



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE

Councilpersons Present: Rick Helton, Brandon Lunsford, Brent McCaulley, Mandi Williams, Chuck Engelken, Robert Guerra, Jay Martin, Robbie McLarrin

Councilpersons Attending Remotely: None

Councilpersons Absent: Bill Bentley

Council-appointed Officers Present: Corby Alexander, City Manager; Clark T. Askins, City Attorney; Lee Woodward, City Secretary

**The City Council of the City of La Porte met in a regular meeting on
April 13, 2026, at the City Hall Council Chambers,
604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, at 6:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** - Mayor Helton called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance

Father Houston Okonma of St. Mary's Catholic Church provided an invocation and Ethan Scroggins led the pledges.

3. Recognitions

- a. Recognize Public Official of the Year, Corby Alexander [Rick Helton, Mayor]
- b. Recognize National Telecommunicator Week, April 12-18
- c. Recognize National Animal Care and Control Week, April 12-18
- d. Recognize National Volunteer Week, April 19-25

4. Citizen Comment

Aaron Daniel O'Neal spoke in support of the Ray of Light Food Pantry.

5. Presentations

- a. Fleet Week Presentation - Presentation on Fleet Week Houston, highlighting its significance, regional impact, and the City of La Porte's role in hosting historic maritime events and community engagement opportunities. April 15-22, 2026, the inaugural Fleet Week Houston will bring multiple U.S. Navy vessels and Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen to the city for a series of events and experiences. [Kayla O'Bryan, Marketing & Special Events Coordinator]

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026, regular and March 28, 2026, special City Council meetings. [Lee Woodward, City Secretary/PIO]
- b. Updated Central Count Station appointments for May 2, 2026, election cycle [Lee Woodward, City Secretary/PIO]
- c. Northwest Park Bridge - Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract between the City of La Porte, Texas, and Kraftsman Commercial Playgrounds and Water Parks for purchase and installation of pedestrian bridge at Northwest Park, in the amount of \$549,813.05, through BuyBoard Contract #679-22. [Tim Miller, Director of Parks and Recreation]
- d. Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement between the City of La Porte, Texas, and the La Porte Livestock and Rodeo Association for the use of Lomax Arena. [Tim Miller, Parks & Recreation Director]

Councilperson Engelken moved to approve the consent agenda items; Councilperson Williams seconded the motion; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

7. Statutory Agenda

- a. Linear Park Sound Wall - Design Services - Presentation, discussion, and possible action to authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services contract between the City of La Porte, Texas, and Cobb Fendley & Associates, Inc. for design of the Linear Park Soundwall project, in the amount of \$155,500.00. [Jameson Appel, Assistant Director of Public Works]

Mr. Appel offered a presentation. Councilperson Guerra moved to authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services contract between the City of La Porte, Texas, and Cobb Fendley & Associates, Inc. for design of the Linear Park Soundwall project, in the amount of \$155,500.00; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Engelken; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

- b. Ordinance 2026-5037 - Repeal Chapter 22 Regarding Mobile Food Vendors - Presentation, discussion, and possible action to adopt Ordinance 2026-5037 repealing regulations applicable to mobile food vendors as codified in Chapter 22 "Businesses", Section 22-58 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Porte, Texas. [Ryan Hvitløk, Director of Planning of Development]

Mr. Hvitløk provided an overview. Councilperson Guerra moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-5037 repealing regulations applicable to mobile food vendors as codified in Chapter 22 "Businesses," Section 22-58 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Porte, Texas; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Engelken; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

- c. Ordinance 2026-5039 - Bird Sanctuary - Presentation, discussion, and possible action to adopt Ordinance 2026-5039 amending Chapter 14 of the City of La Porte, Texas, Code of Ordinances to exempt Muscovy ducks and other non-protected birds from the City of La Porte's bird sanctuary

regulations and to allow for the removal of same by citizens and/or provide administrative staff with additional direction. [Councilpersons McLarrin, McCaulley, and Guerra]

Chief Pullig shared background on the issue. Councilperson McLarrin moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-5039 amending Chapter 14 of the City of La Porte, Texas, Code of Ordinances to exempt Muscovy ducks and other non-protected birds from the City of La Porte's bird sanctuary regulations and to allow for the removal of same by citizens; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Guerra; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

- d. Presentation, discussion, and possible action to provide administrative staff with direction on staffing at the police department. [Rick Helton, Mayor]**

Mayor Helton and Chief Pullig offered information on the proposal. Without objection, the addition of two LPPD officers was approved for inclusion in the proposed FY26-27 City budget,

8. Reports

- a. Report of the Drainage and Flooding Committee meeting held on April 13, 2026 [Councilperson Martin]**

Councilperson Martin said the committee met, received project updates, and set the next meeting for May 11.

- b. Explanation of property tax valuation processes [Rick Helton, Mayor]**

City Manager Corby Alexander introduced Hugh Landrum from Landrum & Associates and provided an explanation of ad valorem taxation.

- c. Administrative Reports [Corby Alexander, City Manager]**

Mr. Alexander said there were no reports.

9. Items of Community Interest

Councilpersons congratulated City Manager Corby Alexander on his award; thanked all those recognized at the beginning of the meeting; asked for attention to the traffic light timing at Fairmont and Canada Road; reminded all of the early voting dates for the May election; thanked Kayla Baez and Johnny Morales for their work on Fleet Week; congratulated Chief Pettis on being re-elected as Fire Chief, and thanked the Fire Department for the weekend's egg hunt and crawfish boil; and thanked the City Manager and City Secretary for attending the consolidation town halls.

10. Executive Session

- a. **Personnel Matter - Texas Government Code Section 551.074 - Personnel Matters. Deliberation regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee - City Council will meet in closed session with Municipal Court Judge Janikka Bratton.**
- b. **Personnel Matter - Texas Government Code Section 551.074 - Personnel Matters. Deliberation regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee - City Council will meet in closed session with City Manager Corby Alexander.**

Mayor Helton convened the Council in executive session at 7:31 p.m.

11. Reconvene

Mayor Helton reconvened the Council in open session at 8:57 p.m. Councilperson Engelken moved to approve a 4.16% salary increase for the municipal judge, with no change to the judge's car allowance; Mayor Pro Tem McCaulley seconded the motion; the motion was adopted, 8-0.

12. Adjourn - Without objection, Mayor Helton adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Lee Woodward, City Secretary