

## **April 15, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Franke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call:**

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

Absent: None

### **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 Konieczny moved to approve the minutes as presented, motion was seconded by Councilwoman Galloway and unanimously carried.

### **Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue, addressed the Council regarding pedestrian traffic on Indiana Avenue. Mr. Ogle stated INDOT's plans show six proposed bump outs to slow traffic on Indiana Avenue at the cross sections: Maple, Harrison, Osborne, Warwick, Alexander, and South which consists of approximately half of the project. Mr. Ogle stated that from South Avenue headed south, there are no proposed bump outs and from South Avenue headed north, traffic speeds up currently. Mr. Ogle stated there are also no crosswalks from South Avenue to Kingsbury Avenue and it is difficult to get across the street. Mr. Ogle asked the Council to interject with INDOT to get crosswalks at either Winn, Hathaway, Marian, and Dysart and a bump out south of South Avenue, at Marian or Dysart, Marian currently being a "shortcut" for high schoolers getting to high school. Councilwoman Huffman responded discussing proposed designated turn lanes that will help redirect some traffic. Councilwoman Huffman connected Mr. Ogle with INDOT through the 855-INDOT-4-U phone number which will connect residents with the project manager.

Tony Eckovich and Elizabeth Rassel, 1108 Indiana Avenue, addressed Council about a proposed new alley behind/between their property at 1108 Indiana

Avenue and Lot 15 at 109 A Street. City Attorney Nick Otis walked the Eckovich/Rassel family through the process stating Traffic Commission already approved this proposal, but there are some additional steps that need to be taken; notifying adjacent property owners and approvals through Council.

### **Recognition of Regional Director for Congressman Rudy Yakym, Griffin Nate**

Mayor Dermody recognized the relentless work of Griffin Nate from Congressman Rudy Yakym's office for his tireless efforts assisting a Veteran in need with a collapsed lung in Costa Rica return to the United States for appropriate medical care. Mayor Dermody invited Wendy and Vic Montorsi to the podium to tell their story. Mrs. Montorsi told the story of Vic Montorsi's traumatic vacation nightmare in Costa Rica and the tireless work Mayor Dermody, Griffin Nate and Jim Pressel did to get a Veteran, Vic Montorsi, back to the United States for medical care. Griffin Nate state it was his honor to go to work for Veterans, like Vic Montorsi, everyday stating "They went to war for us, we should go to war for them." Mayor Dermody thanked Griffin Nate for his tireless work and presented him with a Relentless T-shirt for setting the standard and saving a Veteran's life.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Redevelopment Commission:**

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will meet on April 24, 2024, at 5:15 P.M.

#### **Sustainability Commission:**

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Commission will meet on April 22, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. Councilwoman Huffman also reported the Sustainability Commission created a tree fund for donations. Checks may be dropped off or mailed to City Hall payable to City of La Porte with "Tree Fund" in the memo.

#### **Park Board:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will meet April 17, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. at the Park Office.

#### **Traffic Commission:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Traffic Commission will meet tomorrow, May 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Station due to the Primary Elections taking place on May 7, 2024.

**Police Merit Commission:**

Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission met on April 9, 2024. Councilman Galloway reported the Body Cameras are in and should be fully functioning by May 6, 2024. Councilman Galloway reported the Police Department currently has six applicants; one being through the agility testing with Devin Hammons Flanagan scheduled to be sworn in on April 29, 2024.

**Business Improvement District:**

Councilwoman West reported during the Business Improvement District meeting, Amy Feikes presented a contract for this year's Downtown Maintenance. Amy Feikes stated she did not increase her rate, however work outside of the scope of the contract will be billed at an hourly rate. Councilwoman West reported the next Business Improvement District meeting will be held May 13, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Fire Merit Commission:**

Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission met April 3, 2024, announcing the mid-year performance ratings which are now finished and will soon be released. Councilwoman West reported the rules and regulations have been updated and as of the last meeting, there were eighty-nine applicants and one hundred fifty-seven inquiries. Councilwoman West reported the next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held on May 1, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. at Fire Station No. 1.

**Historic Preservation Commission:**

Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission participated in a roundtable meeting on April 2, 2024, with neighboring communities to share ideas and policies regarding best practices for code enforcement on historical properties. Councilman Buchanan stated the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting is scheduled April 16, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Airport Authority:**

Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority is in the process of updating the 20-year Master Plan with the Federal Aviation Administration noting a Public Workshop will be held on April 24, 2024, from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the Airport's terminal building. Councilwoman Konieczny reported the next Airport Authority meeting will be on May 8, 2024, at 5:15 P.M. at the Airport.

**Introduction of an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Annexing to and Bringing Within the City Limits of La Porte, Indiana, and Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Property Located in Center, Township, Contiguous Herewith;**

**Name of Petition: Qualls Real Estate Holding, LLC**

Councilman Franke moved to introduce an Ordinance read for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and carried unanimously. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Annexing to and Bringing Within the City Limits of La Porte, Indiana, and Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Property Located in Center, Township, Contiguous Herewith; Name of Petition: Qualls Real Estate Holding, LLC in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody invited Bert Cook to speak on Qualls Real Estate Holding, LLC. Mr. Cook reported this is a ninety-two-acre annexation, part of a one hundred nice acre property acquisition by Quincy Development. This property surrounds the Thomas Rose Industrial Park, so it is a logical expansion of the industrial park. In order to expand the Industrial Park, utilities would be required and in order for there to be utilities, annexation would have to take place. Mr. Cook reported this is a super voluntary annexation and requested the Council's approval of the petition.

**Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets**

Councilman Galloway moved to read a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets for the first time within its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets in its entirety.

**Motion/Vote:**

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to approve a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets; motion was seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**R-9-2024**

**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2024 BUDGETS**

**Motion/Vote to Take off the Table the La Porte Diversity & Inclusion Commission Council Appointment: Three-Year Term for One Appointment**

Councilman Franke made a motion to take off the table the La Porte Diversity & Inclusion Commission Council Appointment; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

Councilman Franke explained that the Diversity & Inclusion Commission will eventually be replaced with a Housing Commission, so it is no longer necessary.

**Other Business**

None

**Adjourn**

Councilman Galloway moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**Approved:**

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**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: May 6, 2024**