

November 4, 2024

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

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 seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Paul Skwiat, 3196 N. Briar Leaf, addressed the Council regarding the adoption on tonight's agenda for establishing Fund #6606 Creating Thirty-Nine North Utility Credit Fund. Mr. Skwiat noted that both the Clerk-Treasurer and City Attorney have shared information with him for which he is grateful. He stated that he understands \$500,000 of the \$2,000,000 settlement is being provided to the property owners of Thirty-Nine North, but what is happening with the remaining dollar amount. Mayor Dermody explained that all \$2,000,000 will be provided to the property owners of Thirty-Nine North District as credits on their utility bill. \$500,000 was paid to the City by the Thirty-Nine North Conservancy District as part of the agreement as credits to be distributed to property owners as prescribed by the Conservancy District.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission:

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at which time approval was given to pay Bella Largo \$76,000 to go towards infrastructure. He reported the County is likely to fund this project with TIF monies. Councilman Franke reported the

Commission approved an agreement with SEH for the Boyd Blvd. Stormwater Improvement Project for design work. Also, a contract with United Consulting was approved to design possible alternate truck routes on Washington and Boston streets.

Sustainability Commission:

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Commission met on October 22, 2024. The contract for fall tree planning is complete and the plan is to plant eighty-six (86) trees before winter. She stated the current budget should take care of 90% of trees that need to be removed. Councilwoman Huffman reported for all you fishing folks, the Lake Association has added 2,300 walleye to Pine Lake.

Traffic Commission:

Councilwoman Feikes state because of Election Day tomorrow, the Traffic Commission will be meeting next Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Station.

Park & Recreation:

Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Park Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

Mayors Veterans Committee:

Councilman Galloway reminded everyone of the Annual Veterans' Day Ceremony on November 11, 2024, to be held at the Civic Auditorium. The ceremony starts at 10:30 with coffee and donuts at 9:00 in the basement. The VFW is offering a free lunch to veterans and their spouses following the ceremony.

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.

Mayor Dermody wished Councilwoman Konieczny a Happy Birthday.

Presentation of 2025 Redevelopment Spending Plan

Craig Phillips, Director of Community Development and Planning, reported as required by law that the annual spending plan for the Redevelopment Commission is required to be presented to the City Council prior to December 1st the year before the start of the spending plan. There are currently six (6) TIF areas in the City of La Porte, but as there were only four (4) at the beginning of 2024 they only have to create a plan for those four.

Mr. Phillips highlighted the major projects/expenditures for 2025 and asked if there were any questions from the Council. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted this only needs to be presented to the Council, no further action is required. Mayor Dermody asked if this would be available to the public. Mr. Phillips advised it will be uploaded to the State's Gateway portal, and it will be available to the public.

Second & Final Reading 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 read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; 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 by title only.

Nick Otis, Attorney for the City, reported as Beechwood Golf Course has made significant strides in the last few years, this Ordinance will allow all the profit made at the golf course to go back into the course. He stated the goal is to have Beechwood Golf Course be self-sufficient like the Civic Auditorium.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 28-2024

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

**ORDINANCE 28-2025
ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-146 OF THE LA PORTE
MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE NON-REVERTING
CAPITAL FUNDS FOR BEECHWOOD MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE**

Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance Creating Thirty-Nine North Utility Credit Fund (Fund No. 6606)

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

Nick Otis based on information from SBOA and 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. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun stated she would be happy to answer questions from the Council. Councilman Franke stated he wanted to clarify the \$500,000 from the Thirty-Nine Conservancy District is part of the overall \$2,000,000. The City Attorney stated yes, it is part of the negotiations the City had with the District to purchase current infrastructure. New infrastructure will be paid for by different funding sources.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 29-2024

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 29-2024
ORDINANCE CREATING THIRTY-NINE NORTH UTILITY
CREDIT FUND (FUND NO. 6606)**

Introduction of an Ordinance Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Wastewater/Stormwater Department

Councilman Buchanan moved to introduce an Ordinance; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read an Ordinance Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Wastewater/Stormwater Department in its entirety.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported the City has been approving budgets for the Utilities on annual basis for the past several years for transparency. This is not tax dollars and is based on user fees.

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

Introduction of an Ordinance Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Water Department

Councilman Franke moved to introduce an Ordinance; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Water Department in its entirety.

The Clerk-Treasurer stated this situation is the same as the previous Ordinance. These are not tax dollars being appropriated for 2025.

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

Introduction of an Ordinance Creating an ASCOA (Senior Center) Non-Reverting Fund and Setting a Budget for 2025 – Fund No. 5502

Councilwoman Feikes moved to introduce an Ordinance; motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried. Councilwoman read an Ordinance Creating an ASCOA (Senior Center) Non-Reverting Fund and Setting a Budget for 2025 – Fund No. 5502 for the first time in its entirety.

The Clerk-Treasurer noted this will be for a non-tax rate fund and was not part of the original budget as it does not have to be uploaded to Gateway. She advised she was waiting for directions from SBOA on how to set up a fund for the Senior Center (ASCOA) as there will be earned income revenues, grant funds and donations that will make up the revenue sources. Approving this Ordinance will create the fund and set the budget for 2025.

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

Introduction of an Ordinance Establishing a Two-Way Stop at the Intersection of Clayton Street and Plain Street

Councilwoman Huffman moved to introduce an Ordinance; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Huffman read an Ordinance Establishing a Two-Way Stop at the Intersection of Clayton Street and Plain Street in its entirety.

Councilwoman Feikes stated she provided a picture for Council members of the intersection the Traffic Commission is proposing a change for. She reported it is by the Civic Auditorium and is surprised

this has not been addressed before as it is an extremely busy intersection.

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 and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets in its entirety.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted the large transfer in the General Fund is the City's required local match for Transporte which is funded through Federal and State Grants.

Councilman Galloway questioned the transfers from the LRS (Local Roads & Streets) salt appropriation. The Clerk-Treasurer reported at the end of the City encumbers the balance left in the appropriation for the next year. She stated Mike Fraze requested the transfers and she is comfortable with his request.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-37-2024

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

R-37-2024

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2024 BUDGETS

Other Business

Mayor Dermody encouraged everyone to get out and vote tomorrow.

Mayor Dermody encouraged everyone who may be interest in the “Prancer Palooza” event on December 15, 2024, at the Civic Auditorium to get their tickets now. The floor has sold out and there are limited tickets for the balcony area.

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 18, 2024