

December 16, 2024

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, December 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Galloway

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Feikes 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.

Petitions and Comments of Citizens

Sierra Sue Jesch, Jefferson Avenue, addressed the Council regarding the Police Department and the need for additional officers. She stated with the annexation of Thirty-Nine North and more businesses coming to La Porte and new housing development this is a need not a want.

Brian Kajer, 406 Niesen Street, stated he feels all the numerous 'trunk-or-treats' are taking away from Halloween and 'Trick-or-Treat'. Mr. Kajer stated he hopes the Council is doing their due diligence with regard to spending taxpayers' money. He stated the City is located in northwest Indiana and the climate dictates what type of roadways and sidewalks we should have and that is not pavers. Mr. Kajer stated we do not live in the 1950's anymore where there was only one car with a one car garage for a family. In today's world families have more than one car and there is limited parking.

Tom Konieczny addressed the Council regarding the Ordinance before them tonight pertaining to RV's. He stated that he agrees with the proposed changes and encouraged the Council to pass the Ordinance.

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue, inquired about why the Ordinance regarding RV storage was drafted. He stated he hopes that when the work on Indiana Avenue starts next year the Noise Ordinance will be enforced and the heavy equipment that will be parked in front of his house will not be starting at 6:00 a.m.

Mayor Dermody stated it his privilege to welcome the 10U Pop Warner National Champs. Mike Nelson, Coach for the La Porte team, introduced his coaches and the players. Mr. Nelson thanked the community who supported the team by donating to their fundraisers in order to be able to compete in the championship games in Florida.

Standing Committee Reports

Redevelopment Commission:

Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission will meet Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Sustainability Commission:

Councilwoman Huffman reported the Sustainability Committee met on December 10th at which time appointments were discussed, as two (2) members are up for renewal. Both members stated they would like to continue to be on the Commission. The first phase of tree planting is wrapping up with the planting of eighty-four trees, but at the end of Phase 6, 480 total trees will be planted. Councilwoman Huffman reported Tucker King is in the process of posting the tree planting plan map on the webpage to allow citizens to provide feedback and to a tree request form online. This tree request form would allow folks to request removal, pruning and planting of trees near their residence. Locations chosen for tree planting are generally low in tree numbers and have low canopy cover. Environmental factors are also taken into consideration when planting trees in the City right-of-way. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Sustainability Commission in La Porte, please attend their next meeting on January 28, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Park & Recreation:

Councilwoman Feikes reported the Park Board will be meeting this Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Office.

Traffic Commission:

Councilwoman Feikes reported the next Traffic Commission meeting will be held on January 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Police Department.

Historic Preservation Commission:

Councilman Buchanan reported the Preservation Commission is scheduled to meet tomorrow, December 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Airport Authority:

Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Airport Authority will next meet on January 8, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. at the Airport.

Second and Final Reading 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 read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman 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 by title only.

Councilman Franke stated this Ordinance will allow residents to park RV's, boats, jet-skis etc., in their driveway as long as it is four feet behind the sidewalk.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Ordinance

Councilman Franke moved to adopt the Ordinance as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny.

Discussion was held regarding this Ordinance. The Ordinance failed with a vote of two (2) ayes and four (4) nays.

Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets

Councilwoman Huffman moved to introduce a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Huffman read a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2024 Budgets in its entirety.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-41-2024

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

**RESOLUTION R-41-2024
A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2024 BUDGETS**

Introduction of a Resolution to Encumber Funds from the 2024 Budgets

Councilman Buchanan moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilwoman Konieczny and unanimously carried. Councilman Buchanan read a Resolution to Encumber Funds from the 2024 Budgets in its entirety.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-42-2024

Councilwoman Huffman moved to adopt the Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and was approved with a vote of five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays with Councilwoman Feikes abstaining.

Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer, stated this is to encumber funds from the 2024 budget for which the City has a contract but will not be invoiced until 2025. She advised the ARP Funds will be fully obligated after tomorrow’s Board of Works meeting.

RESOLUTION R-42-204

RESOLUTION TO ENCUMBER FUNDS FROM THE 2024 BUDGETS

Introduction of a Resolution Amending Resolution R-32-2024 and R-18-2022 and R-12-2022 Identifying the City of La Porte’s Plan to Use American Rescue Plan Funds

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to introduce a Resolution; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read a Resolution Amending Resolution R-32-2024 and R-18-2022 and R-12-2022 Identifying the City of La Porte’s Plan to Use American Rescue Plan Funds in its entirety.

Motion/Vote – Adopt Resolution R-43-2024

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to adopt the Resolution as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman Huffman and was approved with a vote of five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays with Councilwoman Feikes abstaining.

The Clerk-Treasurer advised this Resolution is cleaning up some of the dollar numbers that were allocated for projects that came in under/over the original estimates. Nothing new has been added. Discussion was held regarding this Resolution.

RESOLUTION R-43-2024

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION R-32-2024 AND R-18-2022

**AND R-12-2022 IDENTIFYING THE CITY OF LA PORTE'S PLAN TO USE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS**

Other Business

Mayor Dermody wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Adjourn

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

Approved: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: January 6, 2025