

## **November 18, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, November 18, 2024,, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **Roll Call:**

Present: Franke, Huffman, Feikes, Galloway, Konieczny, Buchanan, West  
Absent: None

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilwoman West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

President Pro-Tem Franke 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 Huffman and unanimously carried.

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

Sierra Sue Jesch, Jefferson Avenue, addressed the Council stating the City needs to have sixty (60) police officers with all the annexations that have taken place and plans for the future.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Park & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will meet this Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

#### **Traffic Commission:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Traffic Commission meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

#### **Mayors Veterans Committee:**

Councilman Galloway reported the Veterans Ceremony at the Civic Auditorium went really well and was well attended.

#### **Police Merit Commission:**

Councilman Galloway reported Terry Scherer's position on the Police Merit Commission expires at the end of March, which a Council appointment. He stated Mr. Scherer does not want to be re-appointed.

**BID Board:**

Councilwoman West reported at the last BID Board meeting discussion was held regarding the downtown flower planters and sidewalks in need of repair. She stated they are working as best as they can to repair and maintain within the budget. The BID Board received quotes for repairing forty-one (41) outlets on the downtown decorative light poles with board accepting Continental's quote for the repairs. The next BID Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Fire Merit Commission:**

Councilwoman West reported the Fire Merit Commission has updated their rules and procedures and new verbiage for lateral transfer for Chief Snyder to review. Suggested changes to the promotional exam materials have been sent to the ESCI with no objections. Testing dates for promotional exams were discussed for May 5, 6, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The Small Business Coalition and the Play for Jake Foundation organized CPR training for local business owners and their employees. Thank you to the Fire Department and Training Officer, Erik Jedrysek for teaching and certifying more of our community members so they are ready to jump if an emergency arises. The next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held on December 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Fire Station.

**UEA**

Councilwoman West reported during the last UEA meeting, there was discussion regarding the bond payment payable to the City in 2023 for the environmental remediation of the site in NewPorte Landing where the Flaherty & Collins Apartment Complex is built will be rescinded this year due to the UEA purchasing the parking lot on Monroe and State Street. Councilwoman West reported review and action on Community Enhancement Grants for the Downtown Christmas Festivities was discussed and a grant to the City of La Porte in the amount of \$500 was approved. She announced that more beautiful murals will coat our downtown in the near future with a process in place to approve all murals before they are painted. The next UEA meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Councilwoman West stated the City of La Porte will present the La Porte Santa Parade to be held on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Santa will begin his route at the corner of State and Tipton Streets and will proceed west down State Street to Michigan Avenue, south on Michigan to Lincolnway and then east on Lincolnway to Plaza 618 for the Third Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Those downtown businesses interested in participating along or near the route are encouraged to decorate their store fronts. This year's theme is 'Prancer and His Reindeer Friends'. For anyone who wants to be a sponsor, applications and sponsorship levels can be found at [livingthelakelife.org/events/Santa parade](http://livingthelakelife.org/events/Santa%20parade) or you can call (219) 362-2325.

#### **Historic Preservation Commission**

Councilman Buchanan reported the Historic Preservation Commission meets tomorrow evening, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

#### **Redevelopment Commission**

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will next meet on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

#### **Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Wastewater/Stormwater Department**

Councilman Buchanan moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read an Ordinance Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Wastewater/Stormwater by title only.

#### **Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 30-2024**

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

### **ORDINANCE NO. 30-2024 ORDINANCE APPROVING 2025 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LA PORTE WASTEWATER/STORMWATER DEPARTMENT**

#### **Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Water Department**

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 Approving 2025 Budget for the City of La Porte Water Department by title only.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 31-2024**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 31-2024  
ORDINANCE APPROVING 2025 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF  
LA PORTE WATER DEPARTMENT**

**Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Creating ACOA (Senior Center) Non-Reverting Fund and Setting a Budget for 2025 – Fund No. 5502**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Feikes read an Ordinance Creating an ACOA (Senior Center) Non-Reverting Fund and Setting a Budget for 2025 – Fund No. 5502 by title only.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 32-2024**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 32-2024  
ORDINANCE CREATING ACOA (Senior Center) NON-REVERTING  
FUND AND SETTING A BUDGET FOR 2025 – FUND NO. 5502**

**Second & Final Reading of an Ordinance Establishing a Two-Way Stop at the Intersection of Clayton Street and Plain Street**

Councilwoman Huffman moved to read an Ordinance for the second and final time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Huffman read an Ordinance Establishing a Two-Way Stop at the Intersection of Clayton Street and Plain Street by title only.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance 33-2024**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 33-2024  
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TWO-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION  
OF CLAYTON STREET AND PLAIN STREET**

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

Councilman Galloway moved to introduce a Resolution for the first and 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 with two exceptions. The transfer in CEDIT is to pay for a condensation unit at the Civic Auditorium in conjunction with the improvements that have been made. This condensation unit was not part of the original bid for the improvements. The transfer from the Sewage BAN to Stormwater is for repayment of funds for the Indiana Avenue project. The payment to INDOT was paid from the Stormwater Fund until the Sewage BAN closed.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-38-2024**

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

**RESOLUTION R-38-2024**

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

**Other Business**

President Pro-Tem Franke stated there are a few announcements.

- 1) Prancer Palooza will be held at the Civic on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) La Porte Invitational will be the first part of January.
- 3) Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) Second round of leaf pick-up will start soon weather permitting

Councilman Galloway questioned planting new trees in the tree lawns that are narrow. City Attorney Otis stated there was a whole process and thought put into where trees were going to be planted based on size and growth. He suggested if anyone has questions they should contact Tucker King in the Engineering Department.

**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: December 2, 2024**