

Valparaiso City Government Academy

Spring 2019 Class Schedule

April 10, 2019 – May 22, 2019

April 10 **5:30 – 8:00pm** (*welcome activity from 5:30-6:00pm*)

City Administration and the Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Jon Costas • City Administrator Bill Oeding • Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Swihart 	Located at City Hall Hayes Leonard School 653 Hayes Leonard Road
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April 17 **6:00 – 8:00pm**

Utilities and Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities Director Steve Poulos • Public Works Director Nate McGinley 	Location TBD
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April 24 **6:00 – 8:00pm**

Valparaiso Police Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Jeff Balon 	Located at VPD 355 South Washington Street
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May 1 **5:30 – 8:00pm** (*special activity from 5:30-6:00pm*)

Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Director Patrick Lyp • Redevelopment Commission Director Stu Summers 	Located at the Greater Valpo Chamber of Commerce 162 Lincolnway
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May 8 **6:00 – 8:00pm**

Development Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Planner Tyler Kent • City Engineer Adam McAlpine • Building Commissioner Vicki Thrasher 	Located at City Hall Hayes Leonard School 653 Hayes Leonard Road
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May 15 **6:00 – 8:00pm**

Valparaiso Fire Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Chad Dutz 	Located at Fire Station TBD
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May 22 **5:30 – 8:00pm** (*early start time for wrap-up activity*)

Parks, Project Management and CGA Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Director John Seibert • Project and Facility Management Director Don McGinley • Community Engagement Director Maggie Clifton 	Located at Indiana Beverage Activity Center at Central Park 51-75 Napoleon Street
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TBD at 7:00pm class recognition at City Council meeting (City Hall).

Valparaiso City Government Academy

Class Guidelines / FAQs

1. What is the purpose of the City Government Academy (CGA)?

The CGA was created to educate residents about their local government. The goal of the CGA is to get more citizens involved as department heads share the behind-the-scenes details of how decisions are made, how dollars are allocated and how services are delivered each day. Many cities and towns across the country are successfully engaging residents through this program model. CGAs are an excellent way to educate residents, build positive relationships and increase communication between city government officials and citizens, as well as inspire future municipal leaders.

The purpose of the CGA is to be educational. While we welcome your thoughts and input, the CGA is not meant to be a platform to advocate or lobby city department heads. However, this course will outline the details of when it is the appropriate time to weigh-in and advocate on certain municipal policies. We want the sessions to have an environment that is accepting to all viewpoints.

2. What is the format of each session?

This program consists of seven consecutive sessions on Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm or 6:00pm – 8:00pm beginning April 10, 2019 and ending May 22, 2019. The sessions will be held “classroom style” where participants can hear from some of the city’s department heads about their day to day roles. The CGA will meet in multiple locations around the city to help participants learn more about their local government.

When you arrive, be sure to sign in and pick up your evaluation form and other materials. You will be asked to turn in an evaluation form at the end of each session. Participants are encouraged to dress comfortably and bring their own refreshments if necessary. Very light refreshments may be provided depending on the meeting location.

3. What if we don’t have time for my questions?

While our goal is to accommodate all questions, we know that there are tight time constraints for each session. If we are unable to get to your question, please write it on the evaluation form that night and the appropriate department head will get an answer to you in a timely manner. If you think of questions after the session you may send an email to mclifton@valpo.us.

4. What if I need to miss a session?

Please let us know if you are unable to make it to a session in advance. Email mclifton@valpo.us or call 219-462-1161 and ask for Maggie Clifton. Materials can be provided at the next session. If you know you will miss more than one session please consider participating when you can be more available.

5. May I bring a guest or relative to these activities?

Because of space limitations and the cap of thirty participants at a time, you may not bring any guests to the classes. However, guests and/or relatives are welcome to join you at the May 27th City Council meeting where participants will be recognized.