

MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.

The Reorganization Meeting of the La Porte County Council was held on January 4, 2021 at 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 Auditor Timothy Stabosz called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Auditor Stabosz asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and requested it be led by Councilman Mollenhauer. Auditor Stabosz asked that everyone, except emergency personnel, please turn off their cell phones at this time.

ROLL CALL

Chief Deputy Auditor Vaughn Galloway took the Roll Call. Council Members present were Cunningham Garner, Gramarossa, Mollenhauer, Novak, Rosenbaum and Yagelski. A quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 4, 2020 REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA

A motion to approve with the addition of Redevelopment Commission to #4 under New Business and removal of Public Comment was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Cunningham. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This item was removed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Nomination and Election of 2021 La Porte County Council Officers

Auditor Stabosz opened the floor for nominations of County Council President.

A motion to nominate Councilman Mike Rosenbaum for President was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Cunningham. A motion to nominate Councilman Mark Yagelski for President was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Novak. A motion to nominate Councilman Randy Novak for President was made by Councilman Rosenbaum and seconded by Councilman Cunningham.

A motion to close nominations was made by Councilman Novak and seconded by Councilman Rosenbaum. Motion carried 7-0.

Attorney Guy DiMartino said each Council member will be voted on in the order that they were nominated and members will vote by alphabetical roll call. Chief Deputy Galloway called the roll for each nomination.

On the nomination of Councilman Rosenbaum for President, the vote was as follows: Councilman Cunningham – aye; Councilman Garner – aye; Councilwoman Gramarossa – nay; Councilman Mollenhauer – nay; Councilman Novak – nay; Councilman Rosenbaum – aye; and Councilman Yagelski – nay.

3 ayes and 4 nays for Councilman Rosenbaum for President.

On the nomination of Councilman Yagelski for President, the vote was as follows: Councilman Cunningham – nay; Councilman Garner – nay; Councilwoman Gramarossa – aye; Councilman Mollenhauer – aye; Councilman Novak – nay; Councilman Rosenbaum – nay; and Councilman Yagelski – aye.

3 ayes and 4 nays for Councilman Yagelski for President.

On the nomination of Councilman Novak for President, the vote was as follows: Councilman Cunningham – aye; Councilman Garner – aye; Councilwoman Gramarossa – nay; Councilman Mollenhauer – aye; Councilman Novak – aye; Councilman Rosenbaum – aye; and Councilman Yagelski – nay.

5 ayes and 2 nays for Councilman Novak for President.

Auditor Stabosz announced that Councilman Novak was voted the County Council President and he relinquished the chair to him for continuation of the meeting.

President Novak opened the floor for nominations of County Council Vice-President.

A motion to nominate Councilman Mark Yagelski for Vice-President was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilman Yagelski. A motion to nominate Councilman Mike Rosenbaum for Vice-President was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Cunningham.

President Novak closed Vice-President nominations.

On the nomination of Councilman Yagelski for Vice-President, the vote was as follows: Councilman Cunningham – nay; Councilman Garner – nay; Councilwoman Gramarossa – aye; Councilman Mollenhauer – aye; Councilman Novak – aye; Councilman Rosenbaum – nay; and Councilman Yagelski – aye.

4 ayes and 3 nays for Councilman Yagelski for Vice-President. Councilman Yagelski was announced as County Council Vice-President.

2. Appointment of Legal Counsel

A motion to nominate Guy DiMartino to be retained as legal counsel was made by Councilman Mollenhauer and seconded by Councilmen Cunningham and Garner. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Planning for Year 2021 (Approval of Regular Meeting Dates)

President Novak asked Auditor Stabosz to prepare a list of dates for the regular Council meeting on January 25th. He gave a reminder to change the dates that would fall on a Monday holiday.

4. County Council Appoint Board Members

President Novak stated that appointments to the Redevelopment Commission and the Fair Management Events Corporation boards that are made by the Council are comprised of Council members and not members of the public.

It was noted that Councilman Garner's appointment to the FMEC board has termed out, so he made a motion to appoint Councilman Mike Rosenbaum to the FMEC board which was seconded by Councilman Cunningham. Motion carried 7-0.

Redevelopment Commission – added per agenda amendment at the start of the meeting

A motion to appoint Councilwoman Connie Gramarossa was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer. President Novak said current members include Councilmen Garner, Novak and Rosenbaum. He stated his interest in continuing to serve on the board.

Councilman Cunningham expressed confusion as to how many spots were being filled. President Novak said three Council members serve on the board so there would need to be three nominations. Therefore, a motion to retain the three current members (Councilmen Garner, Novak and Rosenbaum) was made by Councilman Cunningham and seconded by Councilman Garner.

Auditor Stabosz requested a point of order as to whether or not the first motion needs to be amended or removed. Attorney DiMartino said that seconds to a motion are not necessary during nominations but can be done. It was clarified that if the motion for Councilwoman Gramarossa passes, there would have to be nominations for two other Council members.

Councilman Garner said the Council should have been told prior to the motions that nominations for three board members were needed and there was not just one vacancy. Attorney DiMartino asked if Councilman Cunningham and he would like to withdraw their nomination and Councilman Garner replied he would like to start over because he felt the Council was misled from the beginning. President Novak asked Councilman Yagelski if he would like to amend his motion to include three members and not just Councilwoman Gramarossa and he agreed.

A motion to amend his motion and appoint Councilwoman Gramarossa and Councilmen Novak and Rosenbaum was made by Councilman Yagelski and seconded by Councilman Mollenhauer.

On the amended motion to appoint Councilwoman Gramarossa and Councilmen Novak and Rosenbaum to the Redevelopment Commission, the vote was as follows:

Councilman Cunningham – nay; Councilman Garner – nay; Councilwoman Gramarossa – aye; Councilman Mollenhauer – aye; Councilman Novak – nay; Councilman Rosenbaum – nay; and Councilman Yagelski – aye.

3 ayes and 4 nays to appoint Councilwoman Gramarossa and Councilmen Novak and Rosenbaum to the Redevelopment Commission.

On the motion to retain the three current members (Councilmen Garner, Novak and Rosenbaum) to the Redevelopment Commission, the vote was as follows:

Councilman Cunningham – aye; Councilman Garner – aye; Councilwoman Gramarossa – nay; Councilman Mollenhauer – nay; Councilman Novak – aye; Councilman Rosenbaum – aye; and Councilman Yagelski – nay.

4 ayes and 3 nays to retain the three current members (Councilmen Garner, Novak and Rosenbaum) to the Redevelopment Commission. The three current members will be retained.

There were no nominations or votes on the boards listed below.

PTABOA

Alcohol Beverage Board

Animal Control Board

La Porte County Board of Construction Review

La Porte County Fair Management Events Corporation

Michigan City Public Library

La Porte County Parks & Recreation Board

COUNTY COUNCIL/ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Councilman Cunningham asked Auditor Stabosz to compile the emails of the County Council so there can be efficient communication between the members. He also asked that a deadline date be determined for the letters to appoint members to the other boards. He suggested the date of January 18th so the Council would have one week for review. Auditor Stabosz inquired if the Council would want him to forward a letter to them if it should be received after the designated date. He also asked for clarification as to what the Council is asking him to do. Councilman Cunningham and President Novak replied they are asking Auditor Stabosz to receive the letters and forward them to the Council on the specified due date.

President Novak noted that the Council needs to give their preferred email address to Auditor Stabosz. Auditor Stabosz said he received a list from the previous Auditor and he circulated it to the Council members for their approval.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Earl Cunningham

Councilman Earl Cunningham

Terry L. Garner

Councilman Terry Garner

Connie Gramarossa

Councilwoman Connie Gramarossa

Mike Mollenhauer

Councilman Mike Mollenhauer

Randy Novak

Councilman Randy Novak

Mike Rosenbaum

Councilman Mike Rosenbaum

Mark Yagelski

Councilman Mark Yagelski

ATTEST:

Timothy Stabosz

Timothy Stabosz, La Porte County Auditor