

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

April 9, 2018

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday April 9, 2018 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 March 12, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

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

Presentation – City of Valparaiso Ethics Commission

Analisa Warring addressed the Council. She gave a report on the City of Valparaiso Ethics Commission. The Commission meets every other month on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. Contact information is listed on the City's web page.

RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2018

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL FOR A FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT
REIMBURSEMENT GRANT FOR THOMAS CALHOUN
(203 MONROE STREET)**

Councilmember Hudson moved that Resolution No. 4, 2018 be read a first time and considered for passage. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Resolution No. 4, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Resolution No. 4, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Tyler Kent addressed the Council. This Resolution comes to the Council with a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission.

Councilmember Hudson asked about the location. Tyler explained properties within 500' of the Downtown District qualify.

Councilmember Cotton asked if Tyler knows how this Fund will be replenished. Tyler replied \$100,000 was allocated this last year. There is approximately a \$25,000 balance.

Upon voice vote the motion to adopt Resolution No. 4, 2018 passed with a 7-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 5, 2018

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION
IN THE HOOSIER HOMES PROGRAM**

Councilmember Hudson moved that Resolution No. 5, 2018 be read a first time and considered for passage. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Resolution No. 5, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Resolution No. 5, 2018. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Councilmember Porter gave a history of how this Resolution came to be. The Resolution shows the City supports the Hoosier Homes Program which gives help to citizens within the City limits when wanting to purchase a home. She is presenting the Resolution tonight but will have it ready for a vote in two weeks. She introduced Trish Whitcomb, of George K. Baum and Company, who addressed the Council. The Company is an administrator of down payment assistance programs in 22 states. Trish explained the program. The program is designed to help people who qualify for a mortgage but need help with the down payment. At the closing, the purchaser does not have to provide the down payment or pay closing costs. These costs are added to the first seven years of the mortgage.

Councilmember Hoffman asked how potential purchasers know about this program. Trish explained the City will put this program on their web page. Lenders will have it on their web page. Her company intends to engage in grassroots communications with non-profits in the area and with organized labor.

Councilmember Douglas asked for an explanation of how collecting the unrestricted revenue program works. Trish explained lenders pay an administrative fee. A percentage of that fee goes to the City. It will be paid quarterly. The City's liability for this program is absolutely zero.

Councilmember Cotton discussed that if this program is on the City's web page it is an endorsement so there is a responsibility to the City. All of the lenders will be serviced. They will go through 360 Mortgage for their servicing. This requires a 30-page application being submitted.

Councilmember Hoffman asked why this is not being voted on tonight. Councilmember Porter explained the Cooperative Agreement is not prepared. It will be ready and the Resolution can be voted on by the next meeting.

Councilmember Cotton discussed only using one income to qualify as being cheating. He questioned what percentage of applicants use that loophole. Trish Whitcomb explained this is fair. There are many other costs that go along with home ownership.

Councilmember Hudson moved to amend her motion. Her new motion is to table Resolution No. 5, 2018 to the next meeting. Councilmember Reed agreed to the amendment. Upon voice vote the motion to table Resolution No. 5, 2018 to the next Council meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 6, 2018

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF WATERWORKS REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING THE WATERWORKS REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2010, AND ADDRESSING OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 6, 2018 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Ordinance No. 6, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to pass Ordinance No.6, 2018 on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

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

Steve Poulos addressed the Council. He explained this is the third time the opportunity has presented itself where the Bond could be refinanced and result in a significant savings. By refinancing a savings will be recognized of \$128,000. No additional money is being added and the length of the term is not being extended. There is \$2.1 Million left on the bond.

Councilmember Cotton asked what the spread is. John Julian of Umbaugh replied 2%.

Councilmember Douglas moved to suspend the rules. Councilmember Murphy seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Hudson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6, 2018 on second reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2018

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

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 7, 2018 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Ordinance No. 7, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to carry Ordinance No. 7, 2018 to the April 23, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Nate McGinley addressed the Council. This money will be used for maintenance on headstones, mowers and purchase of a mini excavator. The money is acquired from the sale of grave sites. The fund's current balance is a little over \$209,000.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No.7, 2018 to the April 23, 2018 meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2018

AN ORDINANCE VACATING PLATTED EASEMENTS FOR LEISURE DRIVE IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO LOTS 5 AND 6 IN MYRTLEWOOD ADDITION IN THE CITY OF VALPARAISO

Councilmember Hudson moved that Ordinance No. 8, 2018 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Ordinance No. 8, 2018. Councilmember Hudson moved to carry Ordinance No. 8, 2018 to the April 23, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Tyler Kent addressed the Council. Leisure Drive was platted 100 years ago. Most of the road has been vacated. McDonalds is requesting that this portion be vacated. Tyler has contacted all other City departments and they have no concerns regarding this issue.

Councilmember Hudson asked why this is needed. Tyler Kent explained there is no reason not to do it. McDonalds has requested it and this completes the entire Leisure Drive.

Councilmember Hoffman asked how a person would know this is needed to be done. A representative of McDonalds replied it showed up in their title work.

Mayor Costas announced this Ordinance requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider Ordinance No. 8, 2018, vacating platted easements for Leisure Drive. Seeing no one wishing to address the Council, he declared the Public Hearing closed.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 8, 2018 to the April 23, 2018 meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Hoffman announced Friday is the final day to submit applications for School Board appointment.

AUDIENCE

Susan Martin – asked status of the reply from BMV on the wheel tax issue. They have not received a reply. However, there was discussion that the procedure has changed so they appear to be working on the problem.

Kevin Cornett – He thought the City was getting out of the façade grant program business and the RDC was going to be handling them. Mayor Costas discussed this is a successful program and the City will continue it. It is part of the downtown program.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

/s/ Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer