

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 13, 2021 AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 P.M.

The Special Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on January 13, 2021 at approximately 6:00 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 Vice-President Mark Yagelski called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Novak stated that since the Pledge of Allegiance had been performed at the Workshop, it wasn't necessary for it to be done again at this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Auditor Timothy Stabosz took the Roll Call. Council Members present were Cunningham, Garner, Gramarossa, Mollenhauer, Novak, Rosenbaum and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 13, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Garner. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Santana, Michigan City, IN

Mr. Santana started a discussion but had to be interrupted by President Novak because the topic was not on the agenda for this special meeting. President Novak communicated that the Franklin Street Bridge matter was the only item being deliberated. With that in mind, Mr. Santana noted he has been a resident of Michigan City for his entire life and feels going to the five-year program for bridge repair and maintenance is a good approach.

Hearing or seeing no one else who would like to speak, Vice-President Yagelski closed public comment.

SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

- 1. Consider repairs of Franklin Street Bridge as discussed in the joint Council-Commissioner Workshop held on January 13, 2021; repairs to be immediate in order to facilitate and permit March 15, 2021 reopening**

A motion to approve \$489,294 out of the CEDIT fund for the immediate repair of the Franklin Street Bridge was made by President Novak and seconded by Councilman Cunningham. President Novak added that this is for the short-term immediate repair of the bridge, but a committee between Commission and Council should be formed to develop a long-term plan for repair and maintenance until there are enough funds for replacement.

Councilman Cunningham asked if the phrasing of the motion should be changed from "immediate" to "emergency." The Council members agreed. However, Auditor Stabosz asked if it became a statutory issue to change the word to "emergency." Attorney Shaw Friedman said he was more comfortable using the word "urgent" because "emergency" denotes imminent threat to public health and safety which doesn't exist for this repair. Therefore, President Novak amended his language in the motion from "immediate" to "urgent."

Motion carried 7-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

President Novak asked if a Commission-Council committee should to be formed at this meeting, but Vice-President Yagelski said it can be done at the next regular Council meeting. President Novak added that Councilwoman Gramarossa expressed interest in being on the committee, and he would like to see Vice-President Yagelski chair it. He said he would also like to sit on the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilwoman Gramarossa. Motion carried 7-0.

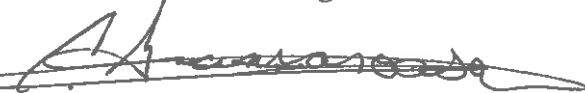
EXAMINED & APPROVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY COUNCIL this 25th day of January 2021.



Councilman Earl Cunningham



Councilman Terry Garner



Councilwoman Connie Gramarossa



Councilman Mike Mollenhauer



Councilman Randy Novak



Councilman Mike Rosenbaum



Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST: Timothy Stabosz
Timothy Stabosz, La Porte County Auditor