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## CITY COUNCIL PREVIEW #6: FEBRUARY 24, 2025

### Fig-leaf politics

After the relatively light agendas of the past couple of meetings, tonight's agenda has two competing items vying for Council's approval. Council Ordinance #6 was originally introduced by Councilman Cotton in 2024. Council Resolution #2 was introduced this year by Councilmen Anderson and Pupillo. Both set forth certain requirements for those holding city contracts worth more than \$150,000. These include requirements for employee drug testing, proof of proper licensing and disclosure of past issues and revocations, a requirement that employees be properly classified, and that they make efforts to get certified minority contractors, among others.

Ordinance #6 would require contractors to comply with its requirements before any permits would be issued. It creates a mechanism to document compliance with its requirements. It requires documentation that the contractor participates in apprenticeship programs. There's a clawback provision for those that fail to comply with the ordinance's requirements. The ordinance allows for a waiver to these requirements in some cases but is meant to apply across the board. Ordinance #6 makes sure that businesses doing business with the city are legitimate.

Resolution #2 requires little beyond Council micro-management of city contractors. It resolves that Council MAY require an applicant to provide certain documentation and so forth but application is left to be determined on a case-by-case basis. There's no trigger mechanism to apply to a project. Businesses have no idea what, if anything, it may be required to document. It appears that it is up to Council to determine that for every city contract worth more than \$150,000. What a bureaucratic nightmare, but it'll make for entertaining Council sessions!

Resolution #2 is fig-leaf politics. Instead of simply opposing Ordinance #6, Anderson and Pupillo crafted cover for themselves and anyone who may join them to give the illusion of seeking transparent and accountable business practices by city contractors without guaranteeing them, as Ordinance #6 does. Instead of offering business certainty about what it will take to do business with Valparaiso, it creates uncertainty and doubt. It's more than silly politics, though, it's a transparently dumb idea.