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF A  
STREET FROM 10TH STREET TO 14TH STREET**

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 25-2022, to Amend Salaries in the Police Department**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried.

Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 25-2022, to Amend Salaries in The Police Department by title only. Police Chief Paul Brettin stated this amendment is for the Evidence Technician noting it is being funded out of the Police budget and no additional funds will be needed.

Mayor Dermody noted former Michigan City Police Officer of twenty-five years, Anthony McClintock, begins with City of La Porte May 3, 2023.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance No. 12-2023**

Councilman Franke made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 12-2023; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 12-2023  
ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 25-2022, TO AMEND SALARIES  
IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1820 Regarding the Membership of the Historic Preservation Commission**

Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1820 Regarding the Membership of the Historic Preservation Commission for the first time in its entirety.

Councilwoman Konieczny stated a prior Ordinance allowed the local historian, so long as they resided in City limits, to be a voting member of the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilwoman Konieczny stated that is in conflict with State statute and the Ordinance being presented tonight would keep us in compliance with State Statute. Councilwoman Konieczny stated the Council wishes for Bruce Johnson to remain on the Historic Preservation Commission in a non-voting capacity noting he has been the pioneer of the Historic Coloring Book which educates our youth about our historic architecture and provides funding for additional HPC workshops.

Mayor Dermody commended Historian Bruce Johnson for his hard work and commitment to City of La Porte's Historic Preservation Commission and noted the second reading will be on May 15, 2023.

**Introduction of an Ordinance Establishing the Dr. George L. and Catharine Piatt Andrew House 1209 Michigan Avenue as a Single Site Historic District**  
Councilman Vincent moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilman Vincent read an Ordinance Establishing the Dr. George L. and Catharine Piatt Andrew House 1209 Michigan Avenue as a Single Site Historic District for the first time in its entirety.

Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Anna Weissman, addressed Council to propose adoption of the local designation of 1209 Michigan Avenue due to its historical and architectural significance. Ms. Weissman spoke about the historical significance of this property based on her research, noting Dr. George L. Piatt and Catharine Piatt live in this house from 1884-1894 and may have been the original builders but there is no evidence of that. George and Catharine are part of the founding families of La Porte and by naming this property after them, we honor not only the contributions to our own town's history, but also connect it to the broader narrative of American heritage. Ms. Weissman told the history of Catharine's grandfather and father, noting their land would be used for the founding of the City of La Porte. Designating this property celebrates the founding of La Porte and the role that these early families played.

Deb Parcell, Indiana Landmarks, discussed the architectural significance of the property writing a several page document noting it is Queen Anne style architecture which is mostly intact. It is rated contributing which means it has most of its original features which is remarkable. The connection to La Porte's founders and the architectural design and degree of integrity of this property would merit protection as a designated local historic landmark under criterion one and two of the La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Historic District preservation procedure as associated with the life of a person significant in the past, embodiment of distinct characteristics of a type, period or method of construction and contains any architectural style, detail or other element in danger of becoming extinct.

Mayor Dermody thanked People Engaged in Preservation and Deb Parcell for their partnership ensuring historic properties with landlords that have allowed properties to go into disarray will be addressed.

**Introduction of an Ordinance Establishing the Grischow House 1302 Jackson Street as a Single Site Historic District**

Councilwoman West moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance Establishing the Grischow

House 1302 Jackson Street as a Single Site Historic District for the first time in its entirety.

Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Anna Weissman, addressed Council to propose adoption of the local designation of 1302 Jackson Street due to its historical and architectural significance. Ms. Weissman spoke about the historical significance of this property based on her research, noting the property was initially purchased by Grischow in 1874 with the home being built sometime between 1911-1913. Designating this property celebrates our immigrant legacy. People all over the world come to this country seeking a better life for themselves and their children and designating this property reminds us of the resilience and determination of those who have contributed to the development of our community. May is Historic Preservation Month and taking the time today to give you a better understanding of the history of these houses to protect their incredible historic architecture but also to encourage us as a community to see these houses as extensions of people and their stories allowing us to see historic preservation as preserving living history written in the wood and the plaster and the brick of our homes. This history is part of our community's fabric and helps us better understand our shared history and this is the mission of the Historic Preservation Commission as we celebrate Historic Preservation month.

Deb Parcell, Indiana Landmarks, discussed the architectural significance of the property writing a several page document noting it is a very good example of a Craftsman home which looks a lot like a Sears kit house. That is not able to be confirmed. This home is rated as notable, so it has most of its original features and a high degree of integrity. For these reasons, this property would merit protection as a designated La Porte Historic landmark under criterion 2 of the La Porte Historic Preservation Commission designation procedure as architecturally worthy.

Councilwoman Konieczny stated both properties for consideration for local designation had applications filed by the owner/occupants that have spent numerous hours researching as well as making improvements to the interior and the exterior and revitalizing them. Both owners were present at the last Historic Preservation Commission meeting and spoke of the blood, sweat and tears doing this for their passion of preservation.

Mayor Dermody noted the second reading will be on May 15, 2023.

**Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2-2019 to Modify the Schedule of Service Charges for Municipal Refuse and Garbage Collection Under Chapter 86 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana**

Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously



carried. Councilman Franke read only the amendments of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2-2019 to Modify the Schedule of Service Charges for Municipal Refuse and Garbage Collection Under Chapter 86 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte, Indiana.

City Attorney Nick Otis stated the reason the public is seeing a modification of the Ordinance is because we have a new waste hauler with a twenty-year history with La Porte. WM was the lowest, most responsive bidder for what the City was specifically looking for. Attorney Otis noted Councilman Franke read the low-income portions of the Ordinance but stated for single-family dwellings in 2023, the refuse rate is \$12.00 per month; in 2024, the refuse rate is \$13.50 per month; in 2025, the refuse rate is \$14.04 per month and for 2026, the refuse rate is \$14.60 per month. Attorney Otis noted this includes a 96-gallon cart and the city is working with individuals who may have requested a smaller cart if they physically cannot move the bigger cart. Attorney Otis noted the Street Maintenance fee of \$2.00 per month remains unchanged and that is for the damage and repair to streets due to refuse and garbage collection.

Mayor Dermody stated RTS was the refuse hauler his administration inherited, and residents had complaints for the Mayor and Council daily regarding RTS. Mayor Dermody stated he and the Board of Works tried to find the most competitive garbage costs for residents with a focus on quality service.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun highlighted section three which is an amendment to section 86-33 of the Municipal Code noting the payment of service charges as specified will entitle the recipient of the service to one collection of refuse or garbage per week not to exceed one 96-gallon cart provided by WM. Residents may sign a small cart waiver, available in Utility Billing, to obtain a 64-gallon cart from WM. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted from April 15-October 15, residential units may have no more than three biodegradable bags or bundles of yard waste in addition to their regularly scheduled refuse pickup and if there are any questions, we are happy to provide answers in Utility Billing (219)362-3175.

Mayor Dermody stated this will move to the May 15, 2023 meeting.

#### **Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2023 Budget**

Councilman Galloway moved to read a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2023 Budget.

#### **Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution No. R-12-2023**

Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to approve Resolution No. R-12-2023; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-12-2023**  
**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2023 BUDGET**

**Annual Compliance Forms**

Community Development and Planning Director Craig Phillips stated on an annual basis, the City of LaPorte's tax abatement recipients must show compliance with the terms of their abatement as approved by the Council in their Statement of Benefits (Form SB-1). Mr. Phillips stated he reviewed the CF-1 forms and information submitted by each company for 2023 noting all recipients made best efforts to use La Porte County contractors at the prevailing wage. Mr. Phillips presented each recipient as follows:

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - MonoSol Real Property**

As it pertains to MonoSol Real Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - MonoSol Personal Property**

As it pertains to MonoSol Personal Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms – Winn Machine/Winndeavor Inc. Personal Property**

As it pertains to Winn Machine/Winndeavor Inc. Personal Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms – Jaeger Unitek Real Property**

As it pertains to Jaeger Unitek Real Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has substantially complied with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - B&B Manufacturing Real Property**

As it pertains to B&B Manufacturing Real Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has made a reasonable effort to comply with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms - B&B Manufacturing Personal Property**

As it pertains to B&B Manufacturing Personal Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has made a reasonable effort to comply with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms – Howmet Casting and Services Real Property**

As it pertains to Howmet Casting and Services Real Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has made a reasonable effort to comply with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Motion/Vote – Tax Abatement Compliance Forms – Howmet Casting and Services Personal Property**

As it pertains to Howmet Casting and Services Personal Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has made a reasonable effort to comply with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Westville 1668 APL MP LLC/Remedy (former La Porte New Porte MOB LLC) Real Property**

As it pertains to Westville 1668 APL MP LLC/Remedy (former La Porte New Porte MOB LLC) Real Property, Councilman Franke moved to certify the taxpayer's current compliance statement of benefits on the following grounds: the taxpayer has made a reasonable effort to comply with the statement of benefits; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Take off the Table an Ordinance Establishing a Parking Space in the 700 Block of Clay Street to be Designated as a Loading/Unloading Zone**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to take off the table an Ordinance Establishing a Parking Space in the 700 Block of Clay Street to be Designated as a Loading/Unloading Zone; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**Take an Ordinance Establishing a Parking Space in the 700 Block of Clay Street to be Designated as a Loading/Unloading Zone Back to Traffic Commission for Reconsideration**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to take an Ordinance Establishing a Parking Space in the 700 Block of Clay Street to be Designated as a Loading/Unloading Zone Back to Traffic Commission; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**Other Business**

Attorney Otis stated he picked up five more annexation waivers from property owners.

**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: May 15, 2023