

## **December 2, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **Roll Call:**

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

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Galloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **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.

Brett Binversie, Civic & Event Director, introduced a man that does not need an introduction, Santa Claus. Santa thanked the City for allowing him and his elves to be part of the City's Santa Parade. Mayor Dermody thanked Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend tonight's meeting.

Mayor Dermody stated the Superintendent of South Center Schools, Ben Anderson, was in attendance.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Redevelopment Commission:**

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on November 25<sup>th</sup> at which time claims were approved and an interlocal agreement with the County Redevelopment Commission was approved pledging \$76,720.57 which is earmarked for the Bella Largo Senior Living Facility on 39 North for infrastructure improvements. An agreement was approved with Baker Tilly for the proposed bonds for the Boyd Boulevard and Park Street/Thomas Rose Industrial Park West infrastructure projects. Approval was given for year-end transfers and encumbrances.

#### **Sustainability Committee:**

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Park & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board met on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office. The ice rink officially opened on November 29<sup>th</sup> and will stay open until January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Park Board approved renting of the chillers from United Rentals for the 2024-2025 skate season. All rate increases for Park rentals, Beechwood Golf Course rates and Civic Auditorium rates were approved but will not go into effect until 2026 as the 2025 budgets are already completed. The Board unanimously approved a three-year contract with Hot Rod Snow Cones to be the concessionaire at Kesling Park ball fields. Winterfest will be held January 24<sup>th</sup> through January 26, 2025. Approval was given to have horses in the park for horse drawn carriage rides.

**Traffic Commission:**

Councilwoman Feikes reported Traffic Commission meeting will meet tomorrow evening, December 3, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

**Police Merit Commission:**

Councilman Galloway stated the Police Merit Commission will meet on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Police Station.

**Airport Authority:**

Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority will next meet on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

None

**2025 Council Meeting Schedule**

Councilwoman Konieczny read the proposed 2025 Council meeting schedule as follows:

Monday, January 6

\*\*Tuesday, January 21

Monday, February 3

\*\*Tuesday, February 18

Monday, July 7

Monday, July 21

Monday, August 4

Monday, August 18

Monday, March 3  
Monday, March 17  
Monday, April 7  
Monday, April 21  
Monday, May 5  
Monday, May 19  
Monday, June 2  
Monday, June 16

\*\*Tuesday, September 2  
Monday, September 15  
Monday, October 6  
Monday, October 20  
Monday, November 3  
Monday, November 17  
Monday, December 1  
Monday, December 15

\*\*Meeting date changes due to a holiday: MKL Jr. Day, President's Day & Labor Day

### **Motion/Vote – Approve 2025 Council Meeting Schedule**

Councilman Franke moved to approve the 2025 Council meeting schedule as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman and unanimously carried.

### **Business Improvement District Council Appointment: Two-Year Terms for Five (5) Appointments**

Councilman Franke stated he believes this will need to be tabled.

### **Motion/Vote – Council Appointments to the Business Improvement District**

Councilman Buchanan moved to table this agenda item; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

### **La Porte Alcoholic Beverage Review Commission Council Appointment: One (1) Term for One Appointment**

Councilwoman Feikes moved to appoint Councilman Franke to the La Porte Alcoholic Beverage Review Commission; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

### **Redevelopment Commission Council Appointment: One (1) Year Term for Two (2) Appointments**

Councilman Franke moved to re-appoint Brian Chalik and JT McDermott; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried.

### **Police Merit Commission Council Appointment: Three (3) Year Term for One (1) Appointment Starting 3/1/25**

Mayor Dermody thanked Terry Scherer for all the years he has dedicated to the City as a police officer, Council member and on the Police Merit Commission and wished him well.

Councilman Galloway moved to appoint Ben Anderson; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny.

Mr. Anderson addressed the Council stating he has been a resident of the City of La Porte for ten (10) years. He stated he supports law enforcement and is honored to serve this community.

The motion to appoint Ben Anderson was unanimously carried.

**Introduction of an Ordinance Establishing the Storage of Recreational Vehicles and Equipment within the Corporate Limits of the City of La Porte**

Councilman Franke moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Establishing the Storage of Recreational Vehicles and Equipment within the Corporate Limits of the City of La Porte in its entirety.

Mayor Dermody thanked the Council for their time in listening to residents on both sides of this issue.

Councilman Franke reported about a month ago, the Council held a workshop regarding this Ordinance at which time they listened to both sides of this topic. Nick Otis, City Attorney, stated as the attorney for the Council, he drafts what is requested of him. For this particular Ordinance, he researched other communities on this topic.

Second and final reading of this Ordinance will take place at the December 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**Introduction of a Resolution Approving Use of a Tax Abatement on Real Property Taxes Created by the Redevelopment of Real Property**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to introduce a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read a Resolution Approving Use of a Tax Abatement on Real Property Taxes Created by the Redevelopment of Real Property in its entirety.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of the LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership, stated as the City went through the process of annexing 39 North, the City often talked about a number of economic development projects that were ready to move forward. Mr. Cook stated the City is

excited that there is a current business already in place that wants to expand. Linde Inc. is planning to expand their facilities with a \$1.3 million investment, adding twenty-five (25) new employees at an average rate of \$52.88 an hour.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-39-2024**

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

**RESOLUTION R-39-2024**  
**RESOLUTION APPROVING USE OF A TAX ABATEMENT ON**  
**REAL PROPERTY TAXES CREATED BY THE**  
**REDEVELOPMENT OF REAL PROPERTY**

**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 Councilman Buchanan and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets in its entirety.

**Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-40-2024**

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

**RESOLUTION R-40-2024**  
**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2024 BUDGETS**

**Other Business**

Mayor Dermody reported the State of the City Address will take place on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Auditorium. He stated there are a lot of festivities happening in the City including the Cookie Walk, Ice Rink, Prancer Palooza and Winterfest.

**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 16, 2024**