

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
VALPARAISO, INDIANA  
July 14, 2025**

Minutes are not verbatim. To Hear Full Comments, Please refer to the – Watch City Meetings Section of the City of Valparaiso’s Website ([WWW.CI.VALPARAISO.IN.US](http://WWW.CI.VALPARAISO.IN.US))

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday, July 14, 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.

**2025 City Government Academy Recognition**

Maggie Clifton – The City Government Academy is a seven-week program and is an opportunity for residents to learn more about the workings of their local government and opportunities to get involved. This year they had 28 participants. Since 2018 they have had over 200 graduates. She thanked all the Department Heads who gave their time to help with this. They have had six participants who have gone on to elected office.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Kapitan moved to adopt the June 23, 2025 minutes. Councilmember Cotton seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A STANDING COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE**

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Resolution No. 7, 2025 be considered on first reading. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Resolution No. 7, 2025.

Councilmember Hunt – The Council has the power to create standing committees. This Resolution memorializes a desire to create a budget and finance committee. This is a way to ensure that a task as important as approving the budget is given a thoughtful review and to make the approval process more efficient.

Councilmember Domer – Her role as a member of the City Council is to serve as one member of the legislative and fiscal body for the city. The fiscal responsibilities include approving both the City and Valparaiso Community school budget and overseeing the finances and appropriations of funds for the City.

Mayor Costas – The Mayor’s office is charged statutorily and there is a process set forth in the Code. The process is driven by the Mayor. He thinks subcommittees are a good thing and encourages discussion. In terms of the process we will follow the State statute. There are some things in the Resolution he is sure they can work through.

Councilmember Hunt – It was drafted to be flexible.

Councilmember Anderson – He agrees with the premise of bringing this Resolution forth. It is important that the Council understand what is happening so they do not get in a big back and forth mess during a meeting. He has a couple of concerns. He would like to add that the Council will not participate in drafting the Ordinance. This is in the State code but he would like to see it in the Resolution also. He also wants to make sure they are not adding additional timing pressure on the Department Heads or the School.

Mayor Costas – The Council can request to meet with every Department Head. But the budget process will be driven by the Mayor's office according to State statute and we will do our best to accommodate the goals in the Resolution.

There was further discussion regarding the availability of meeting with every Department Head and not overburdening them, following the State statute, and doing their best to accommodate the desires set forth in the Resolution.

Councilmember Reed – The School presents their budget at their school board meeting. Rather than giving them another task to do of having to present the budget again in a private meeting, maybe it would behoove whoever is on that committee to attend the meeting at the school board to hear the budget there and if there are follow up questions designate a time to do that.

Councilmember Domer – It is not so much about adding another layer. It is about being at the table when the discussions are being held.

Mayor Costas – There are many discussions that is why the State law gives it to the Mayor's office. It would be helpful to form a committee. They will meet immediately with him, Clerk-Treasurer and Mr. Oeding. They will look at the goals and talk about the process.

Councilmember Cotton – It is reasonable to have the Council's informed input which they can only have by being engaged. For the past eight years he has felt shy about the magnitude of what they are given to do in a matter of a short two or three months. He thinks it is important to make sure they have spoken to or heard from the City.

Councilmember Hunt – She asked Attorney Patrick Lyp if there is any formal process they need to go through to form that committee?

Attorney Patrick Lyp – The Resolution is the right way to go. Then you have parameters.

Councilmember Hunt – Do they need a formal vote on the members of the Committee?

Attorney Patrick Lyp – Once the Resolution is adopted then seek nominations. Then the Council by acclamation can approve it.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor – Last year Bill and she met one on one with the Councilmembers to go over the budget. They offered up more time if it was needed to come back and revisit the budget. Does this committee take the place of that so they are not meeting with each one of them anymore? She thought that process went well last year.

Councilmember Hunt – She would see it that way. When they form it and meet with her, Bill and the Mayor they can tidy all of that up.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor – She wanted to explain to Councilmember Anderson that no Ordinance is drafted. She has the figures and puts them in Gateway.

**Upon Roll Call** vote the motion to adopt passed with a 7-0 vote.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2025**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, AMENDING VALPARAISO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 38.01, 38.02, 38.03 AND 38.04 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL WITHIN THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA**

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 8, 2025 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 8, 2025.

Councilmember Kapitan – This was tabled in April. There has been discussion since then. The Ordinance talks about how this is for all Valparaiso citizens instead of calling out different parties. It goes into further detail on what to expect from the folks that are currently on the Board. There will be six Council appointments and three appointments from the Mayor. This is a unilaterally overseen Council and spreads it through both branches of government which is an important job. It is important that as information comes to the human relations committee everyone is on the same page and addressing things as they come up.

Mayor Costas - He has discussed before that he has issues with this. He formed this committee twelve years ago. It functions very well in its current form for his role as Mayor. He realizes some members of the Council may want it to function in a different way. His position as Mayor is much different than their position as a member of the City Council. He has two issues. The Council can create any committee they want to create. If they have a passion for something he encourages them to create a committee. They are taking members of his committee and trying to put them on their committee. These people have agreed to serve on this committee according to the way that he uses it and work together. If they want to start a new committee they should start afresh. Also, they are doing this because they have a different vision for what the committee should do. He respects that. He would prefer to have no appointments than to have a minimum number of appointments. This would make it clearly their committee and he can decide what to do with the current AHRC.

Councilmember Kapitan – Do we then have dueling committees trying to do the same job? Does that take away from both committees? That is her hesitation about having a separate committee.

Mayor Costas – He feels that the committee functions well for his role as Mayor. His goal is to make sure that every citizen receives the same level of city services as every other citizen. He thinks the way it is structured now really works very effectively. His job is different from the Councils' job and his perspective on how this committee operates is different. They should create their committee and he will decide what to do with the other committee.

Councilmember Cotton – He initially argued on behalf of retaining the advisory structure. He feels the Mayor has grown attached to it and referred to it as his own. The Human Relations Council doesn't belong to the

Mayor. The Human Relations Council is a public-facing entity. When the committee was first formed, they asked for a Human Rights Council and not an advisory council channeled towards the Mayor's ear and not an advisory council. He talked to some of the people who were Councilmembers at that time and they say that they created it but they did it because that is what the Mayor asked them to do which was different than what the public had asked for or the ad hoc committee had asked for. The Council makes it stronger and the Mayor does not lose anything.

Councilmember Pupillo – Councilmember Kapitan mentioned each councilmember gets a pick on the committee. He sees in the Ordinance that there are nine voting members. Six are appointed by the Council which he would assume is by a roll call vote.

Councilmember Hunt – It should be nine voting members. The Council has six appointments.

Councilmember Pupillo - Were there any conversations with the current committee members? If so, what was the general tone of the conversation?

Councilmember Kapitan – She sent an email to the Chair asking it to be sent on to the members. She offered her email for any conversations or questions. She did not hear back from anybody.

Councilmember Pupillo – He thinks he made his point clear last time this was brought up. He is with the Mayor on this. It seems like a hostile takeover of an already existing advisory committee.

Councilmember Cotton – It was his understanding that each Councilmember would make a specific appointment as opposed to voting on the appointments.

Councilmember Hunt – There are six appointments. Depending on who decides whether to stay or not from the current committee, the appointments would be staggered.

Councilmember Reed – The Mayor said he would prefer to have no appointments. If that is his pleasure she would like to see in the document, if he chooses, that the Council has the authority to appoint in his place.

Councilmember Hunt – If the Mayor chooses not to make appointments, she thinks that is a good alternative.

Mayor Costas – He feels it should be a Council committee just like the environmental committee. He feels his current committee has served him well in his unique capacity as the person in charge of overseeing all the services to the City. It functions well for that role. The Council can create a committee that functions well for their goals.

Attorney Patrick Lyp – He has heard the Council has six and seven appointments. There will be a slate of six individuals presented to the Council and the Council by a majority vote will approve that. He then discussed leaving in the three mayoral appointments and how that increases the required number present for a quorum.

Councilmember Cotton – He sees this committee as belonging to the public. To consider it a Council committee is not the right way to see it. Nor does he see the existing committee as the Mayors committee. That contaminates the whole idea of a public facing entity.

Mayor Costas – We can differ on this but he has been very clear about his position.

Councilmember Cotton – This is not like the environmental committee. It is unique.

Councilmember Kapitan – These have been good conversations. Hopefully it has made it clear where everyone stands. Councilmember Cotton brings up good points about it being public facing. It is for everyone.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Kapitan moved to carry Ordinance No. 8, 2025 to the next Council meeting. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2025**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA AMENDING CHAPTER 92 OF THE VALPARAISO MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING CITY CEMETERIES**

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 10, 2025 be read a second time by title and a third time in full and be considered for adoption with the opportunity for the offering of amendments. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 10, 2025.

**UPON ROLL CALL VOTE** the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 10, 2025 passed with a 7-0 vote.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2025**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, TO ESTABLISH A NEW EQUITABLE IMPACT FEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING AND FINANCING PARK AND RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE CHAPTER 36-7-4-1300 ET. AL.**

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 13, 2025 be read a third time by title and be considered for adoption with the opportunity for the offering of amendments. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 13, 2025.

Kevin Nuppau – He is proposing two changes from the previous Ordinance that was presented. The first is in the apartment percent breakdown. The amendment is to group the one and two bedroom apartments together at 63% and the three plus apartments are at 80%. A new Section 11 has been added that states under IC 36-7-4-1326 an impact fee ordinance may provide for a reduction in an impact fee for a housing development that provide sale or rental housing or both at a price that is affordable to an individual or a family earning less than 80% of the median income for the county in which the housing development is located. This must go before the Review Board for approval. The Board is not allowed to go lower than 50%.

Councilmember Cotton – There have been questions about the growth rate. The rationale may be based on inflated growth factors. He also discussed the Trustee's office and their share of contributing to the parks but not contributing by paying the impact fee. He asked why we are not using the annual payment the Trustee's office makes to the City to mitigate the expense of developing new parks.

Kevin Nuppnau – There is an Interlocal Agreement with Jesse Harper Center Township Trustee. Their annual contribution is \$85,000. It is unrestricted. He has used it for new park developments and for infrastructure and other needs. Kevin has talked with the Trustee recently and he is interested in increasing his annual contribution. They have been talking about this at a Board level and what that increased amount would be moving forward, potentially starting as early as next year. He has run the numbers of adding the Township population. It has a negative impact. As to how it would be restricted, it would be up to the Interlocal Agreement.

Councilmember Cotton – We have used some of that money for new parks?

Kevin Nuppnau – We have. Some were allocated to the skate park to help fund the completion of that project. It has been allocated for a variety of different purposes over the years.

There was discussion regarding the population growth numbers.

Councilmember Domer – She is opposed to using different growth factors depending on which department is producing documents to generate. She thinks it should be consistent. Specifically, since the school is using a 1% growth factor.

Councilmember Reed – She asked if the School is taking into account the Township as well for growth?

Councilmember Cotton – Whether or not the school is doing that, the Mayor and he have gone over the notion that the City itself is about 1%.

Kevin Nuppnau – This is a 10-year outlook. This is identifying all of the zoned residential properties where there is available land. They cannot underfund this project of this impact fee. If there is less than what is being developed, the impact fee corrects itself by the Department not receiving as much money because there are not as many permits being pulled.

Councilmember Reed – We have talked about the possible future annexations that surround the City.

Councilmember Domer – She looked at the census figures this morning and Valparaiso is at a .45% growth rate since the 2020 census.

Councilmember Cotton – He asked if they could consider a 2.5% or 3% appreciation rate and start with a more modest bump up from the \$1,500.

Councilmember Reed – The annexation that just passed will not generate enough impact fee money to build a new park. She supports this Ordinance.

Councilmember Pupillo – Is the growth number to try to pad the potential for the affordable housing? If a number of the units ends up at Zero, it could end up with the same quandary.

Councilmember Kapitan – This is already in Indiana Code.

Kevin Nuppnau – We are just making it clear that it is something we are recognizing.

Attorney Patrick Lyp – The code empowers the Council to do this. It is not as if the City were missing something. This had to be an ordinance where you empower somebody to consider a reduction based upon determination that the project had units which are defined as affordable housing. The Board can review this but the Council has to give them direction.

Kevin Nuppau - With the update that is proposed it would put Valparaiso in the top six. Prior to that Valparaiso was in the bottom third. This gets us closer to communities that are more like ours.

Councilmember Anderson – If this fails then projects will still happen but will be subsidized by the General Fund?

Kevin Nuppau – Yes. They still have to fund projects. Whether it is 100% impact fees or 50% impact fees the project gets done. It is just a matter of impact fees or through other City funds.

Councilmember Cotton – Do Township residents pay a differential to use our parks?

Kevin Nuppau – They are charged a non-resident rate for programs.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Kapitan moved to amend Ordinance No. 13, 2025 as presented. Councilmember Reed seconded the Motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed with a 6-1 vote. Councilmember Domer voted No.

**UPON ROLL CALL VOTE** the Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13, 2025, as amended, passed with a 6-1 vote. Councilmember Domer voted No.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 14, 2025**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CAPACITY FEE IN THE DAMON RUN AREA**

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 14, 2025 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Hunt seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 14, 2025.

Steve Poulos – The City of Valparaiso through its utility, Valparaiso City Utilities, entered into a sewer asset transfer agreement with the Damon Run (DR) for the purchase of the DR sanitary sewer assets in December of 2019. The appropriate rates and charges were established and approved by the Valparaiso City Council via Ordinance No. 25, 2019. Wastewater flows from DR system and are conveyed to the City of Portage wastewater treatment plant. The City of Portage recently amended their sewer connection fee from \$2,200 to \$4,000 which has been approved by the City of Portage Common Council. Due to the increase by the City of Portage, the Valparaiso City Utilities are requesting that the current sewer connection fee for future DR customers sewer connections be adjusted for a total connection fee of \$4,909 of which \$4,000 will go to the City of Portage and the balance of \$909 will go to VCU.

Councilmember Domer – She questioned the amount of the raise and portion that goes to VCU.

Steve Poulos – Portage approved an 81% increase. This is also an 81% increase with the same proportions going to Portage and VCU as have been. The \$500 increase to \$909 portion that goes to VCU is also an 81% increase. If we don't increase and someone submits a sewer application fee, he has to pay the City of Portage \$4,000 but he is only getting \$2,700.

Councilmember Anderson – Where does that \$500 or \$909 end up on our end of things.

Steve Poulos – It goes in the fund and helps pay for capital costs.

Councilmember Anderson – He asked Steve to explain what Damon Run is.

Steve Poulos - The Highway 6 Corridor encompasses various subdivisions, the hospitals, some commercial facilities, and some subdivisions to the west. There were three reasons why we approached Damon Run. One was to control our borders. Second was because of our sophistication we felt we could grow the corridor based on us operating the system versus general lay people on a board. The third reason is they were paying one of the highest sewer fees in the State. VCU was able to reduce their fees through refinancing of some debt. That saved the average rate payer about \$1,400 to \$1,500 per year.

Councilmember Anderson – But all the sewer goes to Portage. That is why they are involved in this.

Steve Poulos – Yes. VCU now controls almost 4,000 acres from 500 North to Highway 6. No other entity can encroach that acreage without our permission as far as services are concerned.

Councilmember Cotton – Did Portage increase just for Damon Run or was this system wide?

Steve Poulos – System wide. This increase is just for new hookups.

**UPON VOICE VOTE** the motion to carry Ordinance No. 14, 2025 to the next meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2025**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, AMENDING SECTION 36.21 OF THE VALPARAISO MUNICIPAL CODE**

Councilmember Kapitan moved that Ordinance No. 15, 2025 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Domer seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 15, 2025.

Councilmember Hunt – This is more of a housekeeping matter. Certain provisions that were included in the original Ethics Code Ordinance that was passed in 2006, were not included in our Municipal Code. This Ordinance includes those five provisions.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Hunt moved to carry Ordinance No. 15, 2025 to the next meeting. Councilmember Kapitan seconded the Motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Costas – He had a meeting with Councilmembers Hunt and Domer. They talked about ongoing paving in terms of what is on the books and what is not. The Board of Works received bids to do the alley paving for \$150,000. At the next meeting they will come back to make an award. We have to use this money for paving and it is going to most likely be cheaper this year than next year. He wants to make sure everyone is aware of this and that they are authorized to spend that amount.

Councilmember Hunt – One of the questions that came up was back in March Max Rehlander had asked for some additional amounts to be appropriated for paving. This Council approved that with the condition that he come back on where to spend those funds. The Mayor said something happened and those funds were dedicated already. He said that was a mistake and won't happen again. That is \$850,000 the Council was supposed to approve and did not get the opportunity to do that despite that condition being part of the approval of additional appropriations. There are three categories that are not under contract yet. When this came before the Board of Works she asked if this was part of the \$150,000 or if we truly had agreed to freeze the spending.

Councilmember Reed – She knows there was discussion regarding a freeze but she remembers saying that costs would go up so money available now should be spent before the roads get worse and the costs go up.

Councilmember Hunt – The notion was we will always have roads that need to be fixed and we were in our second year of record spending but also facing a certain deficit because of SB 1. We could either have a gentleman's agreement where Mr. Oeding agreed to freeze those funds or the Council would have had to pull back that Ordinance. In that meeting we agreed the funds would be frozen but there was no formal action taken by this Council. She just wants to make sure the Council understands why the Mayor brought up the BOW approving the alley paving.

There was further discussion regarding the bids and timing of them going out and the process. They also discussed past comments made.

## **COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilmember Anderson – VCU continues to move forward with the bond projects. The wastewater plant upgrades are approximately 30% complete. Sturdy Road pump station is around 35% complete. New wells on Country Club are finished. Airport water treatment plant modifications are moving along. VCU will be drilling a 24" production well on RDC property east of State Road 49 and CR 500. VCU is preparing to replace additional water main on Franklin Street which consists of the replacement of an existing 6" cast iron water main that runs north and south on Franklin from Lincolnway to Jefferson. The 750 solar panels that were installed by the City in late summer of 2023 have produced to date almost 1 million kilowatt hours of energy and an operational savings of almost \$150,000 to the City and its taxpayers.

Councilmember Pupillo – Thanks to the VFD and VPD for keeping us safe, particularly during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July heat. He thanked Patrick Lyp since this is his last meeting.

Councilmember Domer – RDC June meeting. A parking lot easement agreement for the Lincoln Highway garage was executed. The RDC donated a lot at 807 Lafayette to the Porter County Building Trades Corporation. They will build a home on it. The RDC approved funding for the demolishing of 357 and 359 Lincolnway and 360 Indiana for the roundabout. The RDC approved for George Douglas to move forward and prepare an RFQ to investigate and determine public infrastructure improvements south of US 30 and east of

325. The RDC authorized a change order to expand the initial project scope of the East Side Master Plan. The initial scope was the area between 500 N and 400 N. The BOW approved the final plat for Kinsey Street Subdivision.

Councilmember Kapitan – The Environmental Board is fine tuning their goals. They are working on an outreach to other local environmental groups and municipalities to get information on what is working and how they can be supportive or use their lessons to bolster the City's experiences and what they can bring. The Plan Commission has a special meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm. The RFQ for the UDO updating has been well received. Traffic and Safety will meet in City Hall on July 21<sup>st</sup>. She and Councilmember Anderson are reviewing Opioid applications.

Councilmember Cotton - The Investigation and Reconciliation Commission met for its first time. This is an extension of the Human Rights Ordinance. They met to determine the purpose and structure of the commission and determine if it is necessary. The Commission has been dormant for years with no appointments being made and no formal complaints ever filed. Their next meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

Councilmember Reed – Township Trustee Jesse Harper attended the last meeting and delivered a check in the amount of \$42,500. Bids have come in and were awarded at the BOW for Kirchoff Park. The Parks have been looking at a new system called Open Gov. They will be going with this system. The Porter County Career Center built a twelve head kiosk at Westside Park. The Creekside Classic is July 17<sup>th</sup>. Due to tariffs they expect the cost for fireworks to double next year. There is a fleet of golf carts that are going to be replaced. Madison Bell earned her certification as a park and recreation professional. Today was the ribbon cutting for the pickleplex.

Councilmember Hunt – Online registration opened today for VCS. The next school board meeting is July 30<sup>th</sup>. She thanked Attorney Lyp for everything he has done.

Mayor Costas – He echoed that. However, Patrick may be back to fill in before his replacement is hired. He appreciates all the service. He is a very fine and dedicated public servant who has served his City with distinction. Thank You.

Councilmember Cotton – He expressed his gratitude for the service over the years from Attorney Lyp.

Councilmember Anderson – He can't express adequately the ways that Patrick assisted him and helped him in navigating all things City related. The man knows everything about the City, and if he doesn't he knows who to call.

Councilmember Domer – She said goodbye at the RDC meeting.

Councilmember Reed - The number of calls he took late at night and on weekends was endless. She hated imposing on his free time but she needed an answer and he was always willing to give it. Thank you so much.

Attorney Patrick Lyp -He thanked everyone. He encouraged them to reach out if necessary. He does not want to undermine his replacement, but he is happy to give his two cents. He thanked Mayor Costas for giving him the opportunity 11.5 years ago.

## **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](http://WWW.CI.VALPARAISO.IN.US))**

Elizabeth Cohon – 1405 N. Evans. She is here as an AHRC member representing Temple Israel. She questioned how the Council came to the decision that changes needed to be made. It was stated there was an email that went out over the weekend. She was with Shabbat and did not see the email until Monday morning. Nobody has come to their meetings. The meetings are public. The AHRC is very diverse. This Committee is not just representing the views of the Mayor. They discuss things and then take it to the Mayor. He can then bring it up and see how the ideas are being acted on in the City. The Committee would appreciate not being blindsided. If the Council wants to create another committee that is fine. If they want to get rid of the current committee that is fine. But Why? Taking away an arm that helps the Mayor is not good.

Walt Breitingner – 608 Academy. Olthof is stripping a lot of the vegetation on the ground that was just annexed – Midwood Terrace. Shortly after they did this, there was a big problem with sediment runoff and dust. A few years ago Chesterton fined Mr. Olthof over \$200,000 for violations of stormwater rules. He asked the City to watch what goes on with this project.

Brandon Long – 577 Glenwood Dr. The takeover of the AHRC is a political maneuver. It has been alluded to that the Council wants this committee to have events and programs. He has asked for statistics on hate crimes or discrimination reports. As far as he can tell there has not been anything in the last ten years. He feels this is a ghost hunt for something that is not happening that they want to make happen or there is a political maneuvering happening to take over everything. There are still groups that are being overlooked.

Councilmember Hunt – He should talk to Alison Quackenbush or Elisabeth Cohon regarding these complaints.

Councilmember Cotton – There is a complaint form on the City's website.

Kenard Taylor – 306 Napoleon. Over the last few weeks he has noticed a violation of parking downtown. There is a vehicle that parks on Lincolnway all day long. There is a law in the City Parking Ordinance that allows a vehicle that is unlicensed to park in a parking spot without paying tickets. It is not a motorized vehicle. It is a three wheel bike. It takes up a parking space on Lincolnway in front of the Courthouse almost every day. He would like the Council to look at the Ordinance.

Brian Williams – 1308 Gibraltar Ct. 4<sup>th</sup> of July was great. There were a lot of patriotic presentations. They did not have the reading of the Declaration of Independence. He would like to see this brought back next year. If the City does not do it, there is a group that will. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July exists because it is the birthday of the Declaration of Independence.

Tencia Almaraz – Does not want to announce publicly. The Mayor is possessive of AHRC. She does not feel served by the AHRC. She does not feel safe going to a meeting as part of the LGBTQ. She does not feel the Mayor is allowing open discussion. She does not feel comfortable going to elected officials at the dais about her religion and her sexuality.

Lilith Rengstorf - Does not want to announce publicly. She is a 2023 graduate of VHS. She is in favor of Ordinance No. 8, 2025. There are opinions in this town that have become prevalent and they make her feel

unwelcome and unrepresented. With all the work that has been done there are still problems not being addressed. None of the people sitting on the Council understand or know her lived experience. Every person should get the same information. She does not feel safe in this town.

The Next Council Meeting will be July 28, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer