



**HANDBOOK FOR  
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS,  
COMMITTEES, CITY  
REPRESENTATIVES, AND  
APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**UPDATED JUNE 2021**



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**CITY OF LA PORTE**  
**604 West Fairmont Parkway**  
**La Porte, Texas 77571**  
**281-471-5020**

**Mayor and City Councilpersons**

**Mayor**

**At Large A**

**At Large B**

**Councilmember District 1**

**Councilmember District 2**

**Councilmember District 3**

**Councilmember District 4**

**Councilmember District 5**

**Councilmember District 6**

**Louis Rigby**

**Brandon Lunsford**

**Brent McCaulley**

**Mandi Williams**

**Chuck Engelken**

**Bill Bentley**

**Thomas Garza**

**Jay Martin**

**Robbie McLarrin**

## **FOREWORD**

The work done by citizens serving on City boards, commissions, and committees and as appointed officials is a vital part of the governance of the city of La Porte. Members appointed by the City Council have an opportunity to affect public policy, gain access to the highest levels of City government, and to develop skills that will serve them in other professional service. Any citizen interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee should contact the City Secretary's Office or appropriate staff liaison to learn more about these roles and their requirements. In addition to submitting a completed application, it will also be helpful to notify the Mayor or a Councilperson of one's interest.

This publication provides a listing of boards, commissions, and committees and other appointed officials in the City of La Porte. The City Council encourages participation of qualified citizens and is committed to diversity on all appointments. Questions regarding board, commission, and committee service or volunteering with the City in general should be directed to the City Secretary's Office at 281-470-5021.

It is our hope that your service to the City of La Porte will be both rewarding and fulfilling. Again, thank you for your willingness to serve.

Sincerely,  
Louis R. Rigby  
Mayor

## DEFINITIONS AND LEGAL LIABILITY

***Boards and Commissions Defined.*** La Porte has two types of boards, commissions, and committees: advisory and decision making. Additionally, there are boards whose members are appointed by the City Council and are separate legal entities. The listing of each committee in this manual provides a general description of each type of board/commission, as well as any eligibility requirements as defined by City ordinance.

***Advisory Commissions and Boards.*** These advise the La Porte City Council on specific issues. They play a very important role in city government by providing City Council with creative ideas and feedback from the community and by serving as a sounding board for proposed public policy. An advisory commission or board does not set public policy.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Term (years)</u>	<u>Annual Expirations</u>
Airport Advisory Board	5 regular 1 staff liaison	3 n/a	2 or 3, alternating n/a
Animal Shelter Advisory Committee	5	-	-
Chapter 172 Employee, Retiree Insurance and Benefits Board	9	2, for some positions	1 or 2, alternating
Drainage and Flooding Committee	3 and an alternate Councilpersons only	-	-
Fiscal Affairs Committee	3 and an alternate Councilpersons only	-	-

La Porte Police Department Citizens Advisory Board – this is a not a Council board but was set up by Chief Parker in 2019. The current Police Chief makes appointments.

***Decision Making Boards and Commissions*** are quasi-judicial and are governed by state law. Decision Making Boards set or enforce public policy and are potentially subject to review by the courts. Decision Making Boards also advise the City Council on public policy. Members serving on Decision Making boards should take an oath of office and are subject to open meetings laws, public information act laws, and ethics laws.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Term (years)</u>	<u>Annual Expirations</u>
Civil Service Commission	3 regular	3 years	1
Dangerous Building Inspection Board	3 specific staff positions	n/a	n/a
Fire Code Review Board	9 appointees and 3 ex-officio staff members	3	4 or 5, alternating
Firefighters' Pension Board	1 City appointee	Council choice	n/a
Building Codes Appeal Board	7	3	staggered
La Porte Development Corporation Board of Directors	7	2 years	3 or 4, alternating
La Porte Health Authority	2 appts. and 1 contracted member	2	0 or 2, alternating
Planning and Zoning Commission	9 members	3 years	staggered, but tied with term of appointing Councilperson
Zoning Board of Adjustment	5 regular 2 alternates	2 years 2 years	varies varies

***Separate Legal Entities.*** Some Boards and commissions are separate entities, corporations, or political bodies from the City, although the City may appoint the members to them. Boards and commissions are usually established under the provisions of a state statute that will set forth the functions, duties, responsibilities, and limitations of the corporation or political body.

The boards and commissions that are separate entities from the City and whose members are appointed by the City Council are listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Term (years)</u>	<u>Annual Expirations</u>
Harris County Appraisal District Representative	1	2 years	every other year
La Porte Area Water Authority Board of Directors	5	2 years	2 or 3, alternating
La Porte TIRZ #1 Board of Directors (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone)	7 City appts.	2 years	3 or 4, alternating
<i>(TIRZ and Redevelopment Authority members are the same, see bylaws)</i>			
La Porte Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors	7	2 years	3/4
Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation Board of Directors	1	up to 6	dependent on appointment
La Porte Fire Control, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District Board of Directors	7	2 years	3 or 4, alternating

The members appointed to these boards and commissions oversee the operation of an organization as a Board of Directors would a corporation. The City of La Porte has little or no authority over members except for their appointment and, therefore, the City has limited liability for their actions. Board members will find that the organization to which they have been appointed will provide much of the information needed. The state statute establishing the organization, the articles of incorporation and the bylaws of the organization will provide a great deal of information.

***Ad Hoc Committees and City Representatives.*** Appointed by City Council to investigate a particular end or purpose or represent the City at meetings. Ad Hoc Committees study and research a specific issue or attend a meeting and report its findings and recommendations to the Council.

It is important to remember that the role of ad hoc committees is not to set public policy but to report its findings and make recommendations to City Council.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Term (years)</u>	<u>Annual Expirations</u>
Economic Alliance Representatives	Mayor	n/a	n/a
Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) Representatives	2	-	-
Harris County Subsidence District Rep. Place 17 is chosen by five entities to term expiring Jan. 31 of even-numbered years	1	2	0 or 1, alternating
H-GAC Representative and Alternate to the Board of Directors	2	1	both
Houston Health Department's Area Agency on Aging	1 appt. made by the Mayor upon request from the Houston Human Services Division		
Texas Municipal League annual membership business meeting	1	-	-
Census/Redistricting, Charter Review, Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, similar – Council appoints as needed			

***Appointed Officials*** are the City Manager, City Secretary, City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney, Municipal Judge, Alternate Judges, and Election Judges.

***Legal Liability.*** It is important to understand that the actions of members of the various City boards and commissions can subject the City to liability and subject the board or commission members to personal liability. Therefore, board and commission members are strongly encouraged to consult with the City Attorney's Office any time they feel their actions, while serving on such board or commission, may have some legal consequences. The law in this area is quite complex and requires a thorough analysis of the law and facts pertaining to each particular situation.

As a general rule, quasi-judicial officers cannot be held personally liable for erroneous acts while honestly exercising the judicial or quasi-judicial functions of their offices. The boards and commission members who render decisions are considered quasi-judicial officers. The problem with stating such a general rule as a proposition of law is that there will always be exceptions to the general rule. For example, if a court finds that a quasi-judicial officer performs certain functions in excess of his/her authority and such functions were not performed under a good faith assumption that the officer had the authority to act, then the officer will subject himself/herself to personal civil liability. If a person is damaged by the excessive acts of a quasi-judicial officer, then that officer will have to pay damages to the person harmed. The aggrieved person can also seek other remedies such as an injunction compelling the officer to perform or refrain from performing a particular act.

Officers of the City can also subject themselves, as well as the City, to liability if they perform their functions in a manner that denies an individual any right that is secured to that individual by the Constitution or a statute. An example of how this type of liability could arise is if an officer illegally discriminates against an individual. A City and its officers, as a governmental entity, must treat all individuals or groups equally or in the same manner unless there is a rational basis or a compelling governmental interest to treat someone or some group differently. Therefore, officers of the City should treat all individuals and groups in the same manner. If there is a question concerning whether an individual or group can be treated differently, the City Attorney's Office should be consulted. If an officer illegally discriminates against an individual or group, that individual or group can seek monetary damages from the City and the individual officer for a violation of his rights under the state and federal civil rights statutes.

When members of City boards and commissions are acting in good faith and within the bounds allowed by the City ordinances, procedures, and state and federal law, the City will provide a defense for such members to the greatest extent permissible. However, if a board or commission member violates a criminal law while serving in his/her official capacity, the City generally will not provide that member a defense. The reason for this is if a criminal law was violated, the board or commission member was probably acting outside the bounds of his authority.

The above discussion is by no means intended to be comprehensive and complete discussion of legal liabilities to which the City or the board or commission member may be subjected. You are reminded that the City Attorney's Office is available to the City boards and commissions and should be consulted on such questions.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- 1) Citizens interested in serving on a City board, commission, or committee may easily find the handbook and application available at [LaPorteTX.gov/Boards](http://LaPorteTX.gov/Boards), or may call 281-470-5021 to have a packet mailed or printed for pick up.
- 2) Completed applications are provided to the City Council for review and are maintained for a brief time in the City Secretary's Office.
- 3) As the terms of the board, commission, or committee members expire, the Mayor and Council review applications on file for applicants who have indicated an interest in particular boards.
- 4) If you have an application on file and no longer wish to serve, call and notify the City Secretary's Office.

## APPOINTMENT PROCESS

**How Board, Commission, and Committee Members are Appointed.** The La Porte City Council makes most appointments to La Porte's boards, commissions, and committees with the exceptions of the La Porte Reinvestment Zone Number One, the La Porte Redevelopment Authority, and the Civil Service Commission. The La Porte Reinvestment Zone Number One and the La Porte Redevelopment Authority members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. The Civil Service Commission members are appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by City Council.

**Notice of Appointment.** After the City Council appoints a person to serve as a member of a board, commission, or committee, the City Secretary will notify the appointee in writing of the appointment.

**Eligibility and Qualifications.** The La Porte City Council seeks the best qualified citizens to serve on boards, commissions, and committees. The qualifications required to serve on a particular board, commission, or committee are determined by La Porte City ordinance or by state statute establishing the board or commission. Appointments to boards, commissions, or committees having eligibility requirements must be made in accordance with the governing City ordinance or state statute. Board, commission, or committee members must continue to meet eligibility requirements during the entire time that they serve on the board, commission, or committee.

Many of the boards, commissions, and committees do not have specific eligibility requirements beyond residency, leaving the membership qualifications to the discretion of the La Porte City Council.

**Oath of Office.** The oath of office can be administered by the City Secretary or a Notary Public for the State of Texas. A *Statement of Appointed Officer* form must be completed before oath is administered. The necessary forms are made available by the City Secretary's Office in City Hall.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

**Conflicts of Interest.** The Texas Conflicts of Interest Law, V.T.C.A., and Local Government Code Section 171.001 et seq., aimed at local officials' CONFLICT OF INTEREST was passed in 1983. Under the measure, if a local official (or his/her close relative) stands to gain a financial benefit from a matter pending before a public agency upon which the official serves, the person must publicly disclose his/her interest in such matters and then abstain from voting on it.

In this handbook, the Texas Conflicts of Interest Law pertains only to the decision making boards.

### **Definitions**

- a. "Local public official" means a member of the governing body or another officer, whether elected, appointed, paid or unpaid, of any district (including a school district), county, municipality, precinct, central appraisal district, transit authority or district, or other local government entity who exercises responsibilities beyond those that are advisory in nature. (Note: Persons who exercise "responsibilities beyond those that are advisory in nature" would include, for example, the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Zoning Board of Adjustments.
- b. "Business entity" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, or any other entity recognized by law.

### **Substantial Interest in Business Entity**

- a. For purposes of this chapter, a person has a substantial interest in a business entity if:
  - (1) the interest ownership of ten percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or ownership of \$2,500 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or
  - (2) funds received by the person from the business entity exceed ten percent of the person's gross income for the previous year.
- b. A person has substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more.
- c. A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest under this section if a person related to the official within the second degree by consanguinity of affinity has a substantial interest under this section.

### **Prohibited Acts; Penalty**

- a. Except as provided by Section 171.005 or 171.006, a local public official commits an offense if the official knowingly:
  - (1) participates in a vote or decision on a matter involving a business entity in which the official has a substantial interest if it is reasonably foreseeable that an action on the matter would confer an economic benefit on the business entity; or
  - (2) acts surety for a business entity that has work, business, or a contract with the governmental entity; oracts as surety on any official bond requirement of an officer of the governmental entity.
- b. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

### **Affidavit Required**

- a. If a local public official has a substantial interest in a business entity that would be peculiarly affected by an official action taken by the governing body, the official shall **file**, before a vote or decision on the matter, an affidavit stating the nature and extent of the interest and shall abstain from further participation in the matter.
- b. The affidavit must be filed with the official record keeper of the governmental entity.

### **Contract Authorized**

The governing body of a governmental entity may contract for the purchase of services of personal property with a business entity in which a member of the governing body has a substantial interest if the business entity is the only business entity that:

- a. provides the needed service or product within the jurisdiction of the government entity;
- b. bids on the contract.

### **Voting on Budget**

- a. The governing body of a governmental entity shall take a separate vote on any budget item specifically dedicated to a contract with a business entity in which a member of the governing body has a substantial interest.
- b. The affected member may not participate in the separate vote, but may vote on a final budget if;

- (1) The member has complied with this chapter; and
- (2) The matter in which the member is concerned has been resolved.

### **No Limitation on Common Law Remedies**

- a. The penalties and remedies provided by this chapter do not limit common law remedies in tort, contract, or equity, including a suit for damages, injunction, or mandamus.
- b. The finding by a court of a violation under this chapter does not render an action of the governing body void unless the measure that was the subject of an action involving a conflict of interest would not have passed the governing body without the vote of the person who violated the chapter.

**Open Meetings Act.** Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 is commonly referred to as the Texas Open Meeting Act. This article generally requires that every meeting of a governmental body must be open to the public and enumerates some exceptions to the requirement.

**“Meeting”** means a deliberation between a quorum of a governmental body, or between a quorum of a governmental body and another person, during which public business or public policy over which the governmental body has supervision or control is discussed or considered during which the governmental body takes formal action.

**“Governmental Body”** means every City Council in the State, and every deliberative body having rule or quasi-judicial power and classified as a department, agency, or political subdivision of a city.

**“Deliberation”** means a verbal exchange during a meeting between a quorum of a governmental body, or between a quorum of a governmental body and another person, concerning an issue within the jurisdiction of the governmental body or any public business.

**A Posted Notice** is required of a meeting of a City governmental body. Written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of each meeting must be posted on a public bulletin board, located at a place convenient to the public in the City Hall for at least 72 hours proceeding the scheduled time of the meeting. Only those matters posted can be discussed and acted on by the governmental body.

**Minutes** are required to be prepared or a tape recording made of each open meeting.

**Closed Meetings.** The Texas Open Meetings Act does allow for closed or executive meetings on a few limited subjects. Closed meetings are allowed to discuss pending litigation, certain personnel matters, and the lease or acquisition of land. However, before a closed meeting can be held, a quorum of the governmental body must convene in an open meeting and the presiding officer publicly announce that a closed meeting will be held and identify the sections of the Open Meeting Act authorizing the closed meeting.

No final action, decision, or vote can be made in a closed meeting. All final actions, decisions, and votes must be made in open meetings. Further, the governmental body is required to keep a certified agenda of the matters discussed in the closed meeting and a record of any further action taken. The presiding officer must be made in open meetings. Further, the governmental body is required to keep a certified agenda of the matters discussed in the closed meeting and a record of any further action taken. The presiding officer must include an announcement at the beginning and end of the closed meeting indicating the time and place, and must certify that the agenda is a true and correct record of the proceedings. In lieu of maintaining a certified agenda, a tape recording of the closed meeting may be made. It is a misdemeanor offense to participate in a closed meeting where a certified agenda or tape recording is not kept. It is also a misdemeanor offense for any individual to make public such certified agenda or tape recordings unless directed by a court order. These certified agendas or tape recording must be preserved for at least two years.

**Penalties.** A fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 or imprisonment in the County jail for not less than one month nor more than six months, or both fine and imprisonment, can be imposed for violating the provisions of the Open Meetings Act or conspiring to circumvent the provisions of the Open Meetings Act by meeting in a number less than a quorum for the purposes of secret deliberations.

**Public Information Act.** Texas Government Code, Chapter 552 is commonly referred to as the Texas Public Information Act.

The Public Information Act applies to virtually all local and state governmental bodies, “private” entities that are supported by or that expend public funds and/or information held by “private” entities in the constructive possession of governmental bodies.

All information held by a governmental body must be released unless the information falls within one of the Act’s specific exceptions to disclosure. Virtually all material in the possession of or produced on behalf of a governmental body is subject to the Act.

**Penalties.** A fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$4,000 or confinement in County jail for not less than three days or more than three months, or both fine and confinement, can be imposed for violating the provisions of the Public Information Act.

A request for information that is received by a board or commission under the Public Information Act should immediately be forwarded to both the City Secretary’s and City Attorney’s Offices. The Act requires that a governmental body must request a decision from the Attorney General, within ten (10) calendar days after the date of receipt of request, prior to withholding information.

**Meeting Attendance.** A member of a board, commission, or committee that has a regular monthly or semi-monthly meeting shall be expected to maintain a suitable attendance record. It is important to keep in mind that your attendance is very important to the board, commission, or committee you are serving on and that the City Council appointed you for your expertise. Certain boards, commissions, or committees may have attendance policies established by ordinance or statute. However, because your attendance is important, the City Council has also established the following attendance policy: If a board member is absent from more than twenty-five (25%) of the duly called meetings in any period of twelve consecutive months or absent from more than two (2) duly called meetings in any period of twelve consecutive months, whichever is greater, for any reason, other than a medical reason which prevents the member's attendance, the member will be subject to removal by City Council. The term "duly called meetings" includes all meetings of the board and all meetings of subcommittees of the board on which the board member serves. The Secretary of the board, commission, or committee is responsible for keeping track of the member's attendance. The Secretary shall provide the La Porte's City Council, through the City Secretary's Office, with a quarterly attendance report.

**Working with City Staff.** Each board, commission, or committee member is encouraged to communicate openly with the City staff. Suggestions, opportunities, and constructive criticism are necessary for a proper relationship with the staff. However, each board, commission, or committee member is strongly encouraged to communicate with the appropriate department director assigned to that board, commission, and committee, the City Secretary's Office, or with the City Manager's Office, as appropriate. Contact with operational staff or individuals below the department director level is generally discouraged. The Director of Planning working with the Planning and Zoning Commission members and the Director of Public Works communicating with the Airport Advisory Board are examples of these relationships. There may be departments who assign liaison duties to administrative staff to provide meeting notifications or to individuals such as the City Planner to aid in working with a group. Members who are unsure who to contact should reach out to the department direct initially.

**Reporting to the City Council.** City Council is highly dependent on each board, commission, or committee to make recommendations and offer possible solutions to City projects and opportunities. All board, commission, or committee recommendations should be in a formal or written form. Of course, each board, commission, or committee member may from time-to-time want to visit informally with a Council member. This one-on-one informal communications is necessary, but to protect the integrity of the organization, the complete Council should be addressed in terms of the majority of the members of the board, commission, or committee.

## MEETINGS

***Role of the Chair/Presiding Officer.*** The function of the chair or presiding officer is to provide leadership and ensure the rights of all members are maintained. He/She has certain duties and responsibilities that must be performed.

- a. Insure that the meeting is conducted in accordance with established rules.
- b. Maintain order and bring the group to a conclusion on the matters before it.

***Agenda.*** The agenda should always be prepared ahead of time and copies given to all board, commission, or committee members ahead of time if possible. If non-members attend the meeting, they should also be provided with an agenda.

The agenda should be prepared by the department director or staff person assigned to the board, commission, or committee. All boards, commissions, and committees are subject to the Open Meetings Act and their agenda must be properly posted in a public place, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Generally, the first order of business on the agenda is the reading, correcting and passing of the minutes from the last meeting. Next are matters properly listed on the agenda, followed by reports from staff or committees.

***Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, most recent edition (RONR).*** Meetings of boards, commissions, and committees are generally conducted under standard parliamentary rules as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, most recent edition. Please consult the City Secretary's Office for additional parliamentary resources or training.

***Public Hearings.*** Public hearings are open forums that allow the public an opportunity to express their opinion on a specific issue related to the City of La Porte. Public hearings are generally conducted in the following manner;

- a. The chair or presiding officer of the board or commission formally opens the public hearing.
- b. Proponents (those in favor) of measure speak first.
- c. Opponents (those against) speak second.
- d. After hearing all who wish to comment on the issue, the proponents are allowed to give rebuttal and summarize their position, and then the chair/presiding officer formally closes the public hearing.
- e. Members of the board, commission, or committee may ask questions at any time, of any witness. Board, commission, or committee members are encouraged to ask questions even after the hearing is closed. After the public hearing is closed, members of the public may

speak ONLY in answer to a question asked by a member of the board, commission, or committee.

- f. If a public hearing drew a large number of interested citizens, reasonable time limits for individual speakers may be set by the board or commission before the public hearing.
- g. The chair/presiding officer may use his/her judgment about how strictly this format is followed.

***Quorum.*** A quorum is the minimum number of members needed to officially conduct business. The quorum is generally established by the ordinance, resolution, or other document that establishes the board, commission, or committee. Where no statement on the quorum number exists, a quorum is the majority of the appointed members currently serving.

***Records.*** All City records are subject to statutory guidelines of the Texas Public Information Act, GC Ch. 552, and the City's adopted records retention schedule.

## **AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD**

**Purpose:** The Airport Advisory Board advises the City Council on matters relating to the most desirable and efficient operation of the City Municipal Airport. The Airport Advisory Board shall review, from time to time, the City Airport Master Plan, and recommend updating or revisions to such Airport Master Plan. The Board may also make recommendations on such matters as rules and regulations for operations at the Municipal Airport, and for any needed improvements to the facilities at the airport, including such matters as navigational aids, ordinances, zoning requests, height restrictions, development, as well as any other improvements which the board feels would enhance the utility of the City Municipal Airport.

**Term:** 3 years

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis

**Staff Liaison:** Director of Public Works

**Eligibility Requirements:** Members shall be:

Position 1 – Shall be a Fixed Base Operator lessee at the City Municipal Airport.

Position 2 – Shall be a licensed pilot with an aircraft housed at the Airport.

Position 3 – Shall be a city resident with an aircraft housed at the Airport.

Position 4 – Shall be a resident of the City of La Porte

Position 5 – Shall be an individual in a leadership position approved or suggested by the Chancellor of the San Jacinto College.

Position 6 – Shall be the City of La Porte Airport Manager.

## **ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Purpose:** To assist the Animal Control Shelter in complying with the requirements of the Health and Safety Code as it relates the standards for the Shelter.

**Term:** No limits

**Meeting Time:** Meetings are set by Animal Shelter Advisory Committee, but at least three times a year.

**Eligibility Requirements:** As established by Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 823.005(b). ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The governing body of a county or municipality in which an animal shelter is located shall appoint an advisory committee to assist in complying with the requirements of this chapter.

(b) The advisory committee must be composed of at least one licensed veterinarian, one county or municipal official, one person whose duties include the daily operation of an animal shelter, and one representative from an animal welfare organization.

(c) The advisory committee shall meet at least three times a year.

## **ATTORNEYS**

**Purpose:** The City Attorney, or other attorneys selected by him/her with the approval of Council, shall represent the City of La Porte in legal matters. He/she shall be the legal advisor of, and attorney and counsel for, the City and all offices and departments thereof. The City Attorney serves as the head of the department of law.

**Term:** Until replaced. The attorney(s) serves at the pleasure of the City Council by a majority vote of the entire Council.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a competent attorney, duly licensed by the State of Texas.

### **Attorneys:**

Knox Askins, City Attorney  
Clark Askins, Assistant City Attorney

### **Date Appointed:**

March 15, 1965  
August 30, 1999

**Staff Liaison:** Knox Askins and/or Clark Askins

**BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (BAHEP)**  
**REPRESENTATIVES**

**Purpose:** To serve as liaison between the City of La Porte and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership and report activities back to the City Manager.

**Term:** Until replaced.

**Meeting Time:** BAHEP schedules meetings.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a member of City Council.

**CITY OF LA PORTE TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE  
NUMBER ONE (TIRZ #1)**

**Purpose:** To finance the development and redevelopment of unproductive, underdeveloped or blighted areas within the City. Created by Ordinance 99-2325. See excerpt below.

**Term:** 2 years - Mayor shall annually nominate and appoint, subject to Council approval, a member to serve as Chair for a term of one year.

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a qualified voter in the City of La Porte or at least 18 years of age or own property in the TIRZ. Harris County and La Porte Independent School District each appoint a member.

**Staff Liaison:** City Economic Development Coordinator or the City Manager

## **BUILDING CODES APPEAL BOARD**

**Purpose:** To provide a comprehensive review of construction codes and make a recommendation to City Council and to hear and determine appeals from applicants.

**Term:** 3 years

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The Board consists of seven resident electors of the City of La Porte who Council deems competent to serve on such board by virtue of their experience and training in matters pertaining to building construction. Members of the Building Code Appeals Board may not be employed by the City of La Porte.

**Staff Liaison:** City Building Official

## **CHAPTER 172 EMPLOYEE, RETIREE INSURANCE AND BENEFITS BOARD**

**Purpose:** Under Chapter 172 Rules, the purpose of the Trustee is to supervise the operation of the Risk Pool.

**Term:** No established terms.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a citizen of La Porte, a City of La Porte employee, or an appointed attorney.

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis.

**Staff Liaison:** HR Manager

**CITY OF LA PORTE MUNICIPAL JUDGES AND ALTERNATE JUDGES  
APPOINTMENTS**

**Purpose:** To be Judge of the Municipal Court.

**Term:** Until replaced. Serves at the pleasure of the City Council.

**Eligibility Requirements:** To be a competent attorney, duly licensed by the State of Texas

## **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Purpose:** The Civil Service Commission was established in 1981, when the citizens voted to adopt the State's Municipal Civil Service Law, as it applies to sworn police officers. In compliance with state law, the Commission adopted rules relating to appointments and promotions of sworn police officers. Furthermore, the Civil Service Commission conducts investigations and hearings related to police officer appeals of disciplinary actions.

**Term:** 3 years – appointed by City Manager

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis.

**Staff Liaison:** Human Resources Manager and the City Manager

## **DRAINAGE AND FLOODING COMMITTEE**

**Purpose:** To review issues regarding drainage and flooding issues within the City of La Porte and provide Council with recommendations.

**Term:** Until replaced

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis

Members are elected Councilpersons and are appointed by the City Council.

## **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**

**Purpose:** To serve as liaison between the Economic Alliance and the City of La Porte and report activities to the City Council and City staff.

**Term:** Until replaced

**Meeting Time:** Meetings are set by the Economic Alliance.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Mayor and/or City of La Porte staff member.

## **FIRE CODE REVIEW BOARD**

**Purpose:** The Fire Code Review Board considers variances, interprets the provisions of the fire code, recommends changes in the fire code and hears appeals from decisions of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal.

**Term:** 3 years

**Eligibility Requirements:** The voting members shall be resident electors of the City of La Porte or non-resident individuals owning or operating a business within the City of La Porte, duly verified by proof of an applicable tax statement or utility account for such business, who the city council deems competent to serve on such board by virtue of their experience and training in matters pertaining to Fire Safety Codes. Members of the fire code review board may not be employed by the City of La Porte. (Ord. 2005-2821, 4/11/2005)

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis.

**Staff Liaisons:** Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshals, Building Official

## **FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION BOARD**

**Purpose:** The pension board is responsible for local administration of the Texas Statewide Emergency Services Retirement Act (TSESRA) for members of the La Porte Volunteer Fire Department. The only person appointed on this committee by the City Council is the Governmental Body Representative. This started in 1941. The City pays into the pension program.

**Term:** Staggered 1 or 2-year terms

**Eligibility Requirements:** This person does not have to be an employee, can be a member of the public, and can serve with or without term, at the governing body's discretion.

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis.

**Staff Liaison:** Fire Department Administrative Assistant

## **FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Purpose:** A fiscal affairs committee is a group of individuals appointed by the legislative body. They are given responsibility for overseeing audit procurement and monitoring the selection of the independent auditor to the resolution of audit findings. The members of the fiscal affairs committee collectively possess the expertise and experience in accounting, auditing, and financial reporting required to understand and resolve issues raised by the independent audit of the financial statements.

**Term:** Until replaced

**Meeting Time:** Quarterly, just prior to the second Council Meeting of the month in the months of April, July, October, and January.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a member of City Council.

**Staff Liaison:** Finance Director Michael Dolby

## **HARRIS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**

**Purpose:** To serve as a representative for the City of La Porte on the Harris County Appraisal District.

**Term:** 2 years

**Meeting Time:** Harris County Appraisal District sets the meeting dates.

**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC)**  
**REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE**

**Purpose:** To serve as a representative for the City of La Porte at H-GAC Board of Directors meetings.

**Term:** None

**Meeting Time:** Houston-Galveston Area Council sets the meeting dates.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Must be a member of City Council, and appointed by Council when asked by H-GAC to appoint Board members, usually on an annual basis.

## **LA PORTE AREA WATER AUTHORITY**

**Purpose:** The La Porte Area Water Authority was created in 1981 by the State Legislature. The legislation granted the Authority rights and powers related to acquisition of water supplies and the collection/treatment of wastes. The early mission of the Authority was to secure surface water to entities contracting with the Authority. The Authority may purchase, construct, lease or otherwise acquire property and facilities relating to their mission. They may contract with persons, corporations, municipal corporation and political subdivisions of the State with the approval of the City Council.

**Eligibility Requirements:** May not be a member of City Council.

**Meeting Time:** Meet on an as-needed basis.

**Staff Liaison:** Director of Public Works

**Term:** 2 years

**LA PORTE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD**  
**Type B Corporation**

**Purpose:** The corporation is organized under, and shall be governed by, the Development Corporation Act of 1979, Article 5190.6, Section 4B, Vernon’s Annotated Texas Civil Statutes, as amended (the “Act”), and may issue bonds on behalf of the Unit for the specific public purpose to undertake projects as described in Section 4b of Article 5190.6, including but not limited to projects for the promotion of amateur athletics and sports including ball parks, auditoriums, projects related to entertainment, convention, tourist, and exhibition facilities, amphitheaters, concert halls, and public parks, park facilities and events, open space improvements, learning centers, municipal buildings, museums and related stores, restaurant, concession, and automobile parking facilities, related area transportation facilities, and related roads, streets, and water and sewer facilities, recycling facilities and projects to promote new or expanded business enterprises including public safety facilities, streets and roads, drainage, and related improvements, demolition of existing structures, and general improvements that are municipally owned, development and expansion of affordable housing, as well as any other improvements or facilities that are related to any of the above projects and any other project that the board determines will promote new or expanded business enterprises, and the maintenance and operations expenses for any of the above described projects.

**Term:** 2 years

**Meeting Time:** Quarterly, prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council meetings in March, June, September, and December, or any other time that meetings are needed.

**Staff Liaison:** Finance Director - Secretary of Corporation is the City Secretary

## **LA PORTE FIRE CONTROL PREVENTION & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT**

**Purpose:** The La Porte Fire Control Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District is dedicated to fire safety and emergency medical services in the City of La Porte. The district was approved by a majority of voters of the City of La Porte, at an election held on May 14, 2011, and reauthorized for an additional ten years in 2016.

**Term:** 2 years

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis

**Staff Liaison:** Assistant Fire Chief

## **LA PORTE HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**Purpose:** To serve the City of La Porte on health matters administering state and local laws relating to public health.

**Term:** 3 years

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis

**Staff Liaison:** EMS Chief

## **LA PORTE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Purpose:** To finance the development and redevelopment of unproductive, underdeveloped or blighted areas within the City. Articles and Bylaws approved by Resolution 2000-19.

Per Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the La Porte Redevelopment Authority, an appointment of a Director to the Reinvestment Zone #1, City of La Porte, Texas, constitutes an appointment to serve as a Director of the La Porte Redevelopment Authority.

Directors of the Authority shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City with the consent and approval of the City Council and shall be the same persons appointed to the corresponding position of the Board of the La Porte Reinvestment Zone.

Each taxing unit appointment as a Director to the La Porte Reinvestment Zone shall also constitute a nomination of such person to the Redevelopment Authority.

The term of each Redevelopment Authority position shall be coterminous with the corresponding position on the Board of the La Porte Reinvestment Zone.

The Mayor of the City shall always appoint the Chairman of the Redevelopment Board for the term designated by the City.

**Term:** 2 years

**Meeting Time:** On an as-needed basis

**Staff Liaison:** Assistant City Manager

## **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

**Purpose:** To represent the City of La Porte at meetings and provide information to the City Council and staff.

**Term:** 3 years

**Meeting Time:** Third Thursday of each month

**Staff Liaison:** Director of Planning

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS HOUSING (SETH) FINANCE CORPORATION  
BOARD**

**Purpose:** To represent the City of La Porte at meetings and provide information back to City Council and staff. There is only one appointed person from the City.

**Term:** 1-6 years

**Meeting Time:** Meetings set by Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation

**Staff Liaison:** Director of Planning

## **ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

**Purpose:** The Board of Adjustment shall hear and decide appeals to any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the Building Official related to the zoning ordinances. The Board also hears and decides on special exceptions and variances as long as their action is not contrary to public interest and is within the guidelines established by state law and the City's zoning ordinances. The Board shall also conduct public hearings and render decisions regarding zoning ordinance provisions for non-conforming structures and uses.

**Term:** 3 years

**Meeting Time:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**Staff Liaison:** Director of Planning



## CITY OF LA PORTE BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS APPLICATION

As an applicant for a City board, committee, or commission, the information on this form may be available in accordance with the guidelines of the Texas Public Information Act. You have the right to request the exclusion of certain information from public access.

Incumbents whose terms expire are typically considered for reappointment upon request. A member who is absent for more than 25% of called meetings, for other than medical reasons, will be subject to removal by City Council. Final decisions on appointment and reappointment rests with the City Council.

**DISTRICT APPOINTEES OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE FIRE CODE REVIEW BOARD MUST ALSO BE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT FROM WHICH THEY ARE APPOINTED. Certain boards may have additional qualification requirements. View information about each board on the City website or contact the City Secretary's Office.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Primary) \_\_\_\_\_ (Other)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a resident of La Porte? \_\_\_\_\_

Qualified voter of the City of La Porte? **Y** **N** Voted in the most recent City election? **Y** **N**

Please give brief background information about yourself, including education, past employment, and any special qualifications you have for serving on this board/commission. You are welcome to provide additional resume, letters, certifications, etc. that further describe your achievements.

\_\_\_\_\_

*City of La Porte – 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, TX 77571 – (281) 470-5021  
Submitted applications will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration and are also available to the public under the guidelines of the Texas Public Information Act.  
Please contact the City Secretary (CitySecretary@LaPorteTX.gov) if you have questions about this process.*

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Please state why you wish to serve as a member of a City board, commission or committee.

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Provide names, addresses, and phone numbers for three references:

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Do you currently serve on a City of La Porte board or commission?    Y    N

If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

How long? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any relatives who work for the City of La Porte?    Y    N

If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive any direct compensation or gain from the City of La Porte?    Y    N

If so, what type? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive any direct compensation or gain from any governmental body?    Y    N

If so, what type? \_\_\_\_\_

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If selected, on which boards/committees/commissions would you be willing to serve? Please indicate your preference by number, 1, 2, 3, etc. (number overall, not section by section). This application will remain on file for ninety (90) days.

ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, OR COMMISSIONS

- Airport Advisory Board
- Animal Shelter Advisory Committee
- Chapter 172 Employee, Retiree Insurance and Benefits Board

DECISION MAKING/QUASIJUDICIAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, OR COMMISSIONS

- Building Codes Appeals Board
- Civil Service Commission
- Fire Code Review Board
- Firefighter's Pension Board
- Fire Control, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District Board
- La Porte Health Authority
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITIES/NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS

- Harris County Appraisal District rep.
- La Porte Area Water Authority
- La Porte Development Corporation Board
- Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corp. Board rep.
- La Porte Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One (TIRZ #1) Board of Directors/La Porte Redevelopment Authority

AD HOC OR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AS AVAILABLE – Items may arise from time to time such as Census, redistricting, or charter review committees, or appointments such as to the Houston Health Department's Area Agency on Aging Committee, Houston-Galveston Area Council committees, etc.

*(Note: The La Porte Police Department Citizen's Advisory Board was established by Chief Parker in the spring of 2019 and is not a Council board. Please contact the Police Chief's office for application to or information concerning this board.)*

I, the undersigned, am interested in serving on the boards, committees, or commissions indicated above. I hereby attest that I do not own or control any entity, nor am I engaged in any business transaction, nor employed, nor belong to any public office, nor am I a member of any board or commission where such activity or membership would present a conflict of interest to my serving on the board, committee, or commission to which I am appointed. For such purposes, I am also aware that I may be required to file a conflict of interest affidavit or other document if determined by law, as applicable (such as Chapters 171 and 176 of the Texas Local Government Code), when and if circumstances require.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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