



*LaPorte County Auditor  
Joie Winski  
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 205  
LaPorte, IN 46350-3490*

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 18, 2020 AT 4:30 P.M.**

*(Please Turn Off All Cell Phones)*

The Special Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on August 24, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. (local time) in the Assembly Room of the La Porte County Government Complex located at 809 State Street, La Porte, Indiana, 46350.

**CALL TO ORDER**

La Porte County Council President Randy Novak called the Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Novak asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. President Novak asked that everyone, except emergency personnel, to please turn off their cell phones at this time. He also asked for a moment of silence for Auditor Winski's birthday. The Council wished Auditor Winski a happy birthday.

**ROLL CALL**

Auditor Joie Winski took the Roll Call. Council Members present were Mollenhauer, Novak, Quinn, Rosenbaum, Santana, and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Indiana Secretary of Commerce Mr. Jim Schellinger said Governor Holcomb sends his regards and is appreciative of what the County Council does each and every day. He said Corsicana Mattress is an amazing company and he thanked Corsicana Mattress COO James Booth for choosing La Porte County to do business. He said that the 350 jobs, the \$8.5 million capital investment and the wages are appreciated. The State is very proud to put forth \$2.3 million dollars of EDGE (Economic Development Growing Economy) credits, which are affordable tax credits that can be realized over a 10-year period. He said he is an architect by profession and came to IDC for 18 months as requested by Mike Pence. Governor Holcomb asked him to stay on and he said that it is truly an honor to serve the citizens of Indiana. He said La Porte is a special place and said Attorney Shaw Friedman has been exemplary in his representation of La Porte County. He said that the key is communicating and working together. He added that Indiana ranks number one in almost every economic development category in the Midwest. He said Corsicana Mattress will do very well in La Porte County. He said there is one thing everyone can agree on, across party lines, is business and jobs for working Hoosiers. He said this is a great opportunity for Indiana and La Porte County.

Attorney Friedman said La Porte County is a model of bipartisan cooperation and it took a unified effort by the Commissioners, the County Council and Tony Rodriguez, Matt Reardon and the staff of Community

and Economic Development. He said this is the embodiment of bipartisan cooperation. Secretary Schellinger agreed and said Mr. Rodriguez has done amazing work.

Commissioner Vidya Kora told Secretary Schellinger that he is grateful for everything he does and is a true friend of La Porte County. He said when he first came on the Commission in 2013, there was not an Office of Economic Development. He said they were laser focused on job creation and economic development. The Commission set it up and came to the Council for funding, which has been steadfast in its support of Economic Development. He thanked the Council for doing that year after year. He said it is amazing to bring more than 350 manufacturing jobs to La Porte County during an economic depression caused by COVID-19. He thanked the Council, his fellow Commissioners, the Redevelopment Commission, and the County Redevelopment team. He also said he considers Secretary Schellinger as a partner in the County's efforts. Secretary Schellinger said the IEDC's sole purpose is to serve people in the State of Indiana. He said they truly feel like partners with La Porte County.

Office of Community & Economic Development Director Tony Rodriguez thanked Secretary Schellinger for his supportive comments. The process of economic development requires the extent of the partnership that was discussed today. The critical partners that helped get to this point today include Community Development Specialist Bailey McGrath, the Commissioners, Matt Reardon, a key resource and life blood of the department to make these opportunities happen, Linda Walczak and Matt Saltanovitz of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Diane Thalmann from NIPSCO, Linda Woloshansky, the President & CEO of Workforce Innovations, Becky Frye from Work One, the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City, the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, and the State elected officials Senator Bohacek, Representative Pressel and Representative Pat Boy. He added that this facility has remained vacant for over 20 years. He then introduced Corsicana Mattress COO James Booth to give an overview of the project.

Mr. Booth said he is delighted to be here to introduce Corsicana to the State of Indiana and specifically to La Porte County. He explained that when a company chooses a location is it a very serious matter and takes time and effort to narrow down to an area. He complimented the IEDC and said a phenomenal job was done facilitating the final decision to put Corsicana in La Porte County. He said it is very exciting to see the rendering of the new factory because it is currently vacant and is discouraging. He continued that the product is currently made in Asia but Corsicana will be making it in La Porte County. The goal is to get 65 people working by the end of the year and up to 350 based on economic conditions and availability of labor. He said the Corsicana team is very excited to make Indiana it's new home.

Councilman Yagelski asked why the company is moving the manufacturing from Asia to the United States. Mr. Booth said they do not manufacture in Asia but a lot of this type of product is made in Asia. He said the company feels that it could be made as cost effectively, of better quality and built to service its customers in the United States.

President Novak said he frequently goes by the vacant building and said it is relief to know it will be renovated and he is grateful Corsicana has chosen La Porte County as its home.

Mr. Booth added that it's a clean type of manufacturing facility and is good hard work for locals. Corsicana will do the training and is temporarily setting up for immediate training.

Councilman Santana also thanked Corsicana for choosing La Porte County and thanked Economic Development.

Hearing or seeing no additional people to speak, President Novak closed Public Comment.

**SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS**

**1. Consider Adoption of Declaratory Resolution 2020-8 Declaring a certain Portion of La Porte County as a designated Economic Revitalization Area**

A motion to read Declaratory Resolution 2020-8 by title only was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 6-0.

Auditor Winski read by title only. A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 6-0.

President Novak asked Attorney Guy DiMartino if this will be on for the next meeting and he replied it will be published and be on for the meeting in September.

**COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. Motion carried 6-0.

**EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 28<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020.**

  
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Councilman Terry Garner

  
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Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

  
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Councilman Randy Novak

  
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Councilman Sean Quinn

  
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Councilman Mike Rosenbaum

  
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Councilman Jeff Santana

  
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Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:   
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Joie Winski, La Porte County Auditor