

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE COMMON COUNCIL VALPARAISO, INDIANA

June 26, 2023

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday June 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present were Councilmembers Reed, Cotton, Schmidt, Pupillo, Peterson, Anderson, and Costas.

MINUTES

MOTION: Councilmember Schmidt moved to adopt minutes of the June 12, 2023 Council meeting Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 21, 2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA AMENDING SECTION 53 OF THE VALPARAISO MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING REFUSE AND RECYCLING

Councilmember Schmidt moved that Ordinance No. 21, 2023 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. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cook read the Ordinance.

Attorney Patrick Lyp addressed the Council. This Ordinance fixes some ambiguity in the original Ordinance as to what the funds can be used for. Section 53.05 is stricken, and Section 53.35(L) clarifies what revenues can be used for.

MOTION: Councilmember Schmidt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21, 2023. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 22, 2023

AMENDMENT OF 2023 SALARY ORDINANCE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

Councilmember Schmidt moved that Ordinance No. 22, 2023 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cook read Ordinance No. 22, 2023.

Kevin Nuppnau and Bill Oeding addressed the Board. With his retirement Kevin Nuppnau is moving into John's position. The Amendment takes the Assistant Director's position and turn it into an Operations Director position. As they transition into the future with the projects they have been working on, it is time to look at operations a little more strategically and from a financial standpoint as opposed to the strategic side they have been working on. This change will not affect the budget. Bill Oeding asked the Council to consider suspension of the rules so this could be in place when Kevin takes over as of July 1, 2023.

Councilmember Reed – She wants to make sure the Park Board members are aware of this change. Kevin Nuppnau advised they are aware and tomorrow is the Board meeting.

Councilmember Cotton – Why the hurry to vote on this. It is the Council's job to vet this candidate unless there is an urgent necessity.

Bill Oeding – This has been well vetted internally and has been through the process. They feel it makes sense. There is no money changing in terms of dollars and cents. It is a matter of Kevin putting the right people in position so he can go forward with his plan.

Councilmember Cotton – When you say it has been vetted that is fine but the Council is the fiduciary body. They have not vetted it yet. This is the first he is hearing of this salary change. There is no need to suspend the rules.

Mayor Murphy – Just to clarify Mr. Cotton, you are opposed to suspending the rules on Ordinance No. 22?

Councilmember Cotton - He is opposed to suspending the rules. No necessity has been explained other than the convenience of having this vote take place before the Park Board. There is a process. The Council is the fiduciary body.

Councilmember Reed – This is just switching titles with the same dollar amount.

Kevin Nuppnau – With the reclassification it went from EXE C to PAT A. This is down a pay scale level.

MOTION: Councilmember Schmidt moved to carry Ordinance No. 22, 2023 to the July meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 25, 2023

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE PARK IMPACT FEES FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Schmidt moved that Ordinance No. 25, 2023 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cook read Ordinance No. 25, 2023.

Mayor Murphy recognized John Siebert stating this is his last City Council meeting. John has attended over 600 meetings. He thanked him for his service and dedication. He wished him well in retirement.

John Seibert addressed the Council. It has been his privilege and honor to serve the City. He is the envy of his colleagues around the State because of this community. This community supports parks. They do things for the right reasons. It has been his honor to be part of a team that creates a system like this.

The skate park is under way. Impact fees were created for this type of project. These fees were passed by the Council in 2020. Impact fees are for funding of new infrastructure because they are based on new housing coming into the community.

Councilmember Schmidt – There is about \$700,000 in hand?

John Seibert – The annual total is about \$200,000. We will meet the goal.

Councilmember Cotton – this has accumulated over a number of years.

MOTION: Councilmember Schmidt moved to carry Ordinance No. 25, 2023 to the July meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2023

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

Councilmember Schmidt moved that Ordinance No. 23, 2023 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cook read Ordinance No. 23, 2023.

Steve Poulos addressed the Council. This is an appropriation of \$500,000 for the purchase of new equipment in 2023.

Councilmember Cotton – this has been approved by the Utility Board?

Steve Poulos – This is Public Works.

Mayor Murphy – What is being purchased?

Steve Poulos – A large 25 cubic yard leaf vac. This will save on labor and fuel.

MOTION: Councilmember Schmidt moved to carry Ordinance No. 23, 2023 to the July meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2023

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE PARK NON-REVERTING OPERATING FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Councilmember Schmidt moved that Ordinance No. 26, 2023 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cook read Ordinance No. 26, 2023.

Dan McGuire addressed the Council. This is \$350,000 to be used for Capital Outlays. They anticipate building a new hitting shed, a cart path and some drainage.

Councilmember Anderson – Golf is doing so well there is too much money in the fund?

Dan McGuire – Yes. There is 35% of the daily fees go in this account. There is over half a million dollars in the fund right now. Right now they are ahead of last year's numbers.

Councilmember Reed – She remembers being the Park liaison and listening to reports where golf was dismal. This turn around is amazing.

MOTION: Councilmember Schmidt moved to carry Ordinance No. 26, 2023 to the July meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Other Business

Councilmember Reed addressed the Council. She discussed the need for the Council to adopt a Resolution in support of gun safety. She does not have enough Councilmember support to have this put on the Agenda but would like to have a conversation about it.

Councilmember Pupillo – The Valparaiso Police Department is working on something. It will make a lot of people happy with gun safety. He does not think City Council is the venue for the gun issue.

Councilmember Schmidt – This is not the Council’s responsibility. The kids should be educated and then reach the parents a different way. He does not support a resolution.

Councilmember Cotton – He applauds the State for realizing more needs to be done. It is all about the kids. They are subject to trauma with this issue. The value and power is being understated for what the kids go through every day not knowing what they are walking into.

Councilmember Costas – He feels SROs should be a focus and make the schools safe.

Councilmember Reed – She would like to see the Council participate in some type of event and/or communication in the community proposing gun safety.

Councilmember Cotton – This should have a vote.

Attorney Patrick Lyp – It is not clear. If someone wants to make a motion, they can do so.

MOTION: Councilmember Cotton moved to approve placing a Resolution on the next agenda regarding gun safety. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion failed with a 5-2 vote. Councilmembers Reed and Cotton voted Yes. Councilmembers Pupillo, Costas, Schmidt, Peterson, and Anderson voted No.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Councilmember Cotton – Three main projects are underway to correct storm water issues. Four new wells have been installed.

Councilmember Peterson – The Park Board meets tomorrow night at 6:00 pm. He thanked John Seibert for all his work and what he has taught him.

Councilmember Schmidt – Thanks to John Seibert. His legacy and the marks he has left on the community are fantastic.

Councilmember Costas – Thanks for everything to John Seibert.

Councilmember Pupillo – Congratulations to Mr. Seibert.

Councilmember Reed – The Park Department is a well-oiled machine. She has enjoyed watching them grow. Jennifer Bogdner is leaving the School Board. The School Foundation awarded Most Valuable Viking Honors to five staff members. Next year there will be a slight increase in the cost for meals except for those who qualify for assistance. There will be a contact person at each school to support military families in connection with the Purple Star Designation Program. The next School Board meeting is July 27th at 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Cotton – Thanked John Seibert. He would vote yes for a statute.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Delliquadri – 2504 Hudson Street. Valparaiso has shelters and places for homeless women. They need to put resources towards shelters and places for homeless men.

Barb Domer – 614 Yellowstone Rd. She was disappointed to hear that Board of Works meetings are being changed to 10:00 am on the second and fourth Fridays. This makes it inconvenient for citizens to attend.

Kenard Taylor – 306 Napoleon. He moved here because of the Parks. Valpo Parks are the best in the State if not the nation. He thanked John Seibert.

James Tudor – 502 Oak. He thanked the City for fixing his sidewalk. He thanked John Seibert for his dedication to the Parks and City of Valparaiso.

James Jepsen – 1529 Sherwood Drive. He thanked the No vote on the resolution. What is needed is improvement in the mental health area. This will improve gun safety.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer