

LOUIS R. RIGBY
Mayor
BRANDON LUNSFORD
Councilperson At Large A
BRENT McCAULLEY
Councilperson At Large B
TREY KENDRICK
Councilperson District 1
CHUCK ENGELKEN
Councilperson District 2



BILL BENTLEY
Councilperson District 3
THOMAS GARZA
Councilperson District 4
JAY MARTIN
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilperson District 5
ROBBIE McLARRIN
Councilperson District 6

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE
JULY 12, 2021**

The City Council of the City of La Porte met in a regular meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, at 6:00 p.m., with the following in attendance:

Councilpersons present: Louis Rigby, Brandon Lunsford, Brent McCaulley, Chuck Engelken, Bill Bentley (*left meeting following executive session*), Thomas Garza, Jay Martin, Robbie McLarrin

Councilpersons attending remotely: None

Councilpersons absent: None

Council-appointed officers present: Corby Alexander, City Manager; Lee Woodward, City Secretary; Clark Askins, Assistant City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Rigby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **INVOCATION** – The invocation was given by Pastor Philip Dunn, Lighthouse Baptist Church and pledges were led by Councilperson Bill Bentley.

3. **PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS**

a. Proclamation – Parks and Recreation Month [Louis R. Rigby, Mayor]

b. Recognition of City employees for years of service [Louis R. Rigby, Mayor]

4. **CITIZEN COMMENT** (*Generally limited to five minutes per person; in accordance with state law, the time may be reduced if there is a high number of speakers or other considerations.*)

Tomas Guillen spoke about access and zoning issues with lots he owns on a street the City has closed. Sue Sabin shared her questions about the proposal for a new City Hall, the combination of Parks and Golf funds, the 'outtake' for the Golf Course, and the recent Planning and Zoning Commission decision in the Lomax area.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA** (*Approval of Consent Agenda items authorizes each to be implemented in accordance with staff recommendations provided. An item may be removed from the consent agenda and added to the Statutory Agenda for full discussion upon request by a member of the Council present at this meeting.*)

a. Approve the minutes of the June 28, 2021, City Council meeting. [Louis R. Rigby, Mayor]

b. Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Techline Sports Lighting, LLC under Texas Buy Board Contract No. 592-19, in the amount of \$363,370.00, with a contingency of \$26,075.00, for a total authorization of \$389,445.00, for the purchase and installation of new light fixtures on the softball fields and soccer field at Little Cedar Bayou Park. [Lindsay French, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation]

c. Adopt Ordinance 2021-3839 awarding RFP #20501 for Delinquent Tax Collection Services and authorizing a contract with the firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott LLP. [Michael Dolby, Finance Director]

d. Adopt Ordinance 2021-3838 authorizing the issuance of approximately \$13.5 million of City of La Porte, Texas, Certificates of Obligation, Series 2021, and other related matters. [Michael Dolby, Finance Director]

Mayor Pro Tem Martin moved to amend the June 28, 2021, minutes to include the comments made by the Mayor during Council Comment; the motion was seconded by Councilperson McCaulley. Councilperson Garza moved to amend that all of the Councilpersons' comments from the last meeting be included verbatim; the amendment did not receive a second and was not considered.

The main motion was adopted, 7-1. Councilperson Garza voting against.

Councilperson Engelken moved to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Techline Sports Lighting, LLC under Texas Buy Board Contract No. 592-19, in the amount of \$363,370.00, with a contingency of \$26,075.00, for a total authorization of \$389,445.00, for the purchase and installation of new light fixtures on the softball fields and soccer field at Little Cedar Bayou Park; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

Councilperson Engelken moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-3839 awarding RFP #20501 for Delinquent Tax Collection Services and authorizing a contract with the firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott LLP; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Bentley; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

Councilperson Bentley moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-3838 authorizing the issuance of approximately \$13.5 million of City of La Porte, Texas, Certificates of Obligation, Series 2021, and other related matters; the motion was seconded by Councilperson McCaulley; the motion was adopted, 7-1, Councilperson Garza voting against.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2021, City Council meeting [as amended above]; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Bentley; the motion was adopted, 7-1, Councilperson Garza voting against.

6. STATUTORY AGENDA

- a. Presentation and discussion and possible action to provide staff direction on option of posting a sign at the entrance of an open governmental meeting prohibiting unlicensed concealed and open constitutional carry of firearms. [Corby Alexander, City Manager]**

Councilperson McCaulley moved to direct staff to post a sign at the entrance of an open governmental meeting prohibiting unlicensed concealed and open constitutional carry of firearms; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Bentley; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

- b. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding a recommended date for holding the public hearing on the City of La Porte's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Proposed Budget. [Shelley Wolny, Assistant Finance Director]**

Councilperson Engelken moved to approve the recommended date [September 13] for holding the public hearing on the City of La Porte's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Proposed Budget; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Bentley; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, July 15
- Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting, July 22
- City Council meeting, July 26

Mr. Alexander said he had given Mr. Guillen his card and would be following up on his comments.

- 8. COUNCIL COMMENTS Hear announcements concerning matters appearing on the agenda; items of community interest; and/or inquiries of staff regarding specific factual information or existing policy from the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City staff, for which no formal action will be discussed or taken.**

Councilpersons congratulated Parks and Recreation staff for the wonderful jobs they do and Mr. Rodriguez for his 30 years with the City of La Porte; urged support of construction of a new City Hall and going 'above and beyond' midpoints or 'average' for employee pay; shared the belief that the budget was the most important business the City does; asked the Council to reconsider the signs currently outside City meetings restricting open carry; expressed disagreement with a plan to build a new City Hall and encouraged the public to challenge elected officials for their reasoning for decisions;

offered appreciation for the ability to erect a flag pole at a residence; asked another member of Council to enter into public debate; and thanked the La Porte Rotary Club and City departments for the Fourth of July parade.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

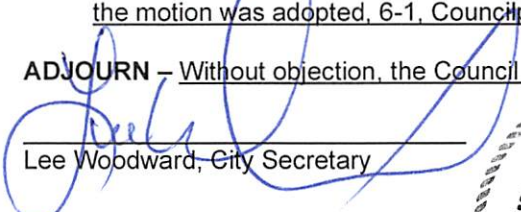
- a. City Council will meet in closed session pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 – personnel matters regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee – concerning City Manager Corby Alexander.

The Council convened in executive session at 7:23 p.m.

10. RECONVENE into regular session and consider action, if any, on item(s) discussed in executive session.

The Council reconvened into open session at 8:38 (Councilperson Bentley was not in attendance). Councilperson Engelken moved to grant a 4% increase to the City Manager's salary; Councilperson McCaulley seconded the motion; the motion was adopted, 6-1, Councilperson Garza voting against.

ADJOURN – Without objection, the Council adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



Lee Woodward, City Secretary

