

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
January 13, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present were Councilmembers Reed, Cotton, Domer, Pupillo, Anderson, Hunt, and Kapitan.

Selection of Council Officers

MOTION: Councilmember Cotton moved to nominate Councilmember Kapitan as President of the Council. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion.

Councilmember Cotton asked for any other nominations.

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

MOTION: Councilmember Kapitan moved to nominate Councilmember Hunt as Vice President of the Council. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Councilmember Kapitan asked for any other nominations.

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

Approval of Council Appointments

MOTION: Councilmember Kapitan presented a slate of Council Appointments:

RDC	Councilmember Domer and Councilmember Reed
Plan Commission	Councilmember Kapitan
Traffic & Safety	Councilmember Kapitan
Board of Works	Councilmember Domer
Code Enforcement	Councilmember Cotton
Investigation and Reconciliation	Councilmember Cotton
School Board Liaison	Councilmember Hunt
Park Liaison	Councilmember Reed
Utilities Liaison	Councilmember Anderson
Fire Territory Liaison	Councilmember Cotton
Public Safety Liaison	Councilmember Pupillo

Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Councilmember Kapitan advised the BZA appointment is Hannah Trueblood. Valpo EDC appointment is Allison Quackenbush. She introduced the newly formed Environmental Advisory Board: Sara McKelvey, Malorie Medellin, Greg Quartucci, Maureen Turman, Ellen Kapitan, and student members Naia Nikitaris, and Austin Sabec.

MOTION: Councilmember Hunt moved to adopt the proposed slate of appointments. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

MINUTES

MOTION: Councilmember Cotton moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024 Council meeting and December 16, 2024 Executive Session meeting. Councilmember Kapitan seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO TO MAKE TEMPORARY LOANS TO TAX SUPPORTED FUNDS FROM THE RAINY DAY FUND

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Resolution No. 1, 2025 be read and considered for adoption. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Resolution No. 1, 2025.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor addressed the Council. This is an annual resolution. The City receives its first tax draw in June. If any department runs short before that tax draw, this Resolution authorizes the Clerk-Treasurer to loan money to that department. The funds must be paid back by the end of the year.

MOTION: Councilmember Kapitan moved to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2025. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2025

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE PARK IMPACT FEES FUND

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 1, 2025 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 1, 2025.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor addressed the Council. The Park Department has enough cash to cover this appropriation.

Kevin Nuppnau – This is for a fee study. Every five years they are required to have a review of the impact fee. Once the study is done, there will be an increase in the impact fees. The total cost of the fee is \$41,500.00. The study will look at the current inventory and determine where the deficiencies are based on population and future population growth. The fee is from new construction.

MOTION: Councilmember Kapitan moved to carry Ordinance No. 1, 2025 to the January 27, 2025 meeting. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2025

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDING FUND

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 2, 2025 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 2, 2025.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor addressed the Council. They have enough cash to cover the appropriation. The funds are generated from fees collected.

Councilmember Domer – Is this connected with the redaction software he asked for approval of at the Board of Works meeting?

Chief McIntyre –This appropriation will help offset some of the body camera invoices. It is not related to the redaction software.

ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2025

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE OPIOID UNRESTRICTED AND OPIOID RESTRICTED FUNDS

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 3, 2025 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 3, 2025.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor – This is the balance of cash in these two funds. The second installment will not be received until March. There are some outstanding balances of grants the Council awarded last year. She would like to get them paid this month. Appropriations must be redone every year if not spent in the year the funds are appropriated. All figures stay the same. If not spent it stays in the account.

MOTION: Councilmember Kapitan moved to carry Ordinance No. 3, 2025 to the January 27, 2025 meeting. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Hunt– The School Board meets this coming Thursday, January 16, 2025.

Councilmember Anderson – The Utility Board meets tomorrow.

Councilmember Pupillo – VPD hired six new officers. VFD has several new EMTs. They welcomed the first ever administrative assistant to Local 1124.

Councilmember Cotton – RDC got responses to the fiber work bids. They also got responses on the farm lease bids.

Councilmember Domer – Board of Works: There is a new collector street connecting Vale Park to Ransom Road. American Structure Point was awarded the bid for the Indiana Cultural Trail. There is a new “expressway” added to the City’s inventory. It is John Howell Drive. The City’s insurance had an increase of 17.5% this year. The Police and Engineering Department have acquired Traffic Management Software that will identify areas of the City where speeding is occurring. The Engineering Department has applied for \$1.5 Million in Community Crossing match program. The Police Department is acquiring Redaction software. A deed was approved for transferring property on Kinsey Street to Paradise Homes.

Councilmember Reed – The Park Department is assessing its inventory. They are working on ADA compliance at Rogers Lakewood. They are adding a “story walk” at Rogers Lakewood. Bids have come in for fences at Fairground Park. They will be working on the back nine paths to make them smoother to extend the life of the carts.

Councilmember Kapitan – INDOT is gathering input for Valpo’s section of US 30 going east out of town. It is called Propel US 30.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

TO HEAR CITIZENS’ FULL COMMENTS, PLEASE REFER TO THE WATCH CITY MEETINGS

SECTION OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO'S WEBSITE (WWW.CI.VALPARAISO.IN.US)

No one.

The Next Council Meeting will be January 27, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer