**April 4, 2022**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, April 4, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Pledge**

Councilwoman West led the pledge of allegiance.

**Present** Cutler, West, Galloway, Franke, Konieczny

**Absent** Feikes, Vincent

**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. Councilman Franke moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

Mayor Dermody noted that the National Interscholastic Basketball Conference (NIBC) tournament held in January was a special event that brought City of La Porte the national spotlight. He invited Mark Schrieber, Park Department Superintendent to address the Council. Mr. Schrieber agreed with Mayor Dermody that the event was special, and showcased City of La Porte and the Civic Auditorium. Mr. Schrieber stated this could not have been done without the partnership of Jack Arnett and the La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Schreiber stated the Convention and Visitors Bureau, with Mr. Arnett at the helm, hosted players, and coaches from around the country at Blue Chip Hotel and Casino, where they stayed and were fed. Mr. Schrieber invited Mr. Jack Arnett to the podium and presented him with a beautifully framed copy of the National Interscholastic Basketball Conference program. Mr. Arnett thanked his staff for all the hard work to help make the event successful. Mayor Dermody thanked Mr. Arnett and all the sponsors.

Mayor Dermody invited Mrs. Jackie Dermody CEO of Family Advocates to address the Council regarding Child Abuse Prevention. Mrs. Dermody and Maggie Fritzen spoke to the Council about Child Abuse Prevention. In the month of April, they wish to paint the town blue in an effort to bring awareness to child abuse. They presented the Council with a beautiful blue bow to display at City Hall throughout the month of April. It is their hope they will see more of these blue bows throughout the City of La Porte.

Dean White, 3066 N US HWY 35 La Porte, addressed the Council requesting a response to the parking resolution for his downtown Airbnb. He also noted that he owns the restaurant Four Seasons Asian Fusion and would like to request a temporary carryout spot. Mr. White stated quite often, people will park in the yellow marked spot at the end of the street creating a dangerous situation. He noted Enzos has two spots in front of their restaurant. Councilwoman Konieczny let Mr. White know that the Traffic Commission will be meeting next Tuesday at the Police Station and invited him to attend.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on March 30, 2022. The Monroe Streetscape Project and the Clear Lake/Truesdell Construction project were discussed. Mr. Franke reported Smoothie King in NewPorte Landing will close on April 13, 2022. Mr. Franke reported Redevelopment Commission approved the expense for Infinite Development to extend Sewer and Wastewater on McClung Road not to exceed $106,000. Finally, Mr. Franke reported Don George property will be going out to public bid again later this month.

**School Board:** Councilman Franke reported the School Board will meet on Monday April 11, 2022.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** Councilman Franke reported the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will not hold a meeting until the new Human Resources Director begins employment at City of La Porte.

**Historic Preservation Committee:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Historic Preservation Committee will meet April 19, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the next meeting for Airport Authority will be held April 13, 2022 at 5:15 P.M. via Zoom or at the Airport.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the next meeting for Traffic Commission will be held April 12, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Police Department.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported the next meeting for Police Merit Commission will be held April 12, 2022 at the Police Station.

**Mayor’s Veteran’s Committee**: Councilman Galloway reported at the next meeting for Mayor’s Veteran’s Committee, election of officers will be held.

**Fire Merit Commission:** Councilwoman West reported the next Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held April 6, 2022, at Fire Station 1.

**Redevelopment Commission Annual Report:** City Planner Craig Phillips presented the Redevelopment Commission Annual Report to the Council.

Mayor Dermody invited Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Bert Cook to discuss The Banks project. Mr. Cook reported nineteen apartments have taken occupancy. Mr. Cook noted there is a misconception that this complex was built to attract people from other areas, and he is ecstatic to report 85% of the occupants are from La Porte County. Mayor Dermody added the environmental issues at the NewPorte Landing site prior to new construction would have had to be dealt with regardless of The Banks project. Mayor Dermody also noted that a west side grocer is a priority.

**Second and Final Reading of An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Public Safety Department**

Councilman Galloway moved to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Public Safety Department by title only.

Clerk-Treasurer Parthun noted this position has been a part-time position. Chief Brettin will work within the Police budget to have a full-time administrative assistant on staff.

**Motion/Vote to Adopt an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Public Safety Department**

Councilwoman Konieczny made a motion to Adopt an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Public Safety Department; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5-2022**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1-2022 TO ESTABLISH A SALARY FOR A NEW POSITION IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

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

Councilwoman West moved to read an Ordinance for the second time by title only; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman West read an Ordinance for Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund No. 2401 by title only.

**Motion/Vote to Adopt an Ordinance for Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; Fund No. 2401**

Councilwoman Cutler made a motion to adopt an Ordinance for Additional Appropriation for ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; Fund No. 2401; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6-2022**

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

**Introduction of** **an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte**

Councilwoman Cutler moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion was seconded by Councilwoman West an unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of La Porte, Indiana as Enacted August 21, 2017, which is Part of Chapter 82 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Porte by Amending the Official Zone Map that are Part of the Zoning Ordinance in Order to Re-Zone Two Parcels of Real Estate in the City of La Porte in its entirety.

City Planner Craig Phillips addressed Council stating this amendment re-zones the area from the R1B Single Family District to the R2A Townhouse Residential District. Mr. Phillips noted the property was acquired by land swap with the La Porte Community School Corporation. Second and final reading will take place at the April 18, 2022 meeting.

**Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Human Resources Department**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1-2022 to Establish a Salary for a New Position in the Human Resources Department in its entirety.

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun noted that Corrinee Fitzgerald has graciously agreed to come out of retirement to fill a part-time position in the Human Resources Department. Second and final reading will take place at the April 18, 2022 meeting.

**Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Section 2-103 in Chapter 2 of the La Porte Municipal Code Establishing a Commission on Sustainability** Councilman Franke moved to Introduce an Ordinance for the first time its entirety; motion seconded by Councilman Galloway and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read an Ordinance Amending Section 2-103 in Chapter 2 of the La Porte Municipal Code Establishing a Commission on Sustainability in its entirety.

City Attorney Nick Otis noted this amendment was due to an error in staggered terms. Second and final reading will take place at the April 18,2022 meeting.

**Other Business:** Mayor Dermody invited Council and the public to attend the La Porte County Council meeting on Monday April 11, 2022 for the public hearing and introduction of the Public Safety Local Income Tax. The vote will take place at the April 28, 2022 meeting. Mayor Dermody noted that it will take $750,000 just to keep our public safety team status quo and additional funds are needed to support the sustainability of Public Safety in the City of La Porte.

Rick Ogle, 1902 Indiana Avenue La Porte addressed the Council clarifying that property owners were not the only ones that would see an increase in Local Income Tax. Mayor Dermody stated this is a Local Income Tax, not a Property Tax - If adopted, and if a resident is currently paying local income tax, there would be a slight increase. Discussion was held on the drug issue in the Community and the importance of more officers on the streets.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Councilman Galloway moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilman Franke and unanimously carried.

**Approve: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

**Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: April 18, 2022**