

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
January 27, 2020**

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday January 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order. He welcomed Boy Scout Troop 907 to the meeting. RJ from the Troop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor called roll. Present were Councilmembers Reed, Cotton, Schmidt, Pupillo, Anderson, Douglas and Costas.

MINUTES

Councilmember Pupillo moved to approve minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2020

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

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 1, 2020 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 Taylor read the Ordinance. Councilmember Douglas moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1, 2020. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Vicki Thrasher addressed the Council and explained this is money to be used for demolition of unsafe buildings.

Mayor Murphy announced Ordinance No. 1, 2020 requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will hear comments on the appropriation of \$86,860.00 in the Unsafe Building Fund. Seeing no one wishing to address the meeting, he declared the Public Hearing closed.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1, 2020 passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2020

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE FORFEITURE AND SEIZED ASSETS FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 2, 2020 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 2, 2020. Councilmember Douglas moved to carry Ordinance No. 2, 2020 to the February 10, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Chief Jeff Balon addressed the Council. This is an appropriation of \$15,000 in the Forfeiture and Seized Assets Fund. This is money received from adjudication of drug dealers. State statute allows this money to be used for anything except salary or benefits. He wants to use this appropriation for Public Engagement Programs. Bike Patrols are noticed and attract youth. He will purchase electric assisted bikes so they can expand the area covered by Bike Patrol. He also is going to lease a motorcycle. This gets people to engage with the officer. The officer will talk about not doing drugs and when faced by peers how to avoid an awkward situation. Parents will be involved in the conversations. He also will do a SMART program. Social Media Awareness and Responsibility Training. This will teach what to be aware of with Social Media.

The Police Department will partner with the Fire Department in a drug amnesty and paraphernalia turn over program. This program will give the person a place to go if they need help with a drug problem. The Fire Department and the Police Department will work with them to get help.

Councilmember Cotton asked about the number of bikes. Right now they have approximately 15 bikes. Once they see how this program goes, they will consider purchasing more. The same applies to the motorcycle. Outright purchase of a motorcycle is approximately \$20,000 and the lease for one year is \$3,500.

Councilmember Anderson discussed his thoughts on how this program will be a success.

Councilmember Douglas asked how long it took to accumulate these funds. Chief Balon explained this is solely on Valparaiso investigations and it took approximately three years.

Councilmember Schmidt asked about training for the officers. The money appropriated tonight will cover training.

Councilmember Pupillo asked for a breakdown of how the money will be spent. The electric bikes will be \$8,000; motorcycle is \$3,500; literature for the program \$1,500; laptops for the amnesty program \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Councilmember Reed confirmed there are 15 officers for the bike program. She asked how many motorcycle officers there will be. Chief Balon explained there are two officers on the department qualified to ride a motorcycle.

Councilmember Costas asked if they have ever had any of the bike stolen and he was told not one bike has been stolen.

Councilmember Douglas expressed his opinion that these are great programs.

Councilmember Anderson asked about transferring a person who may come for help. Chief Balon replied they do have the ability to transfer a person.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 2, 2020 to the February 10, 2020 meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

AUDIENCE

Anna – She talked about Resolution 8, 2015 which stated the Council supported the school corporation's referendum. This Resolution stated money from the referendum would be used to further the foreign language programs. Currently the School Corporation is cutting back on the foreign language programs. The School Board needs to be held accountable.

Meredith Mulkey- 106 Appletree Lane. She knows that all the Boards in the City work hand in hand. There have been a lot of good committees formed. Mayor Costas and Dr. Frataccia sold a dream. The dream has not come to fruition. She explained the program at Parkview School and the rest of the schools are cutting back on the foreign language programs. She asked who she should be talking to and who is being held responsible for this situation.

Rebecca Hoyle - 2656 Sager. Parents are ready to fight for the referendum in 2022 for their kids' education. They will do this if promises are fulfilled from the last referendum.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer