

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, January 14, 2020

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Cuffe, Jr. at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Present: Councillors Paulsen, Friedlieb, Johnson, Baribeau, Biondich, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cuffe introduced the new City Attorney Brian Lindsay.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Special Meeting held December 20, 2019
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 20-001 Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve the travel request for Nick Grivna to attend the Region 12 K9 Narcotics Certification in New Hope MN March 28-29, 2020 cost of \$179.00
4. Approve the travel request for Fire Chief Allen Lewis to attend the National Fire Academy February 9-21, 2020 in Emmitsburg, Maryland cost of \$132.00

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Brian Lindsay gave an update on the parcels to be transferred. He noted there are not any issues at this time. The property is near the entrance of Spectrum and noted in the recording process the property wasn't transferred.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 20026 approving the second reading for the transfer of City Property to approve the conveyance of land (3) three parcels in Progress Park as requested by the joint school board and the City will maintain the utility easements. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 20027 to approve the second reading for the sale and transfer of City property located at 322 8th Street South. Resolution adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 20028 approving the guidelines for the Council, Committee Meetings and Public Hearings. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Biondich, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 20029 to approve the Mesabi Daily News as the official newspaper for 2020. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 20030 approving the City depositories for 2020. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Paulsen to appoint Mrs. Dana Mitchell to the Housing and Redevelopment Board for the balance of a five-year term ending November 22, 2021. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the variance for David & Sheila Malmstrom at 1807 Southern Drive Virginia, MN:

1. A 231 square foot variance to the maximum allowable 1000 square foot of accessory structures in order to construct a 665 square foot addition to the existing garage bringing the accessory structure total to 1231 square feet.
2. A 521 square foot variance to the maximum allowable 30% rear yard (651 square feet) of coverage in order to cover 1172 square feet of rear yard with accessory structure.
3. A one (1) foot variance to the minimum of six (6) feet between structures in order to construct a new garage five (5) feet from the existing structure.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 20031 authorizing the City to assume full responsibility for the operation and maintenance to the FY 2024 Transportation Alternative Grant for Silver Lake. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Biondich to adopt Resolution 20032 approving the hiring of two Library Aides, Nina Kampf and Karrie Treichel, for the City of Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 7, 2020

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution to 20033 to approve entering into an agreement for Professional Services with S.E.H. for the Laurentian Vision Partnership

Grant Phase II. Resolution adopted unanimously.

The Council requested a breakdown of the mandated portion of funds that was spent on the hospital by Essentia.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to authorize the administrative and legal teams of the City of Virginia and Essentia Health to develop an agreement between the City and Essentia Health to purchase the hospital for a mutually agreeable price and present to the council for approval. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Biondich, supported by Councillor Johnson to deny the offer for the donation of the property located at 821 13th Street North to the City. Motion Carried.

Councillor Paulsen discussed the letter presented by AFSCME for the position of the airport Secretary/Bookkeeper. See-Benes noted that the city was approached to include this in the AFSCME contract. Questions were asked regarding the process and where the position was advertised. It was noted that the employee is leaving the campus during regularly scheduled hours to do this job and there has been discussion to hire additional staff for the implementation of the rental code. Scott Daronco, AFSCME President local 454, noted that the City is paid by the airport commission for a portion of the costs incurred for this position. If this isn't working out the position can be eliminated by either party at any time.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the Letter of Understanding Regarding the Airport Secretary/Bookkeeper between the City of Virginia and AFSCME Local 454 allowing Kris Marafioti to perform the duties of the position.

Aye: Councillor Baribeau, Baranzelli, Friedlieb, Johnson, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (5)
Nay: Councillor Paulsen, Biondich (2)

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for NON-DOT Employees for the Police and Fire Departments. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to advertise for volunteers for the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Zoning Board to review the Airport Zoning issues. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to appoint Councillor Johnson, and Councillor Friedlieb to the Sub-Committee for Airport Authority City Ordinance review. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Police Department and Mesabi Range College for Coordination of Services.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the request for use of City owned golf carts for Earthfest 2020 on April 25, 2020 in Mountain Iron. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the quote from MEI Total Elevator Solutions amount of \$27,071 to repair the elevator at the Virginia City Library. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Biondich to decline the purchase of a local daycare but to offer a letter of support to the business. Motion Carried.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Brian Silber, Parks and Recreation Director gave an update on the design of the Miners' Event and Convention Center. Monday, April 13th a contractor will begin to decommission the football field and to present to the Council February 25th for the request to release bid package one.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Biondich to set a groundbreaking ceremony for the Miner's Event and Convention Center. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to waive the written Resolution approving the quote from Braun Engineering in the amount of \$17,000 for additional soil testing at the Miner's Complex. Motion Carried.

Councillor Johnson noted that the Human Rights Commission will be sponsoring the 2nd Annual Martin Luther King March. They will be meeting at the Miners Complex at 12:00 p.m. and walk to the college. The rally will begin at 12:15 p.m.

See-Benes noted that on Thursday January 16, 2020 the Library and the City offices will be closed for the annual day of training.

Brian Lindsay thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as the City Attorney.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. to Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.