

October 21, 2024

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Konieczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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 Feikes moved to approve the minutes as presented, motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Donna Johnson, 1037 Indiana Avenue, addressed the Council regarding migrate populations being placed in small communities around the country including Indiana and asked what the City plans on doing when it happens here.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission:

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will meet on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. Council.

Sustainability Commission:

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Commission will be meeting tomorrow, October 22, 2024, in the Council Chambers at 4:00 p.m.

Park & Recreation:

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board met on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at the Park Office. A bus trip agreement with Crossroad Tours and the Activity Center for Older Adults was approved. Members will receive discounted rates for any trips they book through Crossroad Tours.

When members book a trip for five (5) or more days, 10% of the fee will be donated back to the Center. Councilwoman Feikes reported on November 15th, the La Porte City Park Foundation will be hosting a “Picnic Under the Stars”, at the Civic Auditorium to bring awareness to their organization. ‘Point’n Fingers’ will be providing music, and the requested attire is picnic chic. For more information, please email laporteparkandrec.com.

Traffic Commission:

Councilwoman Feikes reported as a reminder, due to the National Election, the Traffic Commission meeting will be held a week later on Tuesday, November 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Station.

Police Merit Commission:

Councilman Galloway reported the Police Merit Commission met on October 8th at which time a conditional offer to Nelson Diaz which will bring the department up to full force.

Mayors Veterans Committee:

Councilman Galloway reported the Mayors Veterans Committee met on October 14, 2024. Discussion was held regarding Patton Cemetery. The committee is in the process of contacting schools to get as many students as possible to the Veterans Day Ceremony which will be held on November 11, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. with donuts and coffee starting at 9:00 a.m. Patton Cemetery will be having a clean-up day on November 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Councilman Galloway reported the VFW will be hosting Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a dance to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Dermody thanked the Mayors Veterans Committee for their contribution to Patton Cemetery. He stated although the cemetery is not the responsibility of the City, something is going to need to be done in the foreseeable future as there are quite a few veterans buried in the cemetery.

Councilwoman Konieczny announced on October 24th, Downtown Delights will be hosting a fundraiser from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 10% of the proceeds will be for the “Play for Jake Foundation”.

Airport Authority:

Councilwoman Konieczny reported the next Airport Authority meeting will be held on November 13, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport. She invited Eric Baugher, Airport Director for the La Porte Municipal Airport to come to the podium and address the Council. Mr. Baugher reported the Airport hosted

a trunk-or-treat with over 500 children participating. He stated several airplanes were on display and decorated for the event. Mr. Baugher stated events at the Airport cannot happen without the support of the community and leaders, as well as Rachel, the Airport's Operations Manager. He thanked American Licorice for their general donation of candy for the event and thanked the community for their continued support.

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Bulk Water Rates in the City of LaPorte

Councilman Buchanan moved to read an Ordinance for the for the second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read an Ordinance Establishing Bulk Water Rates in the City of LaPorte by title only.

City Attorney Nick Otis reported as was stated at the last meeting, there are no changes to this Ordinance that will impact residential rates or commercial rates, this is simply changing the bulk water rates which are used by those who come to the water department to purchase bulk water from the City, such as pool filling companies.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 21-2024

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to approve the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE 21-2024

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BULK RATES IN THE CITY OF LA PORTE

Second Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Rates for Parcel Owners in the Thirty-Nine North Conservancy District that were not Annexed in 2024 and Thereby Amending Ordinance 16-2023 Regarding a Schedule of Service Charges for Municipal Refuse and Garbage Collection, and Amending Ordinance 28-2020 Regarding User Charges and Rates and Capital Cost Charges and System Development Charges for Sewage Service, and Amending Ordinance 26-2020 Establishing an Initial Rate for City Sewer Services for the Purpose of Stormwater Management, and Amending Ordinance 27-2020 Establishing Water Rates and System Development Charges

Councilman Franke moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and

unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Establishing Rates for Parcel Owners in the Thirty-Nine North Conservancy District that were not Annexed in 2024 and Thereby Amending Ordinance 16-2023 Regarding a Schedule of Service Charges for Municipal Refuse and Garbage Collection, and Amending Ordinance 28-2020 Regarding User Charges and Rates and Capital Cost Charges and System Development Charges for Sewage Service, and Amending Ordinance 26-2020 Establishing an Initial Rate for City Sewer Services for the Purpose of Stormwater Management, and Amending Ordinance 27-2020 Establishing Water Rates and System Development Charges by title only.

City Attorney Nick Otis stated the City purchased Thirty-Nine North Conservancy District assets as of September 27, 2024. Additionally, the City of La Porte annexed a large portion of Thirty-Nine North, but not all of it. In order to keep billing uniform per the credit system created by Thirty-Nine North and for utility billing, we are asking that all Thirty-Nine North residents be treated as “inside City customers” as it relates to our ordinances and their rate table reflect as such. Those outside the City currently, but still inside Thirty-Nine North, are part of the second phase of annexation process.

Motion-Vote – Adopt Ordinance 23-2024

Councilman Franke moved to approve the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE 23-2024

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR PARCEL OWNERS IN THE THIRTY-NINE NORTH CONSERVANCY DISTRICT THAT WERE NOT ANNEXED IN 2024 AND THEREBY AMENDING ORDINANCE 16-2023 REGARDING A SCHEDULE OF SERVICE CHARGES FOR MUNICIPAL REFUSE AND GARBAGE COLLECTION, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 28-2020 REGARDING USER CHARGES AND RATES AND CAPITAL COST CHARGES AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES FOR SEWAGE SERVICE, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 26-2020 ESTABLISHING AN INITIAL RATE FOR CITY SEWER SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 27-2020 ESTABLISHING WATER RATES AND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401

Councilwoman Huffman moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and carried by a 6-0 vote with Councilwoman Feikes abstaining. Councilwoman Huffman read an Ordinance for an Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Fund No. 2401 by title only.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 24-2024

Councilwoman Huffman moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and carried by a 6-0 vote with Councilwoman Feikes abstaining.

ORDINANCE 24-2024

ORDINANCE FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR ARP CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND – FUND NO. 2401

Public Hearing and Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Appropriating the Proceeds of Bonds of the City of La Porte Redevelopment Authority, Including Investment Earnings Thereon, and Related Matters (Fire Training Facility)

Councilwoman West moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana, Appropriating the Proceeds of Bonds of the City of La Porte Redevelopment Authority, Including Investment Earnings Thereon, and Related Matters (Fire Training Facility) by title only.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted this is the next step in the bond process, appropriating bond proceeds. In 2023, the Common Council approved the financing of a new tower truck for the Fire Department and a Fire Training Facility. The current issuance is being done under 2023 approvals, bonds are being issued by the La Porte Redevelopment Authority and are payable from a pledge of Public Safety Local Income Tax.

As this Ordinance requires a public hearing, Mayor Dermody declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council regarding this matter. The Clerk-Treasurer presented proof of publication that was advertised on October 8, 2024, in the Herald-Dispatch. As no one came forward, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 25-2024

Councilman Buchanan moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-2024

ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA, APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS OF BONDS OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, INCLUDING INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON, AND RELATED MATTERS (Fire Training Facility)

Second and final reading of an Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana, for the Year of 2025

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of La Porte, Indiana, for the Year of 2025 by title only.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 26-2024

Councilwoman Feikes moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-2024

ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES OF APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA, FOR THE YEAR OF 2025

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of La Porte from the General Fund for the Year 2025

Councilman Buchanan moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of La Porte from the General Fund for the Year 2025 by title only.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 27-2024

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE 27-2024

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES OF ELECTED
OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE FROM THE GENERAL
FUND FOR THE YEAR 2025

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Section 2-146 of the La Porte Municipal Code Regarding the Non-Reverting Capital Funds for Beechwood Municipal Golf Course

Councilwoman Feikes moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Amending Section 2-146 of the La Porte Municipal Code Regarding the Non-Reverting Capital Funds for Beechwood Municipal Golf Course in its entirety.

Mark Schreiber, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, and Kyly Cashmer, Beechwood Golf Professional, addressed the Council regarding this change to the Ordinance and answered questions from the Council.

Second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

Introduction of an Ordinance Creating Thirty-Nine North Utility Credit Fund (Fund No. 6606)

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance Creating Thirty-Nine North Utility Credit Fund (Fund No. 6606) in its entirety.

The Clerk-Treasurer stated on the advice of Baker Tilly, this Ordinance is creating a fund to deposit the monies received from Thirty-Nine North Conservancy District for the credits to be applied to customers.

Second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the next regular Council meeting.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted these are normal year-end transfers.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-36-2024

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

R-36-2024

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2024 BUDGETS

Other Business

Mayor Dermody announced on December 15, 2024, the City will be hosting a “Prancer Palooza” at the Civic Auditorium to celebrate the anniversary of the movie. He stated several of the cast members will be present.

The Mayor stated the City is committed to winning the war on drugs. He stated yesterday a police officer, code enforcement and himself were at a house on Fremont and there were several children up and down the sidewalk playing. Mayor Dermody stated he has no patience for drug dealers moving around our City selling drugs and endangering our young people.

Adjourn

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

Approved: _____

Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: November 4, 2024