

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, February 27, 2018

The 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 Littlewolf, Johnson, Baribeau, Paulsen, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe - 7

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Promotional Swearing in Ceremony for Fire Department Officer Positions:

Fire Chief Allen Lewis acknowledges and administers the oath of office to the following firefighters who were promoted within the Virginia Fire Department:

Scott Fredrickson – Battalion Chief “B” Shift
Adam Metsa – Captain “A” Shift
Dustin Erickson – Captain “C” Shift
Lisa Hanover – Engineer
Dan Cerise - Engineer (not present)
Justin Root – Firefighter/Paramedic
Wil Fischer – Firefighter/Paramedic
David McClellan - Firefighter/Paramedic
Zach Yurczyk - Firefighter/Paramedic
Elizabeth Smith - Firefighter/Paramedic
Jacob Keehl - Firefighter/Paramedic
Scott Ankley - Firefighter/Paramedic
Tom Hegge - Firefighter/Paramedic
Jim Hipple - Firefighter/Paramedic
Mario DelGreco - Firefighter/Paramedic

Mayor Cuffe congratulated the promoted firefighters.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes Regular Meeting held February 13, 2018.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 18-004 Schedule of Bills.

3. Approved 2018 On-Sale Liquor License for Mitchell Kerfeld DBA: Northern Divide Bar & Eatery.
4. Approved 2018 Sunday On-Sale Liquor License for Mitchell Kerfeld DBA: Northern Divide Bar & Eatery.
5. Approve the following travel requests:
 - a. Approved Mel Claviter, Public Works Dept., to attend Collection System Operators Conference, March 19-21, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN cost of \$1,188.79
 - b. Approved Mayor, City Council and Staff to attend the League of MN Cities Safety and Loss Control Workshop on April 4, 2018 in Duluth, MN cost of \$20.00 each
6. Approve Exempt Permit Application for Mesabi Range College Human Services Club to hold a raffle on April 12, 2018.

APPEARANCES:

Ms. Amy Martinich came before the Council to state that it was not cost effective for the downtown bars to pay for the police protection during the street dance at the Land of the Loon. Last year's street dance cost the local bars \$2,300 for police protection. There were only five arrests unrelated to the dance. Martinich requested approval to hold the street dance on June 16, 2018. Councillor Littlewolf thanked Amy Martinich for organizing the street dance during the Land of the Loon.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Paulsen to allow the local establishments to hold a street dance on June 16, 2018 during the Land of the Loon, and to work with City Administrator and City staff regarding police protection costs and possible funding. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve adapting resolution 18040 for purchase of State Tax Forfeit Lands, Parcel Code 090-0080-00430 and 090-0080-00880 (Finn Town Flyway) for estimated market value of \$6,000. Motion carried.

City Administrator reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on February 15, 2018. The meeting was closed due to a personnel matter. After the closed session, Councilor Littlewolf announced her impending resignation.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read Councilor Littlewolf's letter of resignation effective February 28, 2018. Councillor Littlewolf expressed her gratefulness to have been able to serve the citizens of Virginia.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 18041 regrettably accepting the letter of resignation from Councillor Littlewolf. Motion Carried.

Council members gave Councillor Littlewolf accolades for all she has done for the citizens of Virginia. Miika Wudnich, gave praise to his mother for her example and contribution to the community.

City Administrator See-Benes gave a report on the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 20, 2018.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve Resolution 18042 for MN DNR grant application for the Taconite Drive Park. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the St. Louis County Virginia Government Services Center (GSC) Facility Project Parking plan for temporary parking space for GSC staff during construction period. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the Resolution 18043 to hire six Single Role EMTs or Paramedics. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve Resolution 18044 authorizing purchase of a 2018 RAM D5500 Horton Emergency Vehicle for \$251,154 from Premier Specialty Vehicles, Inc. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to direct City staff and the Mayor to bring back a recommendation to the Council on how to designate the returning funds from VEEDA Loan Refinancing. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the

City of Virginia Contractor Safety Policy. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgenson, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve the appointment process to fill a Council vacancy by an application process. Applications for the vacated Council seat will be received until March 16, 2018, interviews will be conducted on March 20, 2018 and appointment made by March 27, 2018. Motion Carried.

The appointment must be made within thirty days of the resignation letter and is mandated by law.

City Administrator Britt See-Benes reported that the Personnel Committee met on February 20, 2018 and entered into closed session to discuss Personnel Contracts with nonunion employees. No action was taken. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that there are three nonunion personnel, City Administrator, Finance/HR/Safety Director, and Confidential Administrative Assistant in the Police Department. The City has settled with three of the four unions and is currently in contract negotiations with the AFSCME Local #454.

Councillor Jorgenson who is involved with Junior Curling made comments regarding the U.S. Curling Team taking the gold in the 2018 Olympics. The Mayor commented on the importance of commitment and perseverance. Councillor Baranzelli praised the U.S. Ladies Hockey Team who also won the gold.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. reported on the lobbying efforts for the Miners Restoration Project. The Mayor also praised the Public Works staff and the City staff for their dedication and hard work to keep the City running. He requested that citizens be a patient while our staff is busy cleaning the streets.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Public Utilities Commission meeting. The time for the meetings has changed from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Conversion off of steam applications are ready for citizens to pick up at the Virginia Public Utilities. If anyone has questions regarding the conversion

process, please contact the Virginia Public Utilities at (218) 748-7540. There will be a public meeting for a Question and Answer session regarding the conversion off steam and the Excel buyout, sometime after March 22, 2018.

Councillor Johnson reminded everyone that on March 17, 2018 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM (please note the time change) the *Green Envy Spring Equinox Celebration* will be held at the Greenhouse. Prizes and light appetizers will be served.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Larry Cuffe, Jr.
Mayor

Sherry Erickson
City Finance/HR Director