

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, May 22, 2018

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 Friedlieb, Johnson, Baribeau, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe - 6

Absent: Paulsen - 1

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cuffe announced the week of June 10, 2018 through Father's Day, June 17, 2018 as Proclamation for Men's Health Week. The week is signified by wearing the color blue to create awareness of the importance of men's wellness.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Friedlieb to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held May 8, 2018, and the Board of Appeals meeting held May 9, 2018.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 18-010 Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve the following Transient Merchant Licenses:
 - a.) Ofelia Jonas, D/B/A First Philipina Food Stand
 - b.) Virginia Lee Daniel, D/B/A TNT Fireworks
 - c.) Barry Thomas Lane, D/B/A B's Street Tacos and Eats

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Johnson to approve the variance, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission at regular meeting held on May 7, 2018 for Mike and Lisa Williams 710-716. 5th Street North - Allow a 1' variance to the maximum 3 foot allowable height of a fence in a front yard in order to construct a fence 4 feet in height in the front yard. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes reported on the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 15, 2018. At the meeting, Greg Gillness from the Olcott Park Fountain Renovation Project and engineer Eric Wedge, from DSGW explained the difference between stamped concrete and ADA and safety requirements verses using the existing pavers for the sidewalk around the perimeter of the fountain. By replacing the existing pavers with stamped concrete instead of recycling the existing pavers, the Fountain would lose its status on the Historical Society register, but meet ADA requirements.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Johnson to approve the placement of stamped concrete rather than recycling the existing pavers around the perimeter of the Olcott Fountain, in order to make the accessibility to the fountain safer, in compliance with ADA requirements, and ultimately more accessible by everyone. Motion Carried.

Mayor Cuffe noted that the original pavers will be cleaned and reused in a different area of the Olcott Fountain Project and some will be stored for future use.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Johnson to approve the proposed "Do-It-Right-The-First Time" option for the Olcott Fountain Renovation Project and the use of the single style globe lights around the fountain and the upgraded speaker system. Motion Carried.

Moved by Johnson and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution 18077 approving the Base Bid and Alternates 2, 3, and 4 from Gardner Builders for Phase II of the Olcott Fountain Renovation Project in the total amount of \$471,910. Motion Carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Friedlieb to approve the quote from North Country Heating Cooling and Refrigeration in the amount of \$8,100 for the HVAC heating portion only for 118 Chestnut Street. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes informed the Council that an IRRRB grant will be funding this expense.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Baribeau to approve the quote from Northeast Technical Services for bituminous testing and inspection services for the 2018 Road Reconditioning project. Motion Carried.

Moved by Johnson and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution 18078 for the Library construction grant for ADA accessibility and landscaping modifications. Motion Carried.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Johnson to approve staff to research and determine a better solution to new signage located at the Library. Motion Carried.

Moved by Friedlieb and supported by Baribeau to approve the agreement between the Regional Rail Authority and the City of Virginia for the Bridgeview Pocket Park. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes informed the public that July 1, 2018 the blue bags will no longer required to be used for refuse. The garbage rates will be increased, but are still under discussion.

Moved by Johnson and supported by Baranzelli to set a Special City Council meeting for August 7, 2018 at 5:30 at the Olcott Park Bandstand during National Night Out for the swearing in of new Firefighters and Patrol Officers. Motion Carried.

The Mayor noted that this is a “special” meeting of the Council and that it will *not* be the regular scheduled meeting. The regular meeting will be held August 14, 2018.

Moved by Johnson and supported by Baribeau to approve closing 41 Avenue West between First and Second Street North for the Farmers Market and Growing Together event on June 7, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Baribeau to approve the purchase agreement for the property legally described as Lot 1-6, Block 001, Midway Gardens Addition Plat of Virginia, Parcel ID #090-0089-00010 in the amount of \$200,000.00. Seller is responsible for any accessed utilities on the property. Motion Carried.

Moved by Friedlieb and supported by Baribeau to direct City staff to approach the owner of Parcel #090-0180-01535 to further negotiate the purchase price of the property. Purchase of property is for potential economic development in Midway. Motion Carried.

Commission Liaison/Department Head Reports

Councillor Friedlieb attended the Library Commission meeting. The Summer Reading program starts May 29, 2018 and goes through August 3, 2018. Registration is available online and at the Library. There are prizes for participants.

Councilor Baribeau gave a report on the Public Utility Commission meeting. The steam conversion program is moving along smoothly. The Public Utilities has a list of contractors for residents to select from. There is also a loan program available for residents to convert at zero percent interest.

City Administrator See-Benes informed the Council that she met at the Senate building yesterday, at the Capital, and IRRRB will be awarding a \$250,000 grant administered through the Virginia Economic Development Authority (VEDA) as a revolving loan fund setup specifically for economic development in the Virginia downtown corridor. The Coates hotel will be the first loan recipient.

Mayor Cuffe informed the public of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics in Minnesota. The general public is invited to participate in this event. A torch is carried throughout the run. The run will be passing through the local area, with Virginia patrol officer participants, on June 18th and 19th starting in Fort Francis, Ontario Canada, to International Falls, Hibbing, to Virginia and beyond. Please call the Virginia Police Department at (218) 748-7510 PD to donate or enter. Proceeds raised go to the Minnesota Special Olympics.

The Mayor also reminded everyone of the Memorial Day celebration being planned at the Calvary Cemetery at 10 AM to honor our fallen veterans as well as those who have served. If it is rainy, the ceremonies will be moved to the Miners Memorial building.

The Mayor stated that the City has received a letter of assurance from the Governor's office to assist the City of Virginia with \$5.4 million in Hwy 53 Reconstruction costs. This will help, but it does not cover all of our costs. The Mayor thanked the Council and staff for all of their dedicated help in the past three years of the bridge construction.

Mayor Cuffe also propagated the proposed City of Virginia ballot question for a sales tax from half of a percent to one (1) percent on November's General election. If successful, the sales tax collected would be utilized for the reconstruction of the Miners Memorial Community Center. The City would then be able to go to the legislature to approve the City's authority to pass a sales tax. Educational and informational sessions will be starting regarding the sales tax and the reconstruction of the Miners Memorial Community Center. This is a City project which belongs to the citizens.

City Administrator See-Benes informed the Council that the ISD #706 survey has been completed, and the results will be shared with the general public on June 27, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Miners Memorial Community Center.

City Administrator See-Benes also informed the public that filings for City official electoral positions for Council and Mayor have opened today, May 22, 2018 and close June 5, 2018.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Johnson to set the July meetings as follows: Committee of the Whole meeting for July 10, 2018 at 9 AM and the regular Council meeting for July 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.
Mayor

SHERRY ERICKSON
City Finance/HR Director