

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA

August 27, 2007

The Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, met on Monday, August 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart called roll. Present were Councilmembers Larr, Howe, McCasland, Dick, Eisenmenger, Bowker and Williams.

MINUTES

Councilmember McCasland moved to approve minutes of the August 13, 2007 meeting. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATION

County Councilmembers Jim Burge and Matt Murphy addressed the Council. They discussed the formation of a League of Councils, tax bills and money from the sale of Porter Hospital.

Steve Doniger gave a presentation on the City of Valparaiso Pathways Plan. He discussed existing pathways and proposed pathways. The proposed pathways are the continuation of Campbell Street south from Vale Park to Harrison and the Cumberland Loop. Campbell Street will be concrete and Cumberland will be asphalt. The Campbell Street project will cost \$473,393-\$521,650. The Cumberland project will cost \$266,249-\$382,771. At a later date he will be requesting \$600,000 from the Major Moves funds for these projects. Funding will also come from the EDIT 2007 Pathways line item in the amount of \$200,000

Discussion followed with the Mayor and Bill Hanna stating their support for these projects. Councilmember Bowker asked about the range in price. The higher figures are amenities that can be dealt with at another time if funding is not available immediately. Councilmember Bowker also asked if residents would have their yards taken for any of the Campbell Street project. Steve answered that approximately four homeowners will be affected. He has already discussed this with them.

Councilmember Larr asked why the pathway will come down the west side of Campbell versus the east side. Steve advised this is the best side. The Park Department will be liable for maintenance and snow removal. Concrete is used on Campbell for aesthetics as is asphalt in the Cumberland project. Councilmember Larr asked if any other projects were coming out of Major Moves. Mayor Costas answered the only project so far is the Courthouse project which will be a partnership with the County.

Councilmember Howe stated his approval of these projects. He asked about the maintenance. Steve answered unless damage is caused by the homeowner or contractor, the Park Department is responsible for the maintenance. Steve also explained the projects will be bid as two separate projects.

Councilmember McCasland asked why Urschel Development is not paying for the Cumberland Pathway. Steve answered the Cumberland Pathway is part of the Master Plan. The City is paying because it is beneficial to do it now and not wait.

Councilmember Dick stated his support for the projects and introduced members of the Pathways Committee.

ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2007

2008 SALARY ORDINANCE

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 26, 2007 be read a second time by title and a third time in full and be considered for adoption and the opportunity be given for offering amendments to said Ordinance. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Dick moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26, 2007. Councilmember McCasland seconded the motion.

Mayor Costas reviewed the Ordinance.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 26, 2007 passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 27, 2007

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO ESTABLISHING ALS AMBULANCE SERVICE THROUGH THE VALPARAISO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 27, 2007 be read a second time by title and a third time in full and be considered for adoption and the opportunity be given for offering amendments to said Ordinance. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Dick moved to adopt Ordinance No. 27, 2007. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion.

Mayor Costas discussed the Ordinance. A tentative agreement has been reached with Porter. Chief Nondorf addressed the Council. He explained the first responding unit will provide transport. This is not much different than how it has been except the Fire Department will now transport patients. The process will begin on September 1st.

Councilmember Howe asked about the communication process. Chief Nondorf again said this is not anything new. They have responded to 1,600 plus medical calls per year. This is a positive direction for the City.

Councilmember Larr stated his approval of this program. He asked for an update as the program moves on.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 27, 2007 passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE 28, 2007

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

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 28, 2007 be read a second time by title and a third time in full and be considered for adoption and the opportunity be given for offering amendments to said Ordinance. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Dick moved to adopt Ordinance No. 28, 2007. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion.

Mayor Costas announced this Ordinance requires a Public Hearing and presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will consider the appropriation of \$32,000 in the Park Non-Reverting Capital Improvement Fund. Seeing no one wishing to address the Council, he declared the Public Hearing closed.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 28, 2007 passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 31, 2007

2008 BUDGET

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 31, 2007 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember McCasland moved to carry Ordinance No. 31, 2007 to the September 10, 2007 meeting for Public Hearing. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion.

Mayor Costas discussed the budget. This past week the 2007 budget was approved. Sharon Swihart added that it stood as presented. The City can only raise the tax levy 3.7%. He discussed income and expenses considered in preparing this budget.

Sharon Swihart addressed the Council. As of this date the City has received no tax money for 2007. The Redevelopment Commission has granted the City a \$2.5 Million line of credit. She has also negotiated a line of credit with a local bank. This will enable the City to operate. By law the City has to adopt a budget by the end of September.

Councilmember Bowker asked about the appeal process. Sharon answered she is publishing the appeal with the budget so it is in place should it be needed.

Councilmember Larr asked about the Police budget. He asked if the seven civilian employees included dispatchers. Mayor Costas explained there are about eight or nine full time dispatchers.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 31, 2007 to the September 10, 2007 meeting for Public Hearing passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 32, 2007

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS IN THE GENERAL FUND

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 32, 2007 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember McCasland moved to carry Ordinance No. 32, 2007 to the September 10, 2007 meeting. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion.

Sharon Swihart explained this is just shoring up some accounts.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 32, 2007 to the September 10, 2007 meeting passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 33, 2007

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING REAL ESTATE INTO THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA KNOWN AS THE "CAMPBELL MEADOWS III ANNEXATION"

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Ordinance No. 33, 2007 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Ordinance. Councilmember Dick moved to carry Ordinance No. 33, 2007 to the September 10, 2007 meeting. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion.

Craig Phillips addressed the Council. The annexation is 2.5 acres and is about 40% contiguous. There are four proposed homes. He presented the Fiscal Plan and presented Resolution No. 18, 2007 which adopts the Fiscal Plan.

Councilmember Bowker asked about a section marked out lot. Craig explained that is an area of unbuildable land. This is included in the annexation.

Councilmember Larr asked about the residents not included. Craig answered the property owners are not interested in annexation.

Upon voice vote the motion to carry Ordinance No. 33, 2007 to the September 10, 2007 meeting passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 18, 2007

ADOPTING A FISCAL PLAN FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE CAMPBELL MEADOWS PHASE III ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA.

Councilmember Eisenmenger moved that Resolution No. 18, 2007 be read a first time and considered on first reading. Councilmember Dick seconded the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Swihart read the Resolution. Councilmember Dick moved to adopt Resolution No. 18, 2007. Councilmember Bowker seconded the motion.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Resolution No. 18, 2007 passed 7-0.

Craig Phillips then stated Ordinance No. 33, 2007 requires a Public Hearing. Mayor Costas presented Proof of Publication that at tonight's meeting the Council will discuss Ordinance No. 33, 2007 which annexes four lots into the City of Valparaiso. Seeing no one wishing to address the Council he declared the Public Hearing closed.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Bowker discussed the Worthington Estates Neighborhood meeting.

Councilmember Williams was put on the State Committee for annexation to represent Class 2 cities.

AUDIENCE

Robert Campbell discussed concrete that water can go through. City Engineer Pilz reported the City is looking at using this in a few test areas.

Walt Breitingger discussed run off from two projects – South and North Hampstead and the Urschel development. Mud is going into Flint Lake. Discussion followed. Dave Pilz stated both projects have followed the correct procedures.

Councilmember McCasland asked if the area on Valparaiso Street between Evans and Harrison will be corrected with the Valparaiso Street improvements. Dave Pilz explained the water will run underground with the improvements and will not need to be pumped to Calumet Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

/s/ Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer