

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

January 8, 2018

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday January 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present were Councilmembers Murphy, Douglas Hoffman, Reed, Hudson, Cotton and Porter.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 meeting. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote the motion to approve passed with a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATION

Lauren Orchard presented the Redevelopment Commission Budget for 2018. This budget was approved by the RDC Board at their December 14, 2017 meeting. Core Projects make up 45% of the budget. They are: Bus service expansion grant match, Industrial Park Projects and Valpo Net. Infrastructure Improvements is 23% of the budget. Infrastructure Improvements include: Silhavy Road Grant match, LaPorte/Silhavy Roundabout grant match, Eastport Pathway, Calumet North, and LaPorte Sidewalks. Quality of Life Initiatives makes up 6% of the budget. Quality of Life Initiatives include: Housing Initiative, Economic Development, Neighborhood Improvements, Downtown, US 30 Rail Road Bridge, City Arboretum Public Art, Sign Grants and Internet Initiatives. Other is 3% of the budget and includes: Operations Support, Management, Financial Services and Legal Services. The Commission has leveraged \$14.5 Million in Federal and State Funds.

Mayor Costas asked about the timing on projects. The roundabout at Silhavy/LaPorte will be bid in April of 2018. It will start in June or July with two phases done this year and then complete in 2019. The Bus Service Expansion is moving along. They anticipate visiting with Ft. Wayne soon and RFPs will go out next month. The Commission can accept the highest and "best" bidder. This gives them some flexibility. ValpoNet is behind due to weather. They have had discussions with a few businesses regarding the shell building at Valpo Lakes.

The Commission is looking at what the City of Whiting has done with the Housing Initiative. Matt Murphy explained how it came about and that they are still working on the program. It will take blighted property and help the private sector improve it. They expect the Director of Community Engagement will help with this program.

Councilmember Cotton asked if this is a program that could be used to rebuild Will Park. John Seibert explained they have a plan to work on Lakewood, Kirchhoff and then Will Park.

Councilmember Murphy thanked the Mayor for the write up in the last City Newsletter where they explained the RDC.

Councilmember Hoffman commented how having two programs dedicated to neighborhood projects shows commitment.

Councilmember Reed asked if neighborhood lighting would be considered in the neighborhood improvements. It was explained they do not have a policy in place right now but lighting could certainly be considered.

Councilmember Cotton discussed involving the Chamber in helping with façade improvement grants and accessibility. He asked for an explanation of how the RDC got ahead of the big box problem and how long they will pay on the spec building before they accept an offer. Stu Summers explained there have been lawsuits settled that have set the vacant big box building assessed values. In conjunction with the County, appeals have been settled. At most there is two years of assessed value at risk. The RDC's previous commitments are 23%. If they take a hit they will have to scale back but they can always cover their expenses. They have had nine inquiries on the shell building. They are hoping to accept a deal from a business that will create a minimum of in and out truck traffic and a substantial amount of jobs. Stu Summers explained

the RDC has added programs to this budget but did not have the funds to include the façade program they have had in the past.

Councilmember Douglas addressed the Council and indicated he is happy to be back on the RDC. They are doing an amazing job.

ORDINANCE NO. 18, 2017

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONEY RECEIVED FROM PARKING SOURCES OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 18, 2017 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 Cotton seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 18, 2017. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Mayor Costas announced Ordinance No. 18, 2017 requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication stating that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider the appropriation of \$158,200 in the Parking Meter Fund. Seeing no one wishing to address the Council, he declared the Public Hearing closed.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 18, 2017 passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 19, 2017

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, REGULATING ALARM SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 19, 2017 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 Cotton seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 19, 2017. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Chief Balon addressed the Council and offered to answer any additional questions.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 19, 2017 passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 20, 2017

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 94 OF CODE OF ORDINANCES

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 20, 2017 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 Cotton seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 20, 2017 as it coordinates with Ordinance No. 19, 2017. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Chief Dutz addressed the Council and offered to answer any additional questions.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20, 2017 passed with a 7-0 vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

The Council met tonight for their organizational meeting. Trista Hudson is President of the Council. Diana Reed is Vice President.

Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the following appointments:

Redevelopment Commission - Matt Murphy and George Douglas
Traffic and Safety - Lenore Hoffman

Economic Development – Tim Warner and Melanie Trowbridge (Recommendation to the Mayor)

Shared Ethics Commission Joint Board Delegate – Lenore Hoffman
Investigation and Reconciliation Committee – Mike Baird
Fire Territory – Ryan Smiley (4 Year term) and Diana Reed
Board of Zoning Appeals – Mike Micka
Planning Commission – Trista Hudson

Councilmember Porter seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 6-1 vote. Councilmember Cotton voted no.

Councilmember Hudson stated the Council has recommended Melanie Trowbridge and Kevin Cornett for the Mayor's consideration for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilmember Hudson stated these recommendations were not unanimous but passed favorably by the Council. Mayor Costas asked that the recommendations submit their names to him by e-mail.

Council Liaisons are as follows:

Valparaiso Community Schools – Lenore Hoffman
Valparaiso Community Schools – Deb Porter
Park Department – Diana Reed
Utilities – Deb Porter and Matt Murphy
Engineering & Code Enforcement – Robert Cotton
Public Safety – Trista Hudson
Public Works – Matt Murphy

AUDIENCE

No one wished to address the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

/s/ Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer