

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, March 26, 2019

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

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Melissa Cox gave an update on the Broadband Community Grant. There are two grants of \$75,000 that are available. Ms. Cox is requesting that the City be the fiscal agent for the grant for the Quad Cities Broadband initiative.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19059 to support the request for City of Virginia to act as Fiscal Agent for the Quad Cities Blandin Broadband Project. Motion Carried

Ms. Marlise Riffel and Ms. Ellen Taube made a request to use City property adjacent to their home. They are proposing to plant a squash bed on the northern end of the property.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Biondich to direct city staff to work with Riffel and Taube to use a portion of City owned property located at 9th Avenue West for potential garden site. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held March 12, 2019
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 19-006 Schedule of Bills
3. Approve travel requests for Britt See-Benes, Richelle Perrault, Brian Silber, Krystina Nickila, Kristen Johnson and Maegen Bothwell to attend the Safety and Loss Control Workshop in Biwabik April 11, 2019 cost of \$20 each

4. Approve Sherry Erickson to attend the SHRM National Convention in Las Vegas, NV June 22-27, 2019 Cost of \$2,552.00
5. Approve the City Council, Britt See-Benes and Sherry Erickson to attend the LMC Annual Conference in Duluth, MN June 26-28, 2019 cost of \$400.00 each
6. Approve the excluded bingo application from Roosevelt Elementary PTSA for bingo to be held on April 16, 2019 at the Miner's Memorial building
7. Approve one day temporary liquor license for Holy Spirit Church on May 3, 2019
8. Approve one day temporary liquor license for Lyric Center on April 26, 2019

Motion Carried

APPEARANCES

Mr. Patrick Orent, Dave Sippola, Sarah Simek from St. Louis County gave an update on the Board of Appeals process. Mr. Sippola gave a status report on the assessments that were done over the last year. County staff will be present for the Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. An informational meeting will be held on April 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. for residents to discuss with County staff about their assessments. Valuation notices will be mailed in April prior to the Board of Appeals. No changes will be made at this meeting and the issues will be brought to the Board of Appeals meeting for the Council to review. A number of changes have been made to the valuation of properties in the City. Mr. Orent gave an update on the steam conversion and how it impacts the sales price of the property.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the request from Carly Gobats, The "Shop" Coffeeshouse/218 Taphouse to block off a portion of Third Avenue the evenings of June 13, & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a musical event and to allow Artisan Vendor Tables on the sidewalk and allow the "Shop" to sell food on the sidewalk outside in the barricaded area.

Motion Carried.

The Mayor gave an overview of the draft letter that was submitted by Scenic Rivers Health Services. Attorney Butorac noted that there would not be a conflict of interest with the construction of the new clinic and the current lease agreement the City has with Essentia.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to direct staff to draft a letter of support for Scenic Rivers Health Services for construction of a new clinic in the city limits of Virginia and to approve them to seek funding for the project. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole Meeting held March 19, 2019

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 19054 authorizing reclassification of City Funds from City's VEDA Fund (Fund 299) to the Minnesota Investment Fund, Revolving Loan Fund (Fund 235). Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 19055 approving Final Pay Estimate #4 for the 2018 Road Reconditioning Project to Mesabi Bituminous in the Amount of \$17,951.17 Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19056 approving the Professional Services Agreement with SEH in the amount of \$181,620 for the Midway Drive Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19057 approving the bid from Casper Construction for the Midway Drive Improvement Project in the amount of \$1,806,080.00 contingent upon the approval of the MnDOT LRIP Grant agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 19058 for application to the State Transportation Fund for the Local Road Improvement Program for a grant of up to \$1,000,000. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Paulsen to proceed with the acquisition of the property located at 402 3rd Avenue North for \$1.00 with the contingency that the city obtain the Completed asbestos testing reports. Motion Carried.

The discussion on the proposed 4th Amendment with Essentia was tabled to a closed meeting.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Biondich to approve removal of the designated parking signs at 308 1st Street North and send a letter to Dental Associates to inform them that the current contract is no longer valid. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Johnson to authorize staff to proceed with location of Food Forest along 12th Avenue. Motion Carried.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councillor Baribeau attended the VPUC on March 25, 2019. He noted that there weren't any accidents over the last month. The time of the meeting will change to 3:30 p.m. beginning in April. There was one water main break this year. Boilers #9 and #11 are currently ready. It was noted the Council would like an update on the conversion of the steam process and to attend a Regular Council meeting to make the update and to also give a status update on the solar project.

Councillor Biondich gave an update on the library meeting and is enjoying being a liaison on the Library commission.

Finance Director Sherry Erickson noted that the auditors will be coming next week to start the 2018 audit.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that Polymet got the final report to begin the non-ferrous mining project. The Mayor also noted that there are 16 demolitions in the City that are on the list for 2019. The Mayor will be attending the legislative session on Thursday to testify at the Senate Committee hearing on taxes for the Miners Event and Convention Center. The 1% sales tax will be included in the tax bill on the house side. The \$5.4 million has moved through the committee and will be in the transportation bill with the addendum to name bridge after Mr. Rukavina.

The Mayor met with Representative Mary Murphy regarding the public safety building. Ms. Murphy still has reservations regarding the facility. The fact that other communities aren't currently paying for the ambulance service is an issue.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m. to Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

Larry Cuffe, Jr., Mayor

Pamela LaBine, City Clerk