

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

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday April 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. by teleconference. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present were Councilmembers Reed, Schmidt, Pupillo, Anderson, Costas and Douglas. Councilmember Cotton was late.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Reed moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Douglas seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion to approve passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mayor Murphy thanked everyone for being flexible to the change of time for the meeting. If this is something the Council wants to change, they will have to amend Ordinance No. 31, 2002. He encouraged Councilmembers to communicate their thoughts on this matter.

**ORDINANCE NO 8, 2020**

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

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 8, 2020 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 8, 2020. Councilmember Douglas moved to carry Ordinance No. 8, 2020 to the May 11, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor addressed the Council. This Ordinance is \$475,000 for the 2020 paving budget. There will be a Public Hearing at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 8, 2020 to the May 11, 2020 meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

**Other Business**

Mayor Murphy announced Porter County has been asked to add another COVID-19 test site. If the Park Board approves, Urschel Pavilion will be used as a test site beginning May 6<sup>th</sup>. May 1<sup>st</sup> the Governor will have a press conference regarding moving forward in the month of May.

Councilmember Reed reported there has been six applications received for school board appointment. Patrick Lyp will ask questions during the interview process. She expects the first round of interviews to be held May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Cotton asked if the questions are the pre-established questions. If that is the case there is a certain amount of uniqueness of the candidates. There is a vast difference in the pedigree of the candidates. Councilmember Reed explained they will be asked the questions first. At the end of the interview there should be time to ask questions specifically to the candidate who is being interviewed.

Councilmember Cotton discussed his objection to the change in meeting time. The way to change code is by amending Ordinances. Changing the time needs to be done in a public setting. He would like to hear the other side. There is a vast number of citizens who commute and cannot make this time. This is a profound change.

Mayor Murphy explained this has already been discussed before Councilmember Cotton showed up. It was acknowledged, if the Councilmembers agree, that official action would be taken and amend Ordinance No. 31, 2002 which states the meeting should be at 7:30 p.m. not 7:00 p.m. as it has for several years.

Councilmember Cotton stated this needs to be done in a public setting. He was three minutes late for tonight's meeting. If all discussion on this issue was held during those three minutes, he is surprised. This should be on the Agenda and do things right.

Councilmember Reed stated her concern is that there was not a formal conversation about the time change prior to making the change. She feels the public needs to know about changes. It should have been talked about at the last meeting.

Councilmember Cotton asked for comments from other Councilmembers.

Councilmember comments were: one stated he put it on his Facebook page. He was not aware of the Ordinance but feels the change is an ok change. Another comment was if the Council wants to make a change, and the rules say it needs to be voted on, then it should be done that way.

Hearing no other comments on this issue, Mayor Murphy declared the meeting adjourned. He re-convened the meeting for Public Comments.

### **Public Comment**

Julie Storebeck – 310 Lafayette. She voiced her concern that there is no TTD phone number on the Notice or Web page. She wants to know what is being done for handicapped accessible. Patrick Lyp explained the City is following what State code requires and mandates as far as teleconference calls. He will look into the situation and see if there are other ways to make the meetings more handicapped accessible. Julie suggested the City is not in keeping with Federal Law to be ADA compliant.

Gary Brown – 203 Harrison. For 25 years he commuted from Chicago. He knows citizens cannot make meetings at 5:30 if commuting. The City is not ADA compliant. Isaak Walton just did a meeting that was ADA compliant. The technology is available for the City to be compliant. To change the time without public input is not right. He asked if the Mayor wanted to go down in history as the first Mayor to make it harder for citizens that have children at home to line up a babysitter if they want to come to a City Council meeting. Also, how can there be a signup sheet for the public to sign up to speak. The meeting is over before the citizens have a chance to speak.

Councilmember Cotton asked if this will be on the Agenda so it is discussed in an open meeting. Patrick Lyp said it can be put on the Agenda. This is a trial run. It is not a permanent change. There is a process for placing an item on the Agenda.

Councilmember Cotton said the process of changing something outside of code is not a good process. Even if it is an experiment. It is casual.

Patrick Lyp replied the 5:30 Notice of the meeting was done properly according to the Open Door Law.

Mayor Murphy asked twice if there was any other member of the public wishing to address the Council. Seeing none, he declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer