

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
FEBRUARY 24, 2005

The Board of Public Works and Safety met at 10:00AM on Thursday, February 24, 2005. Present were Mayor Costas, Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Emerson Swihart and Board Member Dave Pilz.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES AND CLAIMS

Mr. Pilz moved the minutes of the previous meeting be approved, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

Mr. Pilz moved for approval of claims subject to appropriation balances, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

CITY OF VALPARAISO QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY, 2004

John Seibert introduced Prf. Baas, Director and Prf. Old, Associate Director of the Valparaiso University Community Research and Service Center. The results of the survey were based on 497 respondents to a random mailing to 2,407 households. A slide presentation was given by Political Science Major students. Discussion followed.

ITEM 1 – CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS-VALPARAISO STREET PROJECT

Mr. Pilz explained there have been extensive negotiations with the property owner of Parcel 56, 402-406 Glendale Blvd. Trying to work out an equitable agreement. Due to time allowances he asked the Board to authorize the City Attorney to begin condemnation proceedings and moved for that authorization, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

ITEM 2 – APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR
DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Pilz stated they have narrowed the scope down to four items of work. The contract is for the first two items under that contract-the Conceptual Planning Phase, and the Field Survey Phase. Once they get into the conceptual planning phase they will come back to the Board to ask for an amendment to the contract to cover the final two items-Design Development Phase and the actual preparation of contract construction documents. The first two phases total \$66,900 and is with Land Plan Group. He stated the contract is appropriate and recommended approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

ITEM 3-CITIZEN REQUESTS

Prevent Child Abuse of Porter County requested displaying blue ribbons on the trees downtown and a banner at City Hall in honor of child Abuse Prevention Week during April 10 – 17. Mr. Pilz moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

The March of Dimes requested hosting their annual Walk on Sunday May 1 at 10AM at Fairgrounds Park and the surrounding area. Mr. Pilz moved for approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Pilz presented a proposed agreement for design work on the Eastgate Project with American consulting Engineers not to exceed \$559,410 plus reimbursable expenses. Some costs can still be negotiated as some work may be done in-house. The RDC has signed off on the agreement and recommended the Board's approval. Mr. Pilz moved for that approval, seconded by the Mayor and so approved.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Mr. McGinley reported Westside Sewer Project is moving slowly, the contractor has been there most days. They are doing some directional boring along the south side of St. Rd. 130. They are now waiting for certified engineering submittals from the contractors for work on the Howe Street Lift Station.

Mr. Pilz stated regarding the sturdy Road projection that decorative lighting and landscaping work is in progress. The ribbon curb should be done by the end of April.

Mr. Seibert reported for Craig Phillips the Annexation 101 Workshop is Monday, March 7th and is open to the public.

Ron Ziolkowski stated the City is signed up for a new web address www.valpo.us which will be more user friendly. The old address is still in service.

Chief Nondorf reported two of the firefighters did stork pins, they delivered a healthy baby girl. Mother and baby are doing fine, the firefighters are still traumatized.

Chief Brickner reported the officers Adopt-a-School program is up and running. Every school in town has officers that have adopted the school to stop in periodically to participate in events, etc. He encouraged people to register for the new notification system at the Police Department. There is now e-mail notification for people to receive various types of information. So far about 600 residents have registered. There will be a Citizens Academy lasting 10 weeks beginning in April. Running at the same time will be.....for High School students.

Mr. Oeding said they are still patching potholes and street sweeping the winter grit away. Last weekend started the weekend roadside cleanup project.

Steve Doniger talked about the Fit City kick-off with a community breakfast meeting. They have completed the Master Plan for Pathways and are ready for presentation at the various meetings. They have received the permits for controlled burning and will be doing that at Creekside Golfcourse and Foundation Meadows as weather permits. Some of the staff are certified to do this. They will be re-landscaping the City Hall grounds.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.