

February 5, 2024

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Feikes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Feikes, Galloway, Buchanan, Konieczny, Franke, Huffman

Absent: West

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 was seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue, addressed the Council regarding signs in tree lawns throughout the City and asked that Code Enforcement either take the signs out of the tree lawns or fine those that are not following City Ordinances. Mr. Ogle also addressed the Council about snow on Michigan Avenue sidewalks making it difficult to get from parking spots into businesses.

Dean White, 3066 N. US HWY 35, addressed the Council regarding partnering with the County to clean up and create a vista view at Waverly Road and Pine Lake Avenue.

Introduction of Police Chief Richard Buell

Mayor Dermody thanked former Chief Paul Brettin for his service and his dedication to the City of La Porte and introduced Chief Richard Buell as the new City of La Porte Police Chief.

City of La Porte Police Department Citizens Award

City of La Porte Police Chief Paul Brettin, K9 Officer Ryan Allen and Detective Ashley Adams presented Citizens Awards to the following: Shaun Snyder from Pet Supply Plus for their unwavering support they provide to City of La Porte K9s in the form of food, treats and dog washes. The next award was presented to Josie Johnson from Haus Kriegerhund K9 Services for her donation of training K9 Raven. Lastly, Dr. Aarie Szuba from Oak Knoll Veterinary Clinic was awarded a Citizens Award for the top-notch veterinary

care she and her staff provide City of La Porte K9s as a donation to City of La Porte.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission:

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on Wednesday January 31, 2024, at 5:15 P.M. in Council Chambers and discussed NewPorte Landing being built out. Councilman Franke reported the Election of Officers: Brian Chalik named President, Damon Gasaway named Vice President and J.T. McDermott named Secretary. Councilman Franke reported the Don George Public Offering Bid Opening was tabled.

Sustainability Commission:

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Commission met on Monday, January 29, 2024, in the Council Chambers. She advised that due to the number of projects coming up, the Commission voted to change their meetings from monthly to bi-weekly. Their next meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Feikes reported the Traffic Commission will be meeting tomorrow, February 6th at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Park & Recreation: Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will be meeting on February 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

Police Merit Commission: Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission will be meeting on February 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Historic Preservation Commission:

Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission met on January 17th. Officers were elected for the upcoming year and discussion was held regarding projects and goals for 2024.

Airport Authority:

Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority will meet next Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

Two-Year Old Checks

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun reported checks issued by the City are good for a two-year period. At the end of each year, State Statute requires the Clerk-Treasurer to present a list of outstanding checks to the Council. She reported her office attempts to contact vendors if invoices are still

outstanding and if so, we reissue the checks. She asked the Council to approve depositing the two-year old checks back into the fund in which it was originally paid. The Clerk-Treasurer answered questions from the Council.

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to approve depositing the two-year old checks back into the fund in which it was originally paid; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Investment Report to Council

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated on an annual basis, the State requires the Clerk-Treasurer to present to the Council an Annual Investment Report. For 2023, the City of La Porte earned \$158,455.53 for seven different funds that are invested in the State's Hoosier Fund with Lake City Bank. As a reference, in 2022, the City earned \$46,293.91 for the same seven funds – an increase in 2023 of \$112,161.62. The Hoosier Fund is a money market fund allowed by State Statute specific for units of government per Indiana Code 36-1-7- Funds are pooled together to earn more interest, as advised by Baker Tilly. We earn interest daily and can access the funds, if needed, within twenty-four hours with no penalties. We have been investing in the Hoosier fund for the past ten years.

Interest earned on the City's checking accounts for 2023 was \$508,970.89 between nineteen checking accounts at local banks. This is an increase of \$362,915.76 from 2022.

She advised no action is needed from the Council; this is for informational purposes only.

Introduction of a Resolution Concerning the Transfer of Real Estate to the City of La Porte Redevelopment Commission

Councilman Franke moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read a Resolution Concerning the Transfer of Real Estate to the City of La Porte Redevelopment Commission in its entirety.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, addressed the Council regarding this Resolution. He advised this if for the Don George property on Pine Lake Avenue and answered questions from the Council.

Motion/Vote – Approve Resolution R-2-2024

Councilman Franke moved to approve the Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried.

R-2-2024

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE TO
THE CITY OF LA PORTE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Other Business

Councilman Franke reported proceeds from Inappropriate Trivia #9 along with proceeds from previous Trivia events, will potentially be pooled with Park Foundation funds for improvements at Hastings Park in memory of Amanda Sorg.

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: February 20, 2024