

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, September 24, 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 Paulsen, Biondich, Friedlieb, Johnson, Baribeau, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. Called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the Proclamation for National Fire Protection Week

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held September 10, 2019, the VEDA Public Hearing and Special Council meeting held September 10, 2019.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 19-018 Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve the 2:00 A.M. Liquor License for Flaimer's d/b/a Flaimer's Inc.
4. Approve the following travel requests:
 - A) Council & Administration to attend the CGMC Fall Conference November 14-15, 2019 in Alexandria MN cost of \$720.80 each
 - B) Susan Hoppe, Library to attend the KBFT Presents "Nana Boozhoo" September 25, 2019 in Nett Lake, MN no cost
 - C) Officer Grivna, Police Department to attend the TZD Conference October 22-24, 2019 in St. Cloud MN no cost

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

See-Benes noted that negotiations continued with the Virginia Public Utilities to approve a contribution of \$1 million on the Energy Efficiency Project. It is a self-funded project over a 13 year period. The VPUC will pass a Resolution that they will participate with the City in the program. The utility has approved to buy down the project. The City has the option to bond, use city funds or utilize AMERESCO for securing the bond.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the Energy Efficiency Project as previously presented by AMERESCO in the amount of \$2,424,839 contingent upon the City

legal review of the Project Agreement and obtaining project financing. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow the City Administrator and Finance Department to review the financing options available and discuss at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on October 1, 2019. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 17, 2019

Motion by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 19126 to accept Service Order #2 of the Professional Design Service Contract for the Virginia Miners Event and Convention Center (MECC) with DSGW for schematic design, design development, construction documents, bidding and construction administration services. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Johnson informed the Council of the concerns with the closure of the sidewalk and the alley when Council hasn't officially approved the plan. VEIT has met with the Police and Fire Departments but there is not a written document on the process or distributed to the business owners. The seismic activity has not been inspected at all of the business. Johnson would like all the information to the business owners by Monday, September 30, 2019.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Biondich to notify St. Louis County that the City *will not* be closing the alley on the north side of the Northland building until there is a written plan for the business owners on how deliveries and garbage issues will be handled. Motion Carried.

Council directed staff to conduct a meeting with VEIT, St. Louis County and the Street and Alley Chair to discuss the parking issues during the demolition of the Northland Building.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19127 increasing parking ticket fees effective October 2019. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the request to purchase six (6) sets of turnout gear from Fire Safety USA in the amount of \$19,871.70. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the sale of surplus equipment for the Fire Medic 3 Ambulance with a minimum bid of \$3,000. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to designate 8th Street South from

12th Avenue westerly to the Railroad Grade and 12th Avenue from 8th Street South to the point approximately 20' as "NO PARKING ZONES" and to request staff to sign and paint curbing as appropriate and immediately notify the business of the no parking enforcement. Motion Carried.

Moved by Council Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Johnson to authorize the City to enter into an agreement with St. Louis County for Maintenance Striping for 2020 in the amount not to exceed \$8,200. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to designate the Zoning of the Historic Finntown Flyway Addition as B-2 Zoning in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to receive and file the notice of private, Non-Public Sale of St. Louis County Tax Forfeited Property Parcel Code 090-0060-03850 – Formerly known as 536 12th Street North. Motion Carried.

The City Attorney gave an update on the meeting held with Essentia. It was noted that Essentia will be submitting a proposal to the City. The Council could schedule a closed session once the proposal is received.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 19129 setting a Public Hearing for the Proposed Tax Abatement for Parcel ID #090-0180-00308, vacant land on 4th Street North on October 8, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to invite the Northeast Service Coop to attend the Council meeting on October 8, 2019 to discuss the increase for the 2020 health insurance premiums. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to begin the hiring process for the Part-time position at the library. Motion Carried.

A lengthy discussion was held on the issue to re-new the contract with the current lobbyist. It was suggested to request an RFP's for a lobbyist to represent the City for the next legislative session to work on the City's request for the Public Safety Building.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Biondich to request staff to create an RFP for

lobbyist specific to the Public Safety Building and present to the Council at a future Committee of the

Whole meeting.

Ayes-Biondich, Johnson, Paulsen (3)

Nay-Baranzelli, Baribeau, Friedlieb, Cuffe, Jr. (4)

Motion Failed

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to re- negotiate the Professional Services agreement with the current Golf Professional based on the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Biondich to adopt a Resolution 19128 to approve hiring Ed Alto as the Public Works Director and to include the position in the MAPE union.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councillor Baribeau updated the Council on the VPUC meeting. 400 residents have applied for the steam conversion and they are ahead of schedule on the installations. A Resolution is being drafted from the VPUC for the Energy Conversion with the city.

Councillor Friedlieb thanked the Lakes Committee for cleaning Silver Lake and for scheduling the lumberjack show that will be held Saturday, September 28, 2019 beginning at 1 p.m.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that the Olympic curling group will be having a golf extravaganza Saturday, September 28, 2019 at the Virginia golf course.

The Charter Commission met and discussed the requests from the City regarding the VPUC and it was agreed that no written changes be made to the Charter at this time. It was determined the City has veto power on all matters involving the VPUC not just monetary. It was asked of the VPUC to keep the City Council updated for any projects the VPUC may be doing and to have better communication between the two entities.

Adjourned at 7:18 p.m. to Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers