**August 1, 2022**

The Common Council of the City of La Porte met in regular session Monday, August 1, 2022, at 6:02 P.M. in Council Chambers.

**Pledge**

Councilwoman Konieczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Absent** None

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

**Petitions and Comments of Citizens**

La Porte County Councilman Michael Rosenbaum, 1515 Indiana Avenue, acknowledged Lakefest was an incredible success noting it takes the entire team coming together to make it happen. Mr. Rosenbaum thanked the City for their partnership in getting the road by the EMS station renovated. Mr. Rosenbaum did note there is some confusion and possible signage needed now that the center piece has been removed, but it is such a vast improvement for the new ambulances that are on order.

Kailyn Deckard, Scipio Township Trustee, 1482 W. 500 S. introduced herself to the Council and noted she was in attendance to listen and learn more about the annexation and how it could impact Scipio Township.

Sierra Sue Jesch, Jefferson Avenue, noted more benches are needed in the downtown area. Additionally, Ms. Jesch noted on some of the side streets such as Jefferson, trees need to be trimmed, noting 512 Jefferson Avenue specifically.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Sustainability Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Sustainability Commission met on Monday, July 25, 2022 and noted Liam Buells presented on the facts uncovered from the survey released recently. Liam Buells, City of La Porte Intern is now working on putting a plan of action together.

**Redevelopment Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Redevelopment Commission met on July 27, 2022. Nick Minich, City Engineer updated the Commission on projects keeping the Clear Lake Loop as the focus this year and putting the parking study and Monroe Street Scape further back in the timeline because of all of the projects going on.

**Diversity and Inclusion Commission:** Councilman Franke reported the Diversity and Inclusion Commission met July 28, 2022 having more discussion on flags and upcoming events the Commission would like to be a part of.

**Park Board:** Councilwoman Feikes reported Park Board met on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at the Park Office. Councilwoman Feikes reported approval was given for the placement of one more outdoor musical instrument that was funded by the Visual Arts Council. The Lily Pad symbols will be placed a the Craven Pond Trail head. Councilwoman Feikes also reported the Tour de La Porte will be taking place August 26, 2022 through August 28, 2022. The Park Board will allow parking off the roadways for the event. On Saturday, August 13, 2022, the Annual La Porte County Blues Festival will be held at the Fox Park Amphitheater. Permission was granted for later park hours and off-road parking. Councilwoman Feikes reported Mark Schrieber and Pam Carroll will be attending the Indiana Park and Recreation Association Conference November 15-17, 2022. Lastly, Councilwoman Feikes reported roof reconstruction is happening currently at the Civic Auditorium and should be complete by the end of August.

**Traffic Commission:** Councilwoman Feikes reported Traffic Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at the Police Station

**Mayor’s Veterans Committee**: Councilman Galloway reported August 8, 2022, Mayor’s Veterans Committee will meet at 5:00 P.M at the Park Department. August 6, 2022 the VFW is holding a Rib Cook-Off from 12-3 P.M. celebrating their 85th Anniversary.

**Police Merit Commission:** Councilman Galloway reported Police Merit Commission will meet Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 2:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

**Business Improvement District Board:** Councilwoman Cutler reported at the July 11 Business Improvement District meeting the BID approved use of funds for updating Downtown Christmas decorations. The next Business Improvement District meeting will be held Monday, August 8, 2022.

**Urban Enterprise Association:** Councilwoman Cutler reported the UEA approved use of funds for updating Downtown Christmas Decorations online. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership office.

**Fire Merit Commission:** Councilwoman West reported Fire Merit Commission will meet August 3, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. at Fire Station No. 1.

**Historic Preservation Commission:**  Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Historic Preservation Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers

**Airport Authority:** Councilwoman Konieczny reported the Air Fair will return on August 6-7, 2022. The event will run from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. each day. Rides will be available to purchase for both the PT-26A and the C-45. Also featured at the air fare will be aviation career booths, antique care display, the La Porte County Library Mobile Classroom, Craft Vendors, Food Trucks, Kona Ice, and much more. Don’t forget to attend the pancake breakfast on Sunday, August 7th from 7:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. 97.6 The Eagle will be broadcasting on Saturday and Rock 106.5 will be present on Sunday. Councilwoman Konieczny reported fuel sales remain strong even with the rising prices and noted the next Airport Authority meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 5:15 P.M at the Airport.

**Introduction of an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana Annexing to and Bringing Within the City Limits of La Porte, Indiana, and Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Property Located in Scipio Township, Contiguous Herewith: Name of Petition: La Porte Municipal Airport Authority**

**Common Address: Vacant parcel of real estate located within close proximity of the La Porte Municipal Airport**

Councilwoman Konieczny moved to introduce an Ordinance for the first time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Konieczny read an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of La Porte, Indiana Annexing to and Bringing Within the City Limits of La Porte, Indiana, and Amending the Zoning Ordinance for Property Located in Scipio Township, Contiguous Herewith in its entirety.

Ed Volk, President of the Airport Board, addressed the Council and noted this is a simple procedure. The Airport owns a parcel totaling 49.6 acres and is a City Airport established by the City. It makes sense for the City to have within its confines, all of the property owned by its departments and agencies, which is the Airport. Mr. Volk reported the reason the Airport wishes to extend the runway beyond 5,000 feet is because of demand. It is not unusual for and aircraft to report that they can’t buy fuel because if they do, they will be overloaded and can’t leave the Airport in a safe manner. It is truly for safety purposes as Mr. Volk stated the Airport doesn’t want to have a situation where an aircraft runs off the end of the runway in icy or rainy conditions. It is a simple solution and a simple procedure. The airport acquired this parcel last spring. It was in a trust administered by JP Morgan Chase. They own a parcel of approximately 95 acres across the South end of the Airport property and this 49.6 acres was just on the west end. This property abuts with the Airport on the North, 39 on the West, Luhr Park on the South and JP Morgan Chase owns the remainder. City Attorney Nick Otis noted all of the remaining parcels in the City are already zoned AP. Mr. Volk concurred.

Bill Nelson, Legal Council for the Airport, reported this is Public Hearing of this Annexation Petition required by statute. Statute also requires that tonight’s hearing be published, and Mr. Nelson reported the Affidavit of Publication indicated that on July 7, 2022, Notice of Hearing was published in the La Porte Herald Dispatch. Statute also requires certain landowners in certain proximities of the petitioned land be given individual notice; there were eight of them for this petition. Seven Return Requests from Certified Mail sent out were acknowledged including signatures. The final return request came back as unclaimed and satisfies the statutory provision that notice was provided.

**Public Hearing of Annexation Petition**

Mayor Dermody opened the public hearing and invited public comment.

Porter Douglas, 2201 Mustang Drive, asked questions about the purpose of the acquisition, the orientation of the runway and asked if the old runway will still be in use for the extra jets coming into La Porte.

Mike Essling, 1076 S. Fieldstone Drive, inquired if the property affected the farm on the West side of I street South of 250. City Attorney Nick Otis said it would not and offered to show him a map of the proposed annexation.

Kaelynn Deckard, Scipio Township Trustee, requested a copy of the Ordinance, the names of the eight adjacent property owners, a map of the property affected and asked if I street is going to be closed. Again, the Mayor said the City has no intention of closing I Street within City limits. Ms. Deckard also asked questions about fuel sales.

Adam Palmer, 1007 W. 22nd Street, asked what type of plane can land at the Airport with the new runway.

Ed Volk, President of the Airport Board answered each of the questions from public comment. The aircraft coming in are larger and more efficient, so they are built to be quiet. Mr. Volk noted Scipio Township Volunteer Fire Department is a tenant of the La Porte Municipal Airport and the Airport wants Scipio Volunteer Fire Department to succeed. Mr. Volk stated there are no plans to extend the old runway across 150 or I Street at this time. Mr. Volk stated part of the Airport’s revenue, which reduces the tax burden on taxpayers, is fuel sales. Mr. Volk noted the farm on the West side of I Street South of 250 will not be affected as it is not part of the property. Mr. Volk discussed the orientation of the runway that are associated with the annexation and future development plans.

Mr. Volk answered additional questions by the public and advised the majority of funding for this project is federally funded.

With no further public comments, Mayor Dermody closed the Public Hearing.

**Introduction of a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Concerning Utility Receipts Tax**

Councilman Franke moved to Introduce a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Concerning Utility Receipts Tax for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Cutler and unanimously carried. Councilman Franke read a Resolution of the City of La Porte Indiana Concerning Utility Receipts Tax for the first and only time in its entirety.

**Motion to Adopt/Vote**

Councilwoman Feikes made a motion to Adopt a Resolution of the City of La Porte, Indiana Concerning Utility Receipts Tax; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody noted this passed out of the General Assembly in 2022. We will be doing a rate study in 2024 and the cost of a rate study right now would just raise rates for residents. This just allows us to leave the URT tax as is without passing additional cost on to residents.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-13 -2022**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA CONCERNING UTILITY RECEIPTS TAX**

**Introduction of a Resolution for City of La Porte to Establish a Local Income Tax Public Safety Fund; Fund No. 2240**

Councilman Galloway moved to Introduce a Resolution for City of La Porte to Establish a Local Income Tax Public Safety Fund; Fund No. 2240 for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilman Galloway read a Resolution for City of La Porte to Establish a Local Income Tax Public Safety Fund; Fund No. 2240 for the first and only time in its entirety.

**Motion to Adopt/Vote**

Councilman Franke made a motion to Adopt a Resolution for City of La Porte to Establish a Local Income Tax Public Safety Fund; Fund No. 2240; motion seconded by Councilman Vincent and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody noted with the passing of the Public Safety Local Income Tax by the County Council a fund needed to be created. This formalizes Fund No. 2240 as the City of La Porte’s Public Safety Local Income Tax Fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-14 -2022**

**A RESOLUTION FOR CITY OF LA PORTE TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL INCOME TAX PUBLIC SAFETY FUND; FUND NO. 2240**

**Introduction of a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2022 Budget**

Councilwoman Cutler moved to introduce a Resolution for the first and only time in its entirety; motion seconded by Councilwoman Feikes and unanimously carried. Councilwoman Cutler read a Resolution to Transfer Funds Within the 2022 Budget for the first and only time in its entirety.

**Motion to Adopt/Vote**

Councilwoman Cutler made a motion to Adopt a Resolution to Transfer Funds within the 2022 Budget; motion seconded by Councilwoman West and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody noted the Engineering Department has an open position that is not being filled. They will use those funds for professional services. As everyone is aware gas prices have been rising and the Police Department needs money for gas. There will likely be more transfers done to cover rising gas prices. In January the Civic Auditorium hosted the NIBC tournament. The transfer being done for the Civic is the net revenue from the event.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-15 -2022**

**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE 2022 BUDGET**

**Other Business:**

Mayor Dermody stated Lakefest was a huge success. He thanked Mark Schreiber and the entire Park Department for all their hard work. Mayor Dermody encouraged everyone to be safe. COVID has not gone away. Please be cautious and be careful.

**Adjourn**

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

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

**Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor**

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

**Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer**

**Approved: August 15, 2022**