

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, February 12, 2019

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Cuffe Jr. at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

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

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held January 22, 2019
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 19-003 Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve the following travel request:
 - Fire Department:
 - A) Jake Keehl, Zach Yurczyk to attend the Ice Rescue Train the Trainer, March 1-3, 2019 Dunbar, WI at a cost of \$1,730 total.
 - B) Erik Jonassen, Dustin Erickson, Allen Lewis to attend the USAR Training, February 7-8, 2019, Volk Field Military Base cost of \$60 total
 - Police Department:
 - C) Nicole Mattson to attend the MN Chief Conference, April 14-17, 2019 in St. Cloud, cost of \$777
 - D) Mathew Holeman to attend the Street Cop Training, August 28-29, 2019 in Duluth MN cost of \$320.48
 - Administration:
 - E) Jennifer Mogensen to attend the MN Municipal Clerks Institute, May 6-10, 2019 St Cloud cost of \$1,311.92
 - F) Sherry Erickson, Pamela LaBine, Kris Johnson to attend the MCFOA Region II Training, February 22, 2019 in Mt Iron, cost of \$30 each

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve waiving the blight assessments on the property located at 611 North 13th Street, Parcel ID #090-0150-03130. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Paulsen to re-appoint Mrs. Gail Baribeau to a

four-year term on the Charter Commission ending January 14, 2023. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Biondich to appoint Fire Chief Lewis to the Emergency Communications Board and Deputy Chief Frederickson as the alternate for 2019. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole Finance held January 29, 2019

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow City Administrator See-Benes to collaborate with HRA Director Dana Hiltunen to create a long term plan toward the procurement of Washington Manor by the Virginia Housing Authority. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Biondich to direct Virginia HRA Director Dana Hiltunen and the HRA Board to address the top priority repair issues in the Physical Assessment summary

Ayes: Councillor Baribeau, Biondich, Friedlieb, Paulsen, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (6)

Nay: Councillor Johnson (1)

Motion Carried.

Committee of the Whole Finance held February 5, 2019

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve advertising for bids for the Midway Drive Improvement Project. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to authorize the purchase the 2019 Chevrolet Equinox for the Deputy Fire Chief when there is adequate funding for the purpose with final approval at a future meeting. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to table modification of the existing Ambulance Agreement with Biwabik until the Committee of the Whole meeting February 19, 2019. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to allow staff to work with Essentia Health for a plan to staff an ambulance at the Essentia Health Virginia Facility. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the first reading for the

change to City Code Section 2.31 titled “Joint Airport Commission”. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to respectfully decline the invitation for a corporate table sponsorship at the Laurentian Chamber Annual Dinner on February 22, 2019 and the YMCA Annual Fundraiser on April 4, 2019 and send them an email regarding the reason for declining. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the Permanent Easement with the Regional Rail Authority for a Snowmobile Trail on City Property located on Parcel Code #090-0194-000070. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to allow staff to submit an offer for the purchase of Parcel ID #090-0010-05960. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Johnson to authorize City Staff to negotiate a one-year first right of refusal and potential sale of city owned Parcels 090-0138-00070, 090-0194-00190, 090-0180-01535 and 090-0180-01537. Motion Carried.

Street and Alley Committee Meeting February 7, 2019

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to authorize City Staff to move forward with creating a plan for a two phase Street Improvement Project beginning in 2020. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to allow City staff to develop an access agreement with the property owner at 36 Vermillion Drive. Motion Carried.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. gave notice of the upcoming Legislative Conference to be held on February 20th and 21st in St. Paul, MN.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. gave an update on the bills that have been submitted to the legislature by Representative Dave Lislegard. The \$5.4 million funding gap for the Highway 53 Bridge is attached to the naming of the Highway 53 Bridge. Senator Bakk and Senator Tomassoni are also assigned to the bill. The other bill being presented to the legislature is for the 1% sales tax for the Miner’s Memorial Project. A \$15 million dollar bonding request is also being presented for the Public Safety Complex. \$2 million is for site acquisition and \$13 million in hard costs. Ron Jerich and Associates have also assisted in the lobbying process.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. congratulated Krystina Nickila on passing the required testing for Permit Technician in the City Engineering Department.

Councillor Biondich gave an update on the League of Minnesota Cities Newly Elected Officials Conference that she and Councillor Friedlieb attended. It was very informative and well worth going.

City Administrator See-Benes noted that the project on the P&H road is construction of a turn-around lane in that area. It was not a request of the City but by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m. to Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

Larry Cuffe, Jr. Mayor

Pamela LaBine, City Clerk