

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
September 3, 2014

The City Commission met this date in special session in the Commission Chambers. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with the following in attendance.

Mayor	:	John B. Arnold, Jr.
Commissioners	:	Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
	:	Kay Hamilton
	:	Joe Morgan
	:	Clark (Tom) Browning, IV
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Public Works Director:		James Valandingham
Library Director	:	David Weatherford
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris
Recorder	:	Beth Millsaps

Others in attendance: Mike Matthews (camera), Mike Griffith (Bay Beacon), Marion Cassell

1. BUDGET

Budget

Mayor Arnold said this evening's meeting would be the 1st hearing held on a tentative budget with the second meeting being September 18th at 6 PM. He said this evening we would have a resolution with the tentative millage and the first reading of Ordinance No. 657 to adopt the FY2015 budget. Mayor Arnold said the meeting has been advertised and noticed appropriately in the paper. He said at this hearings we like to hear from our citizens.

Ms. Marion Cassell, 173 Highland, said in regards to the parks in the budget, she said \$10,000 has been set aside for Doolittle Park while only \$1,700 has been set aside for TJ Brooks Park and that is for lighting. She said Doolittle is only used twice a year and yet TJ Brooks has traffic everyday. Ms. Cassell said when they donated the money to the park they had hoped for more, she said Mr. Scott had mentioned building a platform to fish from, because fishing as it is now will only catch debris, wondered what had happened. Mayor Arnold asked Mr. Valandingham to speak to the matter. Mr. Valandingham said in order to build a platform or pier we would need funds to build, quite costly because everything must be ADA complaint, this would be very expensive to do. He said we have been looking for grants. Ms. Cassell said maybe next donation we will be able to get something done.

Mayor Arnold said the first reading of Ordinance No. 657, an ordinance adopting the budget for the City of Valparaiso, for the fiscal year commencing 1 October 2014; repealing conflicting ordinances; and providing for an effective date. Mayor Arnold said the budget is balanced at \$7,453,890. He said stormwater \$45,075, street fund \$364,285, utility fund \$1,444,790, CATV fund \$1,594,100 and sanitation fund \$781,90 along with a carry forward of \$289,225. Mayor Arnold said the budget includes the same ad valorem rate of 4.524%, 2% COLA except for the police department, \$1 wage increase for the police officers, \$.50 wage increase for dispatchers, 9% rate increase for employee health care insurance, 6.5% rate increase for workers comp. He said also included is \$75,000 3 year loan to the utility fund, \$2 increase in single family wastewater rates of that \$1.30 per month pay loan back to General Fund and .70 per month to repair what was discovered in smoke test. Mayor Arnold said there will be a TV restructure of the channel line ups and rates, internet increased some rates and all speeds have been increased. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO PASS FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 657, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 BEGINNING OCTOBER 1ST. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION.

Comm. Morgan said the issue about salary still remains. He said he concurs the workers do a great job. Comm. Morgan said the police department is getting a well deserved pay increase to bring the officers and dispatchers up to scale however they had deferred a vehicle this year that in the near future they would need. He prepared a brief presentation regarding the tax payers' salary as of the last few years. In his conclusion to his review he said the total of the 2% COLA equals \$35,805 and that is a lot of money compared to last years 1% that cost the tax payers approximately \$17,902. Comm. Morgan feels the COLA should be scaled back to 1.5% that would be more representative of the current economy. Comm. Hamilton said she agrees we need to review the pay scales and do further comparisons because along with COLA, a portion of money goes up for insurance and those costs go up every year, the annual income is not reflective. She feels we need to have a workshop to go over the pay scale as it is, how we do raises. She said in the times companies will get people out of businesses because they are being paid over their production level. Comm. Morgan agrees said he feels the procedure manual for how we operate needs to be reviewed. Comm. Morgan said he is more comfortable this year with a 1% COLA for those outside of the police department, he feels we should always consider the taxpayer when making these decisions and what is reflective of the community as a whole. Comm. Hamilton said she asked for a complete survey from the League of Cities comparing our city to city's of the same size, once the data is submitted she would like to get together and

discuss. COMM. MORGAN MADE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION THAT THE COLA BE ADJUSTED FROM 2% TO 1.5% . Mayor Arnold said this budget includes a 2% COLA, asked if there was a second to the motion. MOTION FAILED FOR A LACK OF A SECOND. MAYOR ARNOLD CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE ORIGINAL MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 05-09-03-14. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 05-09-03-14. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.

Adjourn

ADJOURN

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

September 3, 2014

The DVD labeled September 3, 2014 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.