

**LOUIS RIGBY**  
Mayor  
**BRANDON LUNSFORD**  
Councilperson At Large A  
**STEVE GILLETT**  
Councilperson At Large B  
**DANNY EARP**  
Councilperson District 1  
**CHUCK ENGELKEN**  
Councilperson District 2



**BILL BENTLEY**  
Councilperson District 3  
Mayor Pro-Tem  
**THOMAS GARZA**  
Councilperson District 4  
**JAY MARTIN**  
Councilperson District 5  
**NANCY OJEDA**  
Councilperson District 6

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

The City Council of the City of La Porte met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019, 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, Thomas Garza, Steve Gillett, Chuck Engelken, Bill Bentley, Brandon Lunsford, Jay Martin, Nancy Ojeda

**Councilpersons absent:** Danny Earp

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Rigby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – The invocation was given by Councilperson Nancy Ojeda.  
  
**PLEDGES** – The pledges of allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags were led by Kaleb Little of Boy Scout Troop 930.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Limited to five minutes per person.) Donna O’Conner thanked the Council for supporting Kaleb Little’s flag depository boxes, noting that his family was not able to cover all the costs of this Eagle Scout project and would accept donations.
4. **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 City Council meeting held on August 26, 2019. [Louis R. Rigby, Mayor]
  - (b) Accept the Tax Assessor’s certified 2019 ad valorem anticipated collection rate for the City of La Porte. [Michael Dolby, Finance Director]
  - (c) Ratify the City Manager’s appointment of Victor Peres to the Civil Service Commission for a three-year term expiring August 31, 2022. [Corby Alexander, City Manager]
  - (d) Adopt Resolution 2019-13, authorizing the resale of tax delinquent property located at Lots 11 and 12, Block 988, Town of La Porte. [Shelley Wolny, Treasurer]
  - (e) Adopt Resolution 2019-14, authorizing the City Manager to sign a grant award and other documents for the Traffic Control STEP Grant. [Ron Parker, Chief of Police]
  - (f) Adopt Resolution 2019-15, authorizing the City Manager to sign a grant award and other documents for the Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) STEP grant. [Ron Parker, Chief of Police]
  - (g) Adopt Ordinance 2019-3755, amending Chapter 86 of the City of La Porte Development Code. [Clark T. Askins, Assistant City Attorney]
  - (h) Adopt Resolution 2019-17, approving a nomination for the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) board member representing cities other than the City of Houston. [Louis R. Rigby, Mayor]

Councilperson Garza asked to pull item (h). Councilperson Engelken moved to approve the consent agenda; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

Councilperson Engelken moved to adopt item (h). Councilmember Garza moved to postpone the item until September 23; the motion was not adopted, 2-6, Councilpersons Garza and Gillett voting in support. The original motion was adopted 7-1, Councilperson Garza voting against.

## 5. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ASSOCIATED ORDINANCES

- (a) **The City Council will hold a public hearing to receive comments regarding their consideration of the proposed budget for the City's FY 2019-20; followed by discussion and possible action to adopt Ordinance 2019-3756, approving the City's Fiscal Year 2019-20 Proposed Budget. [Michael Dolby, Finance Director and Matt Hartleib, HR Manager]**

Mayor Rigby opened the public hearing at 6:19 p.m. Michael Dolby, Finance Director, provided a presentation on changes to the published proposed budget. Matt Hartleib presented compensation and classification study recommendations. Councilpersons Engelken and Bentley volunteered for the proposed work group. Councilperson Engelken suggested the Council follow the staff recommendation to form a compensation and classification work group, with the hope it can report at the first meeting in October. Bill Scott asked for more information on total compensation packages. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:56 p.m.

Councilperson Engelken moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-3756 approving the City's Fiscal Year 2019-20 Proposed Budget and to form a work group for the salary and classification review.

Councilperson Bentley moved to amend the budget by including a line item for recommendations potentially coming from the Parks Master Plan survey. Following discussion, without objection, the motion was withdrawn.

The main motion was adopted, 6-2, Councilpersons Garza and Gillett voting against. The Mayor appointed Councilpersons Engelken, Bentley, and Lunsford as Council representatives to the compensation and classification work group with staff.

## 6. STATUTORY AGENDA

- (a) **Presentation, discussion, and possible action to adopt a City sponsorship policy. [Corby Alexander, City Manager]**

Councilperson Garza moved to set aside (blank) for sponsorships and direct the City Manager to develop policies and procedures to approve sponsorships up to (blank). The motion was not seconded and was not considered.

Councilperson Ojeda moved to adopt a policy for City sponsorships as presented, providing that the City pay no more than half an applicant's budget, and considering that hotel/motel funds be subject to an application process, before and after reporting, submission of an advertising budget, and proof of hotel stays. The motion was not seconded and was not considered.

Councilperson Garza moved to strike the second, eleventh, and fifteenth bullet points in Section II. Policy of the proposed policy. Councilperson Engelken moved to postpone the item and allow staff to bring back a revised policy at the second meeting in October; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

- (b) **Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the City's participation as a sponsor for regatta events during 2019-2020 at the Houston Yacht Club. [Jason Weeks, Assistant City Manager]**

Councilperson Engelken moved that the City participate as a sponsor for regatta events during 2019-2020 at the Houston Yacht Club, the motion was adopted, 7-1, Councilperson Ojeda voting against. (The Council took a ten-minute recess at 8:01 p.m.)

- (c) **Presentation, discussion, and possible action to adopt Resolution 2019-16, accepting the 2019 HCAD certified appraisal roll. [Michael Dolby, Finance Director]**

Councilperson Bentley moved to adopt Resolution 2019-16, accepting the 2019 HCAD certified appraisal roll, the motion was adopted, 8-0.

- (d) **Presentation, discussion, and possible action on a proposed tax rate of \$0.71, and approval of the recommended dates of September 19 and September 23, 2019, for public hearings on the City's tax rate. [Michael Dolby, Finance Director]**

Councilperson Engelken moved that the City hold public hearings for the proposed tax rate of \$0.71 for fiscal year 2019-2020 on September 19 at 5:30 p.m. and September 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilperson Garza moved to amend the tax rate to lower the rate to the effective rate of \$0.685. The motion was not seconded and was not considered. The main motion was adopted, 8-0.

- (e) **Presentation, discussion, and possible action to adopt Ordinance 2019-3747, amending Chapter 82, "Buildings and Building Regulations" - Appendix A 'Fees' of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Porte, for the purpose of changing fees for city residential building permits and residential mechanical permits. [Corby Alexander, City Manager]**

Councilperson Engelken moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-3747, amending Chapter 82, "Buildings and Building Regulations" - Appendix A 'Fees' of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Porte, for the purpose of changing fees for city residential building permits and residential mechanical permits; the motion was adopted 8-0.

- (f) **Presentation and discussion on Ordinance 2019-3758, to amend the Council Rules of Procedure and Ethics Policy. [Louis R. Rigby, Mayor]**

Without objection, the proposed amendment was designated as a standing agenda item until the Council had an opportunity to work its way through it.

- (g) **Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the City's approach to locations for warehouse/wholesaler/distribution operations in La Porte. [Louis R. Rigby, Mayor]**

The Mayor to direct staff to place an administrative hold on any new or pending zoning change and/or SCUP application for warehouse/wholesale/distribution proposed for the City of La Porte and to appoint a special committee of Councilpersons Ojeda (as the chair), Martin, and Earp to work closely with Planning to determine the philosophy for accepting development applications. (The Mayor added that he would not require a schedule or a reporting time for the committee.)

Councilperson Garza moved to amend the motion to allow that the administrative hold only be in effect until the first meeting in October. The motion was not seconded and was not considered. The main motion was adopted, 7-1, Councilperson Garza voting against.

## **7. REPORTS**

- (a) **Receive a report of the Drainage and Flooding Committee Meeting. [Councilperson Jay Martin]**

Councilperson Martin reported on the Drainage and Flooding Committee meeting, relaying that the Harris County Flood District Representative was not in attendance and that Lorenzo Wingate, City Engineer, had provided an update on projects and funding to be allocated by the General Land Office (GLO).

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- City Council Special Session, Thursday, September 19, 2019
- Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting, Thursday, September 19, 2019
- City Council Meeting, Monday, September 23, 2019
- Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting, Thursday, September 26, 2019
- City Council Special Session, Monday, September 30, 2019

City Manager Corby Alexander said there was no report.

9. **COUNCIL COMMENTS regarding matters appearing on the agenda; recognition of community members, city employees, and upcoming events; inquiry of staff regarding specific factual information or existing policies.**

Councilmembers thanked staff for remaining through the meeting; expressed appreciation to Kaleb Little for the flag depository boxes; offered regrets for having to vote against the budget since it was part of a combined motion; fondly remembered former Councilperson Charlie Young, who passed away last week at 100; recognized City Secretary Lee Woodward for accomplishments at last week's National Association of Parliamentarians conference; thanked Ray Mayo and his staff for recent sidewalk repairs; thanked City Manager Corby Alexander and staff and the Finance Department for their work on the budget.

**ADJOURN** – Without objection, Mayor Rigby adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.