

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

June 11, 2018

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday June 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Hudson called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present were Councilmembers Murphy, Douglas, Hoffman, Reed, Hudson, Cotton and Porter.

MINUTES

Councilmember Reed moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote the motion to approve the May 14, 2018 minutes passed with a 7-0 vote.

Presentation

VPD Honorable Mention Awards/Life Saving Award

Chief Jeff Balon addressed the Council. He introduced Officers Patrick Yokovich, William Smith and Ruben Ingram. Honorable Mention Awards are given for exemplary work by an employee. All three Officers were given an Honorable Mention Award for assisting a citizen in getting out of a burning building. Officer Yokovich was presented with a Life Saving Award for rescuing a citizen who had hung herself. He did this in spite of an aggressive dog biting him.

ORDINANCE NO. 9, 2018

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE RIVERBOAT FUND AND THE
CCIF FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE**

Councilmember Reed moved that Ordinance No. 9, 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 Cotton seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Reed moved to adopt Ordinance No. 9, 2018. Councilmember Hoffman seconded the motion.

Bill Oeding explained this money is the City's portion for the City Hall renovation project. The Riverboat Fund will provide \$700,000 and the CCIF Fund will provide \$500,000.

Councilmember Cotton asked what the balance of these two funds is right now. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart replied the Riverboat Fund is over \$1.5 Million and is replenished at the rate of \$200,000 per year. The CCIF fund balance is \$1.150 Million and is replenished at the rate of \$77,000 per year. These funds have not been used much but when they are they are used for special projects.

Councilmember Cotton discussed an interview the Mayor did where he stated the project would be around \$2 Million. He would like to see what could be done for \$2 Million. Bill Oeding explained when they first started talking about this project the architect gave them a price of \$6 Million. That was reduced to the current \$4.2 Million project. Under \$4.2 you do not get anything. A new City Hall would be approximately \$11 to \$12 Million. The Mayor has apologized for saying \$2 Million. It was an answer he gave in an interview when asked what he thought it would cost. This was before any meetings were held to discuss the project.

Councilmember Douglas discussed when he worked in City Hall more than fifteen years ago, it was at capacity then. The last renovations to this building were done in 1987. This project is long overdue. It is frugal and ADA compliant.

Councilmember Hudson announced that Ordinance No. 9, 2018 requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider approving \$1.2 Million from the Riverboat Fund and CCIF Fund to be used for the City Hall renovation/expansion project.

Kevin Cornett suggested some of the current staff in City Hall be moved to another building that could be built on some City owned property and would be more in the area of \$2 Million. Bill

Oeding replied that leaving the staff here that is here now is a public convenience. It does not make sense to separate the Departments that are here. Sharon Swihart explained just getting a building permit can involve going to many offices. It would be inconvenient and not fair to have people going from building to building.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 9, 2018 passed with a 6-1 vote. Councilmember Cotton voted No.

ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2018

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO PAY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE RENOVATION OF THE CITY HALL, AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH AND ON ACCOUNT OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; AND APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS THEREOF

Councilmember Reed and Clerk Treasurer Swihart stated this Ordinance will be carried over until the June 25, 2018 meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2018

AN ORDINANCE APROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE GENERAL FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATIONOF NOTICE

Councilmember Reed moved that Ordinance No. 12, 2018 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Ordinance No. 12, 2018. Councilmember Reed moved to carry Ordinance No. 12, 2018 to the June 25, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Chief Balon addressed the Council. The Valparaiso Community School Corporation has given the City this money to be used for another resource officer. It is in the General Fund and needs to be put in the Police Department Fund so they can hire the officer and purchase equipment. This is an unanticipated revenue. This will be an annual amount from the School Corporation and will be included in the next City Budget.

There was discussion regarding how many and where current resource officers are located.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 12, 2018 to the June 25, 2018 meeting passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2018

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE PARK NON-PREVERTING OPERATING FUND AND THE PARK NONPREVERTING CAPITAL FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Reed moved that Ordinance No. 13, 2018 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read Ordinance No. 13, 2018. Councilmember Reed moved to carry Ordinance No. 13, 2018 to the June 25, 2018 meeting. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion.

Bill Oeding addressed the Council. The money will be used to add to the Bike Share program. There will be two more stations put in – one by the YMCA and one by Foundation Meadow Park. The Non-Reverting Capital will be used for general repairs to the course.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 13, 2018 to the June 25, 2018 meeting passed 7-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Cotton discussed accountability of tax abatement recipients. Union Electric employees went on strike. He has checked the CF-1 form and has found they are terribly out of compliance. He asked if the RDC does any additional diligence. Councilmember Hudson explained this is a question that should be deferred to Patrick Lyp. It is not an RDC function.

Clerk-Treasurer Swihart explained the process of filing the CF-1 forms. Councilmember Cotton asked if Matt Murphy or George Douglas, as members of the RDC, do any extra checking to make sure companies are in compliance. City Attorney Ethan Lowe explained the City Council is the body that passes tax abatement. It is not an RDC issue. Councilmember Porter added this is an older tax abatement. Newer ones have call back language in them. This one does not.

Councilmember Hudson reported the Plan Commission meets tomorrow night.

Councilmember Douglas reported the RDC meets Thursday.

AUDIENCE

Andrew Hunter – 764 Windflower Court - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it. ValpoNext has been defunded by City.

Discussion: ValpoNext has requested to be a 501-C3 so at some point they need to be self-sustaining. This is not a decoupling. It is following the strategic plan. The City has given them money this year and will again next year.

Drew Wenger – 611 Center Street – spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it.

Discussion: On behalf of the Mayor it was indicated there have been discussions regarding affordable housing. It is a complex issue. In the near future an announcement will be made regarding a plan. Flaherty and Collins have heard the comments regarding the need for affordable housing. They will be looking at all needs when developing the Journeyman Distillery at the transit oriented development.

Paul Schreiner – affordable housing needs to be defined.

John Albers – 401 Lafayette Street - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it. Presented letter signed by 30 local pastors requesting the City do something about affordable housing.

Tim Leitzke - Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it.

Erica Gibson-Even – 1310 Napoleon Street – Pastor at Christ Lutheran - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it.

Rich Schmidt – 208 Michigan Avenue – Pastor at Living Hope Community Church - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it.

Ben Bloom – 38 East 600 North - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it.

Discussion: This is an important issue. No one has presented a plan for exactly what they want the City to do for affordable housing. If someone is willing to invest in a project there are tools available all through the process that would help include affordable housing. The days of large developments of houses valued at \$300,000 and up should end.

Byron - 60 University Drive - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it. Need to set a deadline.

Discussion: Altogether Valpo was formed to tackle issues the City needs to work on. The committee submitted two reports. One said we need to take action on affordable housing. The other said Valpo had a pretty good housing stock. This confirms it is a complex issue.

Shawn Barnes – 258 Erie - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it. Need to give kids an opportunity so they can move out of poverty and make good choices.

Chris Pupilo – 318 Madison Street - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it. RDC needs to encourage Flaherty and Collins to include affordable housing.

Heath Carter - spoke in favor of affordable housing and asked that the City do something about it. There was a consensus housing report filed by the All Together Valpo committee with a robust set of recommendations.

Paul Schreiner - He was on that committee. A study was paid for and it said there is an ongoing need for housing. The conclusions page was omitted from the report when it was handed out. There was a sense that the City does not want affordable housing.

Resident at 301 Madison - there are grants available for affordable housing. Partnerships can be formed with non-profits. The pastors' letter should be taken seriously.

Tim Leitzke - Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church – Trinity Lutheran – signed letter because nothing has been done on recommendations made by committees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

/s/ Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer