

LOUIS RIGBY
Mayor
BRANDON LUNSFORD
Councilperson At Large A
STEVE GILLETT
Councilperson At Large B
DANNY EARP
Councilperson District 1
CHUCK ENGELKEN
Councilperson District 2



BILL BENTLEY
Councilperson District 3
Mayor Pro-Tem
THOMAS GARZA
Councilperson District 4
JAY MARTIN
Councilperson District 5
NANCY OJEDA
Councilperson District 6

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

The City Council of the City of La Porte met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 30, 2019, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, at 6:00 p.m., with the following in attendance:

Councilpersons present: Louis Rigby, Thomas Garza, Chuck Engelken, Jay Martin, Steve Gillett, Bill Bentley, Brandon Lunsford, Nancy Ojeda

Councilpersons absent: Danny Earp

Council-appointed officers present: Corby Alexander, City Manager; Lee Woodward, City Secretary; Clark Askins, Assistant City Attorney

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Rigby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – The invocation was given by Assistant City Attorney Clark Askins.
PLEDGES – The pledges of allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags were led by Assistant City Attorney Clark Askins.

3. STATUTORY AGENDA

- (a) **Presentation, discussion, and possible action to adopt Ordinance 2019-3757, setting the City's tax rate for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year. [Michael Dolby, Finance Director]**

Chuck Rosa and Phillip Hoot spoke in opposition to the \$0.71 City property tax rate. Councilmember Bentley moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.71 cents, which is effectively a 3.65 percent increase in the tax rate, and adopt Ordinance 2019-3757 in support of same; the motion was adopted (roll call vote required), 7-1, Councilperson Garza voting against.

- (b) **Presentation, discussion, and possible action to ratify property tax revenue increase reflected in the City of La Porte 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget, in accordance with Texas Local Government Code, Sec. 102.007(c). [Michael Dolby, Finance Director]**

Councilmember Martin moved that the Council ratify the property tax revenue increase as reflected in the budget. Councilperson Garza requested a roll call vote, which was accepted without objection. The motion was adopted, 7-1, Councilperson Garza voting against.

4. **COUNCIL COMMENTS regarding matters appearing on the agenda; recognition of community members, city employees, and upcoming events; inquiry of staff regarding specific factual information or existing policies.**

Councilmembers thanked staff for their work on the budget process; lauded the decision to hold water rates down to benefit the citizens; noted Harris County was entertaining a double digit property tax increase; reminded all of the citizens who have participated in the budget process; lamented the City's property tax rate remaining static for several decades; reflected on the budget process that began in March and the need to amend the budget if the tax rate is changed; recounted the budget and tax rate process and the need to understand the process.

ADJOURN – Without objection, Mayor Rigby adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Lee Woodward, City Secretary