

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
VALPARAISO, INDIANA**

August 24, 2020

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday August 24, 2020 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, Anderson, Costas and Douglas.

**MINUTES**

Councilmember Douglas moved to approve minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion to approve passed with a 7-0 vote.

**ORDINANCE NO 10, 2020**

**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 Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 10, 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.

Attorney Patrick Lyp addressed the Council. This Ordinance was approved at the last meeting. After the meeting it was determined there was a question regarding the Notice of Publication. It has been re-published for tonight's meeting. In the Notice it advises citizens who have comments and questions to email them. If a citizen feels they really must be here this evening, accommodations can be made. As of today, no emails have been received with questions, comments, nor special accommodation requests.

Mayor Murphy stated Ordinance No. 10, 2020 requires a Public Hearing. Proof of Publication has been received. Attorney Lyp stated for the record that no emails have been received with questions, comments or special accommodation requests. Mayor Murphy closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Cotton asked what caused the untimely publication. Attorney Patrick Lyp explained the situation and what is being done to make sure it does not happen again.

Councilmember Douglas asked if there have been any changes to the Ordinance since they voted on it at the last meeting. Attorney Lyp replied there have been no changes.

Councilmember Cotton moved to ratify actions taken at the last Council meeting and adopt Ordinance No. 10, 2020. Councilmember Douglas seconded the motion.

Upon roll call vote the motion to ratify Ordinance No. 10, 2020 passed with a 7-0 vote.

**ORDINANCE NO. 11, 2020**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE MUNICIPAL EXCISE SURTAX FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE**

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 11, 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. 11, 2020. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor addressed the Council. This Ordinance is asking for permission to spend money in this Fund which will be used for paving projects.

Mayor Murphy stated Ordinance No. 11, 2020 requires a Public Hearing. Proof of Publication has been received. Attorney Lyp stated for the record that no emails have been received with questions, comments or special accommodation requests. Mayor Murphy closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Cotton asked how the City is doing in bringing in the budgeted amount of \$3 Million for paving. Mike Jabo read the list of income to date that has come in designated for paving.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 11, 2020 passed with a 7-0 vote.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2020**

#### **AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE MUNICIPAL WHEEL TAX FUND AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE**

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 12, 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. 12, 2020. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Clerk-Treasurer Taylor addressed the Council. This Ordinance also is asking for permission to spend money that is in this Fund for paving projects.

Mayor Murphy stated Ordinance No. 12, 2020 requires a Public Hearing. Proof of Publication has been received. Attorney Lyp stated for the record that no emails have been received with questions, comments or special accommodation requests. Mayor Murphy closed the Public Hearing.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 12, 2020 passed with a 7-0 vote.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2020**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 17 AND APPENDIX B OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO**

Councilmember Douglas moved that Ordinance No. 13, 2020 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Taylor read Ordinance No. 13, 2020.

Beth Shrader addressed the Council. There is a text error in Section 17.202 Methods of Enforcement. Currently it lists the City Engineer as the person responsible for enforcement and issuance of fines. This Ordinance changes that to the Enforcement Official. This Ordinance also updates the plant list. The Plan Commission, at their August meeting, gave a favorable recommendation to pass this on to the City Council for adoption.

Councilmember Douglas asked if changes to the UDO will be made on a regular basis or just done as Beth finds issues. Beth replied she would like to do this very rarely and do all changes at once. This needed to be done quickly because of Code Enforcement activities. The language in the UDO has to back up what the Code Enforcement office is doing.

Vicki Thrasher explained the City UDO is enforced by the City Building Commissioner. Therefore, it makes sense to have Code Enforcement issue fines in the event there is a violation.

Councilmember Douglas moved to carry Ordinance No. 13, 2020 to the September 14, 2020 meeting. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 13, 2020 to the September 14, 2020 meeting passed with a 7-0 vote.

**Other Business**  
**Valparaiso Fire Department 2019 Overview**

Chief Chad Dutz addressed the Council and gave an overview of 2019. The Fire Department is going through an accreditation process. It is a 13,000-hour journey. They have a program on their web page called My Sidewalk which will help them. The Department has 68 firefighters and three fire stations. They have three engines and three rescues. All have paramedics on them when they go out. This year they have set a record for the total calls at 4,912. They have installed 214 child safety seats. Valparaiso is the second busiest Department with seat installations in Indiana. They are surpassed only by Marion County. In 2019 they did 3,119 safety inspections. This is double the amount done in 2018. The Department has many community outreach programs.

Councilmember Douglas asked Chief Dutz to discuss recruitment and training. Chief Dutz replied recruitment is up. The Department uses the MAC training facility at least weekly. The MAC has a high school program. Currently the hiring age for the Fire Department is 21. They are going before the Board of Works soon to request the hiring age be lowered to 18. The average length of employment is approximately 25-30 years.

Councilmember Cotton discussed getting a more diverse group to apply for jobs if the hiring age is lowered. Chief Dutz added that lowering the age could be reaching applicants before they have made a career choice.

Councilmember Schmidt thanked the Department for their service. He asked about growth of the City and the Department keeping up. Chief Dutz replied they will be keeping track of this and making sure the response time stays down. They are looking at obtaining a grant to add five more employees.

Councilmember Costas asked about the Fire Territory expanding to the east. Chief Dutz explained the State has changed rules on this. The Territory as it was created initially had to disband and reorganize under the new State rules. If the City wants to go into Washington Township, they would have to form a partnership. The Territory now has the Fire Department as the provider unit and Center Township is the participating unit.

My Sidewalk will be on the Department's web page. Citizens can access this program and see what is going on in the Department. A representative of the company explained the program.

Councilmember Cotton asked about joining this program with a financial program already in existence and having a transparency portal. The representative of My Sidewalk advised him they will discuss this with him if he would like to give them a call.

**Council Reports**

Councilmember Cotton asked about protocol regarding the Council being given the courtesy to make a recommendation for appointments made by the Mayor. Mayor Murphy replied there is no protocol he is aware of that the Mayor formally seeks approval or recommendations from the City Council. He has discussed appointments with Councilmembers. He feels he is appointing the best people for the job.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

/s/ Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer