

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA May 10, 2016

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.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Baribeau, McReynolds, Littlewolf, Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli,
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Jeanne Maki with the Virginia Historical Society was present to discuss the Northland Building. She gave a historic update on the Northland Building and also on City Hall. She told the Council their decision is being made to hastily. She noted the County is not requesting public input regarding the demise of the building. She also discussed options for the County to renovate the building. The Council discussed the cost to fix or remove the building. The City does not own the building, and the County gave the City some options if they would like to purchase the building or trade for other property the City owns. Councillor Littlewolf and Councillor McReynolds are empathetic for the building and they both feel that the building has potential and should not be demolished and are looking at other options for use of the building. There will be more discussion on the Northland Building in the next few weeks.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held April 26, 2016.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 16-009 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Pay Estimate #5 for Lenci Enterprises for the City Hall Stair Repair in the amount of \$33,315.75.
4. Approve Resolution 160097 to hire Jacob Keehl as a Paramedic on or after May 16, 2016.
5. Approve Resolution 160098 to hire Scott Ankley as a Paramedic on or after May 16, 2016.
6. Approve Transient Merchant/Solicitor License for Ofelia Jonas, d/b/a First Pilipina Stand, on Chestnut Street and 2nd Avenue.

Motion Carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to set the COW Finance meeting to be held on July 12, 2016 and the City Council meeting to be held on July 19, 2016. Motion Carried.

Committee-of-the-Whole Finance recommendations from the meeting held on May 3, 2016.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to place the discussion of the final disposition of the Northland Building on the City Council agenda for May 24, 2016.

Aye: Councillor Sipola, Baranzelli, Jorgensen, Baribeau, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (5)

Nay: Councillor McReynolds, Littlewolf (2)

Motion Carried.

Discussion continued on the Northland Building. Councillor Sipola noted that the motion is to decide the final disposition of the building. Councillor McReynolds and Councillor Littlewolf both agreed that the Council doesn't need to take action for the final disposition at this time. The decision that is to be made is whether the City will take ownership of the building or not. The Mayor discussed the options the City has; the County will sell the building to the City for \$1.00 in exchange the parking lots by the county garage and if we don't want to buy the building then we can sell the parking lots to County. The City has no authority on the building or what the County wants to do with the building.

The bids were opened on the construction of the Natural Harvest Site and six bids were received.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to approve Resolution 16100 accepting the bid from Utility Systems of American in the amount of \$140,600.50 for the Natural Harvest Site Improvement Project. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to begin negotiations with Jason Berg to build a dental office on the property on 4th Street North, approximately 160 'of frontage and to enter into a development agreement. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to allow Jason Berg to do a survey on the property at 4th Street North at his cost. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to allow adjacent property owners to submit bids to purchase the property at 813 North 16th Street, by Monday, May 16, 2016 and award to the highest bidder. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to allow Ed Alto to get cost estimates to remove the hard surface road and restore to a maintainable rock surface at 18th Street South. Motion Carried.

Moved Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to place future standard hiring resolutions on the consent agenda for open positions for non-department head or lower positions.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to request Advantage Billing to separate out the ALS and BLS charges for the City of Virginia and allow Councillor Baribeau, Councillor Sipola and the Interim City Administrator Sherry Erickson to meet with them to discuss any concerns the City may have regarding the ambulance billing. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve Resolution 16099 to approve the quote from S&S for the purchase of the public access equipment in the amount of \$7,085.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Councillor Jorgensen updated on the shovel breaking ceremony that took place on Friday, May 6, 2016 at Olcott Park for the fountain. The Olcott Park Fountain Fund has reached its first benchmark in attempting to raise funds for the fountain. Mary Aufderheide was present; she is from Duluth and has memories of the fountain and donated \$10,000.00 for the fundraising effort. Councillor Littlewolf and Mayor Cuffe, Jr. congratulated the Olcott Park Fountain Committee on an outstanding job of raising the funds and for the hard work and dedication that they have put into the fountain project.

Councillor Littlewolf attended the legislative sessions at the Capital with students from the area schools; they received training in the governmental process, lobbying and were present during the discussion on tobacco. They also had a tour of the Capital.

Councillor McReynolds updated on the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee meeting, held on April 27, 2016. There will be a community meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan on June 15, 2016 to be held at the Miner's Memorial Building. There is a link on the City website to the Comprehensive Plan information and also a link to the page that SEH Engineering will be keeping up to date. There will be a City of Virginia tour on Thursday, June 16, 2016 and the information will be posted on the website.

Councillor Baranzelli attended the Parks & Recreation meeting on April 20, 2016 at the Kline Cuppoletti Facility. The tennis facility and ball fields are in good shape, the Olcott Park Greenhouse bathrooms are 75% complete. The Disc Golf Course at Olcott Park was open for the season on May 1, 2016.

The Mayor met with MNDOT regarding the revised payment schedule with the City. The City needs to find out where Kiewit is on the Hwy 53 project. Springsted will be here next week to discuss a grant anticipation bond to cover the costs that need to be paid for in advance of the work being done. We will need to have a \$5.2 million payment ready in July for MNDOT to proceed. Councillor Baribeau disagrees with the process that MNDOT has for getting paid upfront for work not done. The Mayor testified against the Hwy 53 project, the lobbyist sponsored a bill thru MNDOT and they had to testify about the payment process and the adverse effect it has on the City. They will be reviewing the process at the highest level. The Hwy 53 project is 25 percent complete as of May 5, 2016. They are on track and expect completion November of 2017.

The City of Virginia Sales Tax bill is going thru the process at the session; there have been concerns from area business regarding the tax. In order to get funding for the Miner's Memorial Building we have to prove that we are securing a funding match. The \$4 million bonding request is moving forward for the Miners Memorial Building, with a schedule of future moneys to come in over the next three years. If the sales tax is approved by the legislature it will be on the ballot in November.

The Mayor attended a RAMS meeting and they discussed joint power agreements, cooperation, collaboration and consolidation in small towns in the East Range. There will be several Strong Town Meetings coming up beginning May 16 to 19, 2016. It's a gathering for everyone to get together to discuss why communities are struggling financially and how to fix that.

A street sweep was held on Chestnut Street and several volunteers came to help, there was a tour of Lyric Theatre, and they gave a history of the theatre and ongoing events that are happening there.

If anyone is interested in church pews, 19 are available at the Salvation Army; they are 20' long and free of charge.

The City Administrator position is advertised on the City website, and a very professional brochure was completed by Waters and Company.

The Miners Memorial Building received an award from the MN Ice Arena Managers Association. John Bachman attended a meeting sponsored by the Association and was presented with the 2016 Ice Arena James Padgett Award for the Achievement of Excellence in Ice Arena Management and Operations.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to send a letter of support to John Bachman congratulating him on his award as Ice Arena Manger for 2016. Motion Carried.

The Mayor invited the public to attend the Virginia Golf Course's 80th Anniversary Celebration to be held on June 10, 2016 at the golf course. There will be live music, food and prizes.

The Mayor informed the Council there is another area that may be used for the Mineview overlook. It is located by the new bridge along the bike trail. It could only be used as an overlook, no building can be erected at this site and the state would give an easement for the area. The site at the end of Chestnut Street wouldn't have a view of the bridge, but it brings people downtown, we could have both options available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. with the next regular meeting to be May 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Larry Cuffe, Jr., Mayor

Pamela LaBine, City Clerk