

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA

June 11, 2007

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday, June 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Deb Rosenbaum called roll. Present were Councilmembers Larr, Howe, McCasland, Dick, Eisenmenger, Bowker and Williams.

MINUTES

Councilmember Dick moved to approve minutes of the May 21, 2007 meeting. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote of 7-0.

PRESENTATION

Building Inspector, Vicki Thrasher gave a presentation on Code Enforcement activities. City Planner, Craig Phillips discussed the Home Team Project.

Discussion followed. Mayor Costas discussed having a full time person in the field for the summer and using a college intern. Software was discussed.

Councilmember McCasland discussed cars parking over sidewalks. He also asked about people with six dogs in their backyard.

Councilmember Bowker asked if the Council could help by passing ordinances that would enable enforcement.

Councilmember Larr discussed procedure followed and what has to be turned over to the County. City Attorney Hollenbeck discussed State statutes that have to be followed by the City and County. Discussion followed regarding condemnation of property and the loss of money to the City.

Councilmember Eisenmenger asked why letters are being written to people who violate City Ordinances. Vicki explained her notice procedure. City liability and litigation issues were discussed.

Councilmember Williams asked Monty Willis to address the Council. Mr. Willis discussed loss of value to homes when there is a dilapidated or neglected house in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Howe stated the City has to be active in enforcing dilapidated and neglected houses. It has to be in the budget if the Council is serious about enforcing this.

Councilmember Larr asked Vicki what the Council can expect from her office in the next few months. She replied her office is very busy with building inspections. There might not be much forward movement until a new person is on board.

Councilmember Williams discussed houses in foreclosure, the City maintaining and putting a lien on the property. It was explained that the mortgage is already upside down at that point and the City more than likely will not see the money. Vicki further explained they do have some houses where the City mows the lawn. They do not expect to see the money but at least it is not detracting to the neighborhood.

RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2007

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL FOR A FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT
REIMBURSEMENT GRANT FOR GREAT LIFE MEMORIES, LLC**

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Resolution 14, 2007 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Deb Rosenbaum read the Resolution. Councilmember Dick moved to adopt Resolution No. 14, 2007. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion.

Economic Development Director, Charlie McGill addressed the Council. He explained the façade program. Discussion followed.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Resolution No. 14, 2007 passed with a 6-0 vote. Councilmember Williams recused himself from voting.

ORDINANCE NO. 22, 2007

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS IN THE GENERAL FUND

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 22, 2007 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Rosenbaum read the Ordinance. Councilmember Dick moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22, 2007 on first reading. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0. Councilmember Eisenmenger moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 22, 2007. Councilmember McCasland seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion to suspend the rules passed 7-0.

Councilmember Dick moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22, 2007 under suspension of the rules. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22, 2007 under suspension of the rules passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2007

AN ORDINANCE MERGING THE VALPARAISO DEPARTMENT OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT WITH THE VALPARAISO CITY UTILITIES

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 23, 2007 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Rosenbaum read the Ordinance. Councilmember McCasland moved to carry Ordinance No. 23, 2007 to the July 9, 2007 meeting. Councilmember Eisenmenger seconded the motion.

Mayor Costas discussed this Ordinance. He explained why this combination makes sense. City Attorney Hollenbeck advised Paragraph 1 has been changed to reference the Valparaiso City Utilities “shall continue” to operate pursuant to I.C. 8-1.5-3-4. The Clerk-Treasurer’s office will continue to be the depository for the fees collected.

Discussion followed regarding the board and if citizens will suffer a level of protection from this combination.

Upon roll call vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 23, 2007 to the July 9, 2007 meeting passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Eisenmenger announced Traffic and Safety meets Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Dick announced Plan Commission meets Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. The Pathways Committee meets Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Bowker announced Redevelopment Commission meets Thursday, 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

AUDIENCE

Robert Campbell discussed the good job done by Tonn & Blank in the demolition of Big Wheel. However, down the street there is a pile of debris. He discussed a fire hydrant missing a cap. And he told about a City employee calling 911 for a citizen that was lying on the ground.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

/s/ Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer