

## VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, August 15, 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.

Present: Councillor Jorgensen, Johnson, Paulsen, Friedlieb, Baribeau  
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (6)

Absent: Councillor Baranzelli (1)

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Erik Honkanen gave a brief update on the request for the City to purchase the property at 304 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South. The parcel would be split with the current owner. The building will need to be demolished and a funding request to IRRRB for the demolition. Some Council concerns are the City purchasing property and the additional costs involved in the demolition as well as the renovation of the lot. Mr. Honkanen noted that the church should be able to acquire the property from the city and find funds to tear the building down.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 18119 authorizing purchase of the former church building located at 304 3rd Avenue South and to acquire funding for the demolition of the building. Resolution adopted unanimously.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

There were many concerned employees of the Essentia Hospital that attended the meeting to discuss the future of the hospital and what the City can do to hold Essentia accountable.

Ms. Amy Teszak, RN at Essentia in Virginia feels that the Council has a responsibility to keep the hospital in Virginia and hold Essentia accountable to uphold their part of the contract. There has been a decrease in doctors at the facility and an increase in transfers to Duluth. The hospital is currently in a financial crisis. Essentia is making \$800 million in improvements to facilities in Duluth.

Ms. Jody Hensley, RN in the ER at Essentia Hospital. There are families that depend on the health care facility in Virginia and she is asking the Council step up and rebuild the hospital.

Ms. Beth Lindy noted the same concerns as previously stated regarding Essentia investment into new facilities in the Duluth area. According to the lease with Essentia and the City \$7 million was to be added in payroll services by July 1, 2018. There were 1,400 transfers to Duluth in 2017 and 1,800 so far this year.

Ms. Terry Hiller is a retired nurse at Essentia noted that not all patients are in critical condition in order to be sent to Duluth.

Ms. Sharon Sterle gave an update on the nursing home in the hospital. At one time it was a 120 bed facility, currently there are 46 residents and they are turning people away because they don't have the staff to take care of more patients, Essentia is cutting hours or not hiring staff.

Councillor Johnson has been on ride alongs with the ambulance service and has had discussion regarding the situation at the hospital. Councillor Johnson encouraged them to speak up and keep asking questions.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. would like to have some discussion at the COW meeting after reviewing the information that was presented from the concerned employees of Essentia.

Councillor Baribeau noted that the City has been in discussion with Essentia and they need to initiate the infusion of money it's not up to the City. The other Councillors agreed with the information that was presented. See-Benes noted that there are focus groups in place that are reviewing the situation at the hospital. It was suggested to update the Council with this information and to be more transparent and to inform the Council as to when these meetings are being held.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held July 17, 2018 and the Special Meeting of August 7, 2018.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 18-015 Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve the following Transient Merchant License for the Brewfest:
  - A.) Cory Carlson D/B/A Northgate Café & Catering
  - B.) Anja Parenteau D/B/A Natural Harvest Food Co-op
  - C.) Kelsey Kerfeld D/B/A Northern Divide, Inc.
  - D.) Alissa Sundberg D/B/A Sawmill Saloon & Restaurant
4. Approve the following travel requests:
  - A.) Allen Lewis, Thomas Hegge & John Carlson, Fire Department, to attend the EMS World Expo on October 29-November 3, 2018 in Nashville, TN at a total cost of \$4,175.00
  - B.) Allen Lewis, Fire Department to attend the MN State Fire Chiefs Assoc. Annual Conference on October 10-13, 2018 in St Paul MN at a cost of \$675.00
  - C.) Britt See-Benes, City Administration, to attend the MN Chief of Police Assoc. Conference on September 12, 2018 in New Brighton MN at a cost of \$314.92
  - D.) Steve Estey & Nick Grivna, Police Dept, to attend the TZD Conference on October 22-24, 2018 in Mankato MN at a cost of \$100.00
  - E.) Jake Roskoski Police Dept, to attend the Recognizing & Valuing Community Diversity Conference on August 28, 2018 in St. Paul MN at a cost of \$150.00
  - F.) Stephanie Wichlacz, Library, to attend the Annual MN Library Association Conference on October 10-11, 2018 in St. Cloud MN at a cost of \$556.50.
5. Approve the invoices for the Olcott Fountain
  - A.) Pay Estimate #5 for the Olcott Fountain Project to Lenci Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$50,059.75
  - B.) Home Town Electric invoice for electrical service for the Olcott Fountain Project in the amount \$25,490
6. Approve Pay Estimate #1 for the 2018 Road Reconditioning Project to Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$39,657.63

7. Approve the Exempt Permit for the Virginia Community Foundation to conduct a bingo and raffle at the Virginia Elks Club November 14-17, 2018.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Jorgensen requested information on the travel requests; budgeted vs actual.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 18094 for the second reading authorizing the conveyance of land to Matthew Etter. Resolution adopted unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 18107 accepting donations from residents and business for National Night Out. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to *table* the variances, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission at regular meeting held August 6, 2018 for Lee Gorsha.

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Geraldine Shoberg was present to object to the variance for Lee Gorsha. The Council recommended that Mrs. Shoberg attend the next meeting of Planning & Zoning to discuss her concerns.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 7, 2018

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the curb cut a 310 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Virginia and to work with City staff regarding the location of the curb cut and that the cut will be at the expense of the property owner. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 18108 to approve the contract for the Professional Services agreement for a Tennis Professional for years 2018-2020 for Dave Gunderson. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 18109 to approve the easement request from Mr. Engman in order to construct a permanent handicap ramp on the City right of way at 203 1st Street South with Mr. Engman responsible for maintenance and deconstruction of necessary. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Fire Chief Allen Lewis discussed his request to allow for employee parking in the lot located east of the fire hall and to dedicate the middle row of 10 spaces for fire department personnel. There is two hour parking but has never enforced. The Council suggested to have the engineering department review the parking spaces in the lot and bring to the Council for review. It was noted that there should be enough space to accommodate the fire department employees, the business owners and the customers.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Paulsen to *table* the approval of Employee Parking Only in the middle row of the parking lot at 320 North 1st Street until further information is received. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 18110 approving Change Order #2 to increase the contract for Lenci Enterprises for Phase I of the Olcott Park Fountain Restoration Project in the amount of \$9,705.00 for cone tuck pointing and additional mortar and the invoice will be paid from the City contingency fund. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve Pay Request #1 to Gardner Builders for Phase II of the Olcott Fountain Restoration Project in the amount of \$117,233.22. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 18111 approving Change Order #2 to increase the contract for Gardner Builders for Phase II of the Olcott Fountain Project for the water line replacement for in the amount of \$4,173.02. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 18112 approving Change Order #3 to increase the contract for Gardner Builders for Phase II of the Olcott Fountain Restoration Project for the replacement of the hand hole for the water shutoff in the amount of \$1,994.98. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to request the Olcott Park Fountain Committee to review the options regarding the Olcott Park Fountain pavers that were removed from the fountain area and make a recommendation to the Council on what the Committee feels is the best option for the

City on the use of the pavers. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 18113 approving the purchase of a 2006 John Deere Grader from McCoy Construction and Forestry in Duluth in the amount of \$67,000 with the trade in allowance for the 1993 JD grader. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 18114 approving an agreement with the City of Biwabik in order to provide ambulance coverage for 12 hours a day, for a period of six months. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 18115 approving an agreement with the City of Eveleth for assistance by the Ambulance Service for anticipated EMT shift shortages in Eveleth for a term of six months. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to authorize City Staff to place appropriate signage near Ridgewood Park for children and pedestrian safety. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to direct engineering staff to contact the residents that requested the street repairs on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and East Parkway, Virginia and explain the system in place for prioritizing road repairs. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 18116 to accept the donation of a blighted property at 117 11th Street South Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the request to close Olcott Park for vehicle traffic during the Olcott Park Brewfest on August 18, 2018. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 18117 to approve entering into a contract with George Bougalis & Sons for Apple Tree Leaning Center Site Improvements in the amount of \$31,560.00 and approve payment of the project with IRRRB funds. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve prioritizing the replacement

of audio visual equipment in the City Council Chambers with an approximate cost of \$80,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 budget with the funds coming from franchise fees. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the request from Revive Virginia to conduct the Bridge Daze event and related requests for City Services for September 14-15, 2018. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the request from Virginia Foundation/Revive Virginia to hold the Festival of Trees Event on November 14-17, 2018 and related requests for City Services for November 14-17, 2018. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to *deny* the request from St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department to waive certified, pending and future assessments against Tax Forfeit Parcels 090-0030-05180 and 090-0010-10230. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to authorize placement of “Resident Parking Only” signs in the Franklin Addition with information pertinent on options that are available for parking in the area. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 18118 for support of Participation in the IRRR/Blandin Broadband Communities Program. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the loan subsidy and conditions for the Business Subsidy loan to Twin Cities Hospitality, LLC, with funding received from IRRRB in the amount of \$250,000. Motion Carried.

#### COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

City Administrator See-Benes informed the Council she received a call regarding the Budget Host Hotel from a potential developer. See-Benes will proceed to discuss with developer regarding a possible purchase of the property.

Councillor Jorgensen informed the Council the IRRRB met at the T-Square building to look at repurpose the building and VEDA approved a \$5,000 grant towards the elevator testing.

Councillor Paulsen reminded the Council of the Art Walk that will be held on Thursday evening in downtown Virginia.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. gave a kudos to City Clerk Pamela LaBine for a job well done on the Primary Election and to City Administrator See-Benes for acquiring the LCCMR Grant in the amount of \$550k for Baileys lake trails.

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.in the Council Chambers

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

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Larry Cuffe, Jr. Mayor

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Pamela LaBine, City Clerk