

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA**

January 11, 2021

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday January 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present were Councilmembers Reed, Cotton, Schmidt, Pupillo (Virtual), Anderson, Costas and Douglas.

REORGANIZATION

Councilmember Schmidt nominated George Douglas as Council President. Councilmember Costas seconded the motion.

Councilmember Cotton stated it had been suggested that Councilmembers would retain the same annual appointments as last year. He questioned if this has been done. Mayor Murphy stated there is a motion and a second on the floor. This matter can be discussed in a second.

Upon roll call vote the motion for George Douglas to be Council President passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mayor Murphy addressed Councilmember Cotton's concern over appointments reminding him that there are appointments made by the Mayor and there are appointments made by the Council. Mayor Murphy turned the meeting over to Councilmember Douglas.

Councilmember Douglas thanked the Council for their support and confidence in him by voting him President of the Council for a second term. This has been an unusual year. Most of the Council was new for 2020. He felt it would be beneficial to leave the appointments the same as they were for 2020. He then presented the name of Diana Reed for Council Vice President. He also presented the following slate of appointments and liaisons:

Appointments

Redevelopment Commission (annual)	George Douglas
Redevelopment Commission (annual)	Evan Costas
Traffic and Safety Commission (annual)	Jack Pupillo
Shared Ethics Commission Joint Bd Delegate (annual)	Peter Anderson
Investigation & Reconciliation Committee (annual)	Mike Baird

Liaisons (annual)

Valparaiso Community Schools	Diana Reed
Valparaiso Community Schools	Jack Pupillo
Parks Department	Casey Schmidt
Utilities	Robert Cotton
Engineering & Code Enforcement	Robert Cotton
Public Safety	Jack Pupillo
Public Works	Casey Schmidt

Councilmember Douglas moved to approve Diana Reed for Council Vice President and the slate of appointments and liaisons as presented. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

MINUTES

Councilmember Douglas moved to approve minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Councilmember Cotton stated when he asked John Daly "if the Department has looked at a competitive proposal", the minutes state his reply as "they have". The correct response should have been "they have not". Mayor Murphy stated the corrections will be submitted. Councilmember Cotton was asked to email how he wants the correction and it will be taken care of. Mayor Murphy suggested from now on if a word needs to be added or changed, that Councilmember Cotton send an email before the Council meeting requesting the change. Upon voice vote the motion to approve passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA RECOGNIZING THE AUTHORITY OF THE VALPARAISO FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FOR FIRE, SAFETY, RESCUE RESPONSES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 23, 2020 be read a second time by title and a third time in full and be considered for adoption and the opportunity be given for the offering of amendments. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read the Ordinance.

Chief Dutz addressed the Council. Following the presentation at the last Council meeting, there have been discussions and questions. He does not have answers to all the questions yet. He would like to make sure all questions get answered. He asked that this Ordinance be continued to the January 25, 2021 meeting for a vote.

Councilmember Cotton moved to carry Ordinance No. 23, 2020 to the January 25, 2021 Council meeting. The second to the motion was inaudible. Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 23, 2020 to the January 25, 2021 meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 24, 2020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA, ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 24, 2020 be read a second time by title and a third time in full and be considered for adoption and the opportunity be given for the offering of amendments. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read the Ordinance.

Beth Shrader addressed the Council. This is the Pithadia Annexation. The Public Hearing was held at the previous meeting. She asked if there are any questions.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24, 2020 passed with a 7-0 vote.

Councilmember Douglas moved to adopt the Annexation Agreement. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt the Annexation Agreement of the Pithadia Annexation passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2021

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE FIREFIGHTING FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 1, 2021 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 1, 2021.

Chief Dutz explained this is an annual appropriation.

Councilmember Douglas moved to carry Ordinance No. 1, 2021 to the January 25, 2021 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Other Business

Councilmember Cotton discussed recent events where protestors stormed the US Capital building. He presented a statement and request asking that the Council and Mayor, as elected officials, denounce President Trump and the protestors. He supports this denunciation.

Councilmember Douglas stated he appreciates Councilmember Cotton bringing this up. He is not happy with what happened in Washington D.C. He also knows there are people in this room who have not acted with the best of intent. Anybody who is elected needs to conduct their business with transparency.

Councilmember Reed stated she is still trying to process what happened. She feels we have risen above some of the issues, but more needs to be done. She would like to see the Nation work together for the betterment of our communities.

Mayor Murphy stated the day of the occurrence he voiced his position on Face Book.

Councilmember Pupillo has made it abundantly clear on his Face Book page and he will say it again, he thinks this was wrong and he prays for peace.

Councilmember Costas agrees. He would like to see the Nation come together. The Council's primary focus is the City. He prays that God brings the Nation closer together and heal.

Councilmember Schmidt denounces any act of violence. He has been answering all questions from people asking him what he thinks on this issue. His focus is on the City of Valparaiso.

Councilmember Anderson agrees.

Councilmember Cotton stated we work under the umbrella of the great dream of America. He will do this again whenever there is a call; whenever his Nation calls to be heard from little old Valparaiso.

Public Comment

No public comments have been received for tonight's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.
/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer