

**June 3, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, June 3, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Galloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

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

Absent:

**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 Buchanan and unanimously carried.

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

None

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Redevelopment Commission:**

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on May 29, 2024, and sale of land was approved for the Grand Heritage Federal Credit Union in NewPorte Landing. Councilman Franke also reported the Redevelopment Commission met June 3, 2024, and approved a Taxpayer Agreement and Resolution for a new Economic Development project.

**Sustainability Commission:**

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Committee met May 28, 2024, and discussed the \$7,500 Rotary Club donation. Councilwoman Huffman noted the Sustainability Commission has set up a Restricted Donation Fund and anyone who would like to donate may send a check to City Hall and write "Tree Fund" in the memo. Councilwoman Huffman reported the trees purchased with the Rotary donation will assist in the beautification of the Chessie Trail and Clear Lake Loop noting the city is working to coordinate the types of trees to plant, specifically native ornamental. Councilwoman Huffman reported the city's forester will come up with a planting plan. Councilwoman Huffman reported the Lake Association will be treating Pine and Stone Lakes soon and the Lake Association operates solely on DNR grants and donations; those who wish to donate can do so by visiting [LaPorteLakeAssociation.com](http://LaPorteLakeAssociation.com) or contacting

Huber's Marina for more information. The next Sustainability Commission meeting will be held June 25, 2024, at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers.

**Traffic Commission:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Traffic Commission meeting will be June 4, 2024, at 5:00 PM at the Police Station.

**Park Board:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported due to the Juneteenth holiday, the Park Board will meet on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 4:00 PM at the Park Office.

**Mayor's Veterans Committee:**

Councilman Galloway reported the Mayor's Veterans Committee will be dedicating twenty-five (25) bricks on June 8, 2024, at 2:00 PM. This is their 25<sup>th</sup> year of doing the dedication. The Annual Veterans' Day Celebration will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Civic Auditorium. Their next meeting will be held on August 12, 2024.

**Police Merit Commission:**

Councilman Galloway reported the Police Department currently has forty-two (42) officers and have started working on a four (4) day work week.

**Fire Merit Commission:**

Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission will meet June 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM at Fire Station No. 1.

**Historic Preservation Commission**

Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission is joining a roundtable meeting June 5, 2024, in Valparaiso with surrounding local preservation groups to discuss common questions and effective processes within Historic Districts from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

**Airport Authority**

Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority will meet June 12, 2024, at 5:15 PM at the Airport.

**Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 29-2023, to Amend Salaries in the Engineering Department and the Department of Transportation**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 29-2023, to Amend Salaries in the Engineering Department and the Department of Transportation by title only.

Mayor Dermody addressed the changes that have occurred at the Transportation Department.

**Motion/Vote – Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 29-2023, to Amend Salaries in the Engineering Department and the Department of Transportation**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to adopt an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 29-2023, to Amend Salaries in the Engineering Department and the Department of Transportation; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5-2024  
ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 29-2023, TO AMEND SALARIES  
IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Introduction of a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving a Taxpayer Agreement for a New Economic Development Project Located in the City of La Porte, Indiana**

Councilman Franke moved to introduce a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving a Taxpayer Agreement for a New Economic Development Project Located in the City of La Porte, Indiana in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody noted this is a special day, a historic moment for City of La Porte and without Bert Cook's leadership this Microsoft project would not have happened. Mayor Dermody stated this is an economic development project that could have landed anywhere in the nation, but because of Bert Cook's leadership, it happened in the City of La Porte. Mayor Dermody invited Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, to the podium to speak.

Bert Cook stated "there are special moments in time that when they occur you must stop and acknowledge the truly profound effect, they have on everything around them. Today is one of those moments. I am incredibly proud to stand here today with Microsoft Corporation to ask for your support of the largest economic development project ever to occur in the City of La Porte.

Before I provide a synopsis of the Taxpayer Agreement you have in front of you tonight, I'd like to provide a word of thanks to several people. First and foremost, I will say that I have never worked with a company as professional and community minded as Microsoft. They have treated our community with the utmost respect and truly care about our success.

From the Microsoft Team:

Scott Miller, with Jones, Lange, Lasalle  
Jorge Florez, Regional Director of Land Acquisition at Microsoft  
Paul Englis, Principal Program Manager at Microsoft  
Joe Strong, Director of State Tax Policy at Microsoft  
Mike Stockwell, Land Development and Permitting Program Manager at Microsoft  
Matthew DeStefano, Senior Manager Community Affairs at Microsoft  
Kelly Dettmer, Senior Land Development Program Manager at Microsoft  
Chris Silis, Americas East Regional Land Development Lead at Microsoft  
Jake German, Partner at Barnes and Thornburg  
Mike Moga, Barnes and Thornburg  
Mike Falleroni, Principal, Site Selection & Business Incentives at Ryan  
Austin Arnold, Manager at Ryan

Other partners to thank:

Harold and Sue Barr—Harold and Sue could not be with us tonight but their three children are here—Erin Wilson, Jane Barr and Ben Barr and his wife Jessica.

Larry and Susan Yazel and Family  
Bill Nelson, Attorney for the Barr Family  
Jim Kaminski, Attorney for the Yazel Family  
Rick Calinski and Cindy Admave from NIPSCO  
Matt Hagenow and Nick Otis, City Attorneys  
Tom Pitman, Barnes and Thornburg  
Andy Mouser, Baker Tilley  
The Redevelopment Commission led by Brian Chalik  
The Indiana Economic Development Corporation

Finally, I'd like to thank Mayor Dermody and Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun. Their leadership and guidance on this project has been incredibly important to its success.

The team involved in bringing this project to fruition has been a large one, but the cooperation and support has never wavered.

In front of you tonight you have a Resolution that first outlines the project:

This is a \$1 Billion investment by Microsoft into the City of La Porte to build a datacenter campus along Boyd Boulevard at the southern edge of the City of La Porte.

The project will create 200 high paying jobs in our community.

In connection with the performance above, I am requesting the Council's approval to utilize the following incentive:

Microsoft will claim the Data Center Exemption, created by State statute to provide relief from personal property tax liability for 40 years.

In connection with these savings, the company will refund, in the form of a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), up to \$2,500,000 per year for 40 years to support local projects benefitting the Redevelopment Commission and La Porte Community School Corporation.

If you look at similar projects occurring in the State of Indiana, and across the Midwest, you will see that the incentives requested above compare very favorably for our community. The tool we are asking you to utilize tonight is the exact tool our State Legislature has given us to encourage this type of high-tech development in Indiana and I would strongly urge you to favorably pass this Resolution.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the Resolution, Taxpayer Agreement or application of these tools. In just a moment I will ask Mike Stockwell from Microsoft to tell you a little more about the project and answer questions you might have specific to Microsoft.

With me tonight from Microsoft are the following people:

Mike Stockwell, Land Development and Permitting Program Manager at Microsoft

Chris Silis, Americas East Regional Land Development Lead at Microsoft

Jake German, Partner at Barnes and Thornburg

Mike Falleroni, Principal, Site Selection & Business Incentives at Ryan"

**Motion/Vote – Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving a Taxpayer Agreement for a New Economic Development Project Located in the City of La Porte, Indiana**

Councilman Franke moved to adopt a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving a Taxpayer Agreement for a New

Economic Development Project Located in the City of La Porte, Indiana; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-13-2024**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE,**  
**INDIANA, APPROVING A TAXPAYER AGREEMENT FOR A**  
**NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED IN**  
**THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA**

**Introduction of a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving Certain Amendments to the Declaratory Resolution and Economic Development Plan for La Porte Consolidated Economic Development Area (Creation of 39 North Allocation Area and Boyd Boulevard Allocation Area)**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to introduce a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving Certain Amendments to the Declaratory Resolution and Economic Development Plan for La Porte Consolidated Economic Development Area (Creation of 39 North Allocation Area and Boyd Boulevard Allocation Area) in its entirety.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, stated this went from City Council to the Redevelopment Commission to Plan Commission and back to City Council all being supportive of the creation of the allocation areas mentioned, one being 39 North Allocation Area and the other being Boyd Boulevard Allocation Area. Mr. Cook asked for Council's support to approve the new allocation areas and asked if Council has any questions. There were none.

**Motion/Vote – Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving Certain Amendments to the Declaratory Resolution and Economic Development Plan for La Porte Consolidated Economic Development Area (Creation of 39 North Allocation Area and Boyd Boulevard Allocation Area)**

Councilman Galloway moved to adopt a Resolution of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Approving Certain Amendments to the Declaratory Resolution and Economic Development Plan for La Porte Consolidated Economic Development Area (Creation of 39 North Allocation

Area and Boyd Boulevard Allocation Area); motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-14-2024**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE,**  
**INDIANA, APPROVING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE DECLARATORY**  
**RESOLUTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**FOR LA PORTE CONSOLIDATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA**  
**(CREATION OF 39 NORTH ALLOCATION AREA AND BOYD BOULEVARD**  
**ALLOCATION AREA)**

Mayor Dermody invited Mike Stockwell, Land Development and Permitting Program Manager at Microsoft to speak on behalf of Microsoft. Mr. Stockwell stated that he and Chris Silis, Americas East Regional Land Development Lead at Microsoft were proud to be here tonight representing Microsoft and thanked Mayor Dermody, City Council, Bert Cook and the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership team for their collaboration and support to bring the Microsoft Project to fruition. Mr. Stockwell stated datacenters provide the physical infrastructure for the technology we depend on in work and in our personal lives. He added that whether you open an app on your phone, or join a virtual classroom or meeting, snap and save photos, or play a game with a friend, you are using a datacenter. Mr. Stockwell noted local businesses, governments, hospitals, and schools rely on datacenters everyday to deliver the goods and services to all of us. He stated as customer demand grows for cloud services, Microsoft is expanding its datacenter footprint driving the need for new datacenters, like this one in City of La Porte. Mr. Stockwell stated Microsoft is excited to expand their cloud infrastructure to Indiana and with the City of La Porte. He noted Datacenters represent a capital-intensive investment and a long-term commitment to the community, adding this project will be a success thanks to the support and collaboration of the community and community leaders. Mr. Stockwell stated over the coming weeks and months, Microsoft will begin the planning, design and permitting process with the City of La Porte Engineering staff. He stated "at Microsoft, we're committed to listening, learning and adapting to the needs of local communities both in the way we design and build our datacenters and in the way we engage with and contribute to the local community. Today is an important milestone in the long-term relationship between Microsoft and the City of La Porte and we're excited to work and grow together."

Mayor Dermody asked Mr. Stockwell if this is the first City in Indiana Microsoft has invested in and Mr. Stockwell stated it is.

**Other Business**

None

**Adjourn**

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

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

Approved: June 17, 2024