

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
February 12, 2018**

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday February 12, 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 January 22, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2018

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO,
INDIANA GRANTING GILLIANA POOLS LLC AN ASSESSED VALUATION
DEDUCTION (TAX ABATEMENT) FOR TANGIBLE REAL PROPERTY UNDER
INDIANA CODE 6-1.1-12.1**

Councilmember Hudson moved that Resolution No. 1, 2018 be read a first time and considered for passage. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Resolution No. 1, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Jason Gilliana addressed the Council. Currently Gilliana Pools office is located in Merrillville. They are looking to re-locate in Valparaiso. Patrick Lyp addressed the Council. The abatement request is from Gilliana Pools, LLC and Whiteco Pool Solutions. The abatement does not cover the warehouse portion of the construction. This is a five-year tax abatement request.

Councilmember Cotton discussed if the move here is contingent on the abatement being granted. Jason Gilliana answered it is important. Some of the partners wanted to stay in Lake County. The abatement was used to sway them to Porter County. There was discussion regarding the importance of Whiteco as part of this project.

Councilmember Porter asked about the “up to \$800,000” amount. Patrick Lyp explained this does not include the warehouses.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2018 passed with a 7-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2018

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO,
INDIANA GRANTING VALE PARK ANIMAL HOSPITAL LAKES PROPERTY LLC
AN ASSESSED VALUATION DEDUCTION (TAX ABATEMENT) FOR TANGIBLE
REAL PROPERTY UNDER INDIANA CODE 6-1.1-12.1**

Councilmember Hudson moved that Resolution No. 2, 2018 be read a first time and considered for passage. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Resolution No. 2, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Resolution No. 2, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Dr. Mary Ann Schiller addressed the Council. She gave the history of the practice. They looked at expanding where they are and also purchasing property in Chesterton. They have purchased property at 3515 Lake Meade Circle in Valparaiso. They are the first to locate in the business park of The Lakes. Patrick Lyp addressed the Council. This is a seven-year tax abatement request. This project meets the criteria for granting tax abatement.

Councilmember Cotton discussed this is a service and therefore they do not pay sales tax. They are going into a tax deferred area. Valparaiso has a vibrant veterinary community. This abatement takes other vet’s money to help a competitor. This is putting a burden on the other

veterinarians in Valparaiso. Patrick Lyp replied no other vet is doing an investment in the City of Valparaiso the size of this one.

Councilmember Douglas thanked Doctors Schiller and Laika for their investment in Valparaiso. Each project is unique and other service based abatements have been granted. This encourages a local business to stay here and expand here.

Councilmember Hoffman discussed this is the first business to locate in the Lakes Business District. This will encourage others to come.

Councilmember Porter discussed the need for doggy day care. She is happy to see Vale Park Animal Hospital expand and stay in Valparaiso.

Councilmember Cotton again discussed this is taking money from other veterinarians in the City and he doubts an abatement would be granted should any of them apply.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2, 2018 passed with a 6-1 vote. Councilmember Cotton voted no.

ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2018

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE POLICE MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 1, 2018 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 Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Chief Balon addressed the Council. The money will be used for squad car repair and purchase.

Mayor Costas stated Ordinance No. 1, 2018 requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider the appropriation of \$30,000 in the Police Motor Vehicle Equipment 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. 1, 2018 passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2018

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE LOCAL POLICE EDUCATION FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 2, 2018 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 Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Clerk Treasurer Swihart explained the money is acquired from accident reports, gun permits, VIN checks and the like. It is a statutory account. Chief Balon explained the money will be used for education.

Mayor Costas stated Ordinance No. 2, 2018 requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider the appropriation of \$50,000 in the Local Police Education 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. 2, 2018 passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2018

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE LOCAL ROAD & STREET FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 3, 2018 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 Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Nate McGinley addressed the Council. This money comes from gas tax. The money will be used for road salt, patching material, concrete and other material. He will pass on the "Thanks" given for a job well done with the recent snow we have had

Mayor Costas stated Ordinance No. 3, 2018 requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider the appropriation of \$450,000 in the Local Road and Street 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. 3, 2018 passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2018

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

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 4, 2018 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 Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Chief Dutz addressed the Council. The money comes from fees collected for inspections. There also is \$50,000 received from VU. The money will be used for safety and education.

Mayor Costas stated Ordinance No. 4, 2018 requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider the appropriation of \$175,000 in the Firefighting 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. 4, 2018 passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2018

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 5, 2018 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Ordinance No. 5, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to carry Ordinance No.5, 2018 to the February 26, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Chief Dutz addressed the Council. This is a yearly request. Money for this fund is received from inspection fees.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 5, 2018 to the February 26, 2018 meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

None.

AUDIENCE

Susan Martin – the City needs to consider the noise generated by a veterinary clinic. She also is concerned regarding the BMV charging the wheel tax to people who do not live within the City limits. She was advised the BMV has a form to fill out to receive a refund. Susan asked that Sharon Swihart be an advocate and request the State to correct the problem of people being charged that should not be. Sharon Swihart explained the City is being debited for those receiving a refund.

Councilmember Porter stated it is going the other way also. Some within the City have not been charged.

Bill Durnell – 703 Washington –He is concerned that abatements are being given and there won't be enough money for the life span of the roads in The Lakes. He asked if there is a list of outstanding abatements and something showing if they have met the employment requirements. He also asked if the Council meetings will be videotaped. Mayor Costas suggested he talk with Patrick Lyp regarding the abatement issues. The meetings are being audio recorded. Possibly video will be incorporated in the new construction.

Councilmember Hoffman questioned what is the advantage of video. Bill Durnell replied the interaction in answering questions is important.

Walter Dockerty – UGN is going to build another factory. He hopes Valparaiso is going to be aggressive to make sure it is built here. Patrick Lyp assured him he is being aggressive.

Walt Breitinger – requested all Councilmembers use their microphone in order to be heard.

Kevin Cornett - suggested the wheel tax issue be addressed to the County and Township government. He thanked the Street Department for doing a good job, but suggested they push the snow 5' away from the sidewalks and intersections.

Councilmember Cotton suggested people are hesitant to run for Mayor because of the part time status with a full time administrator. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart explained there is no state statute or city ordinance stating how many hours is required for the position of any elected official. Mayor Costas added the job of Mayor is part time pay. They are working on changing that.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

/s/ Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer