



CITY COUNCIL PREVIEW #4: JANUARY 27, 2025

Some routine governmental matters are up for consideration

The three items up for consideration by city council tonight are all second ordinance readings, meaning that this time there's a chance for public comment and there will be a vote.

Ordinance 1 appropriates \$41,500 in park impact fees.

Ordinance 2 appropriates \$25,000 for equipment and services related to body cams.

Ordinance 3 appropriates \$186,000 in unrestricted and \$328,000 in restricted monies from the Opioid Settlement funds to fund work in 2025.

All of these ordinances are the kind of routine governmental action that needs to happen to keep Valparaiso moving: to ensure that bills get paid, to ensure that work gets done, all to make Valparaiso a vibrant and thriving community. It's expected that they'll pass without any controversy.

This is the kind of stuff that requires some cooperation between the executive and legislative branch, and it's worth noting that the cooperation is there. Some city council observers take any sign of council independence as a sign that tyranny's somehow been unleashed on Valparaiso and a perpetual war between the two branches of government exists. Such is clearly not and has never been the case.

While what's on Council's agenda may represent a routine set of government actions, it seems reasonable to expect that public comment will include some discussion whether the Local School Board should replace President Behrend because he no longer lives in Valparaiso. For those who are new to the issue, the Nasty Women of Porter County tracked down rumors that President Behrend had moved from Valparaiso to Wisconsin and came up with some proof, including a Christmas card announcing "We've moved!" There's been pushback to calls for his replacement that center on the legal technicalities of residency. According to local ordinance, someone on the local school board needs to be a Valparaiso resident only when appointed. According to state law, someone needs to be a resident to be on a local school board. The topic is sure to be discussed tonight, so be sure to tune in!