

## VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, January 10, 2017**

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.

Present: Councillor Littlewolf, Paulsen, Baranzelli, Johnson, Jorgensen

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (6)

Absent: Councillor Baribeau (1)

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-001 Schedule of Bills.
2. Approve the Exempt Permit Application for the Mesabi Range Student Advocates to hold a raffle at the Mesabi Range College on Friday, March 3, 2017.
3. Allow Pamela LaBine and Sherry Erickson to attend the MCFOA Region II Training in Biwabik on Friday, January 13, 2017. Fee of \$15/each.
4. Allow Britt See-Benes and Kris Johnson to attend the MCFOA Region II Training in Cross Lake on Friday, January 20, 2017. Fee of \$15/each.
5. Allow Jonathan Benz and John Swenson, VPD, to attend the Ethics and Integrity/Impact and Influence Training, May 1-4, 2017 in Hermantown, MN cost of \$500/each.
6. Appoint Police Chief Nicole Young-Mattson as a representative to the Regional Advisory Committee and Deputy Police Chief Chad Nickila as the alternate for 2017.
7. Appoint Fire Chief Allen Lewis as a representative to the Emergency Communications Board and Battalion Chief Erik Jonassen as the alternate for 2017.
8. Approve refund of 2017 liquor license to the Silver Loon Saloon in the amount of \$1,850.00
9. Allow Steven B. Johnson to attend the Newly Elected Officials Conference in Mankato, MN January 20-21, 2017 cost of \$939.66 includes hotel and mileage.
10. Allow Julianne Paulsen to attend the Newly Elected Officials Conference in Bloomington, MN January 27-28, 2017 cost of \$743.87, includes hotel and mileage.
11. Allow Fire Chief Allen Lewis to attend the EMS Today Conference in Salt Lake City, UT on February 22-26, 2017 cost of \$1,402.00 includes travel expense, lodging and meals.
12. Allow Dustin Erickson, VFD to attend the Fire Instructors & Training Officers Assoc. meeting at Camp Ripley January 20-21, 2017 cost of \$110.00, includes lodging.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Jorgensen removed item one for discussion on the minutes of the Truth and Taxation Hearing. The minutes have been changed to reflect the correction.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to Approval/correction of minutes of Regular

Meeting held December 13, 2016; Truth and Taxation Meeting held December 13, 2016 and the Reorganizational Meeting held January 3, 2017. Motion Carried.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to appoint Mathew Sipola to the Eveleth Virginia Airport Commission for a 3-year term ending on 1-1- 2020. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to appoint Bob Cohn and Gordon Dahl to a 3-year term on the Cable Commission ending on 12-1-19.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to appoint Darwin Alar to a 1-year term on the Cable Commission ending on 12-1-17. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to appoint Dennis Yourczek and Tony Bertucci to a two-year term on the Cable Commission ending on 12-1-18. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to appoint Wanda Jean Huntington to the Virginia Housing Redevelopment Authority for a five-year term ending on 11-22-20. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17027 to Designation of bank depositories for 2017. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Johnson asked about having two official newspapers. City Administrator See-Benes noted that it is up to each City if they would like to have two newspapers but it can be more costly as each notice would have to be printed in both papers. The MDN prints daily and we have notices that need to get printed within a short notice so it does give the City more flexibility in the advertising.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17028 to designate the Mesabi Daily News as the legal newspaper for 2017. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 17029 authorizing the City to act as sponsoring agency for the Federally Funded Transportation Alternative Grant for the City of Virginia/Virginia School District Safe Routes to School Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Administrator See-Benes updated the council on the release. The transmission line within the Easement Premises was removed. This was located on RGGS land and this is a release of the easement that is no longer needed.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the Release of Easement for Easement 12941 between RGGG and the City of Virginia due to the removal of an electrical transmission line outside the easement premises. Motion Carried.

Communications from Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on January 3, 2017:

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the following variance requests from Carol Stavnes located at 301 10<sup>th</sup> Street South; a 5.5 foot variance to the required 20 foot front yard setback requirement in order to construct a 10 foot x 22.5 foot addition 14.5 feet from the front (South) property line to the existing house. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the following variance requests from Carol Stavnes located at 301 10<sup>th</sup> Street South; a 2.3 foot variance to the required 20 foot side yard setback abutting City right of way requirement in order to construct a 10 foot x 22.5 foot addition 17.7 feet from the side yard (East) property line of the existing house. Motion Carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Jorgensen met with DSGW architects regarding design work on the Olcott Fountain. The fountain restoration was proposed in two phases, the first phase costing \$500,000 and the second phase \$400,000. The Phase One proposal came in at \$180,000 and is a very large decrease in the estimate. Greg Gilness would like to attend the next Finance meeting and discuss the proposal.

#### COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

City Administrator Britt See-Benes reminded the Council and audience of the Comp Plan hearing at 6:00 p.m. on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Miner's Memorial Building and also noted that Revive Virginia has received an IRRRB grant for \$50,000 for Revitalization of Downtown Virginia.

Finance Director Sherry Erickson discussed the Pay Equity Report. The report is to be submitted to the State for 2016 and requires Council approval to submit. The City is in compliance. The Pay Equity reviews the number of positions and how many females' versus males there are in a position and reviews the comparable pay.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the Pay Equity Report to be submitted to the State of Minnesota for 2016. Motion Carried.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. requested the community adhere to the calendar parking rules. Citations have been issued and a number of people owe parking tickets. There will be a one-time offer to pay the delinquent tickets minus the

late fee. The people will receive a notice if they are delinquent in their tickets. If the fines are not paid or there are any additional violations incurred it will result in the towing of the vehicle.

The City has advertised for rink attendants and they must be 16 years and older. Two applications have been received and we are still taking applications. There are three rinks, Northside, Ridgeway, and Midway.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that the Governor's bonding bill and the legislative bill has a \$4.9 m request for the gap funding for the Highway 53 project. We will find out more information on Thursday of this week. LGA is still in the discussion phase if there will be more money allocated to cities. The Miner's is not in the bonding bill, but could possibly be in the Senate or House bill.

City Administrator See-Benes attended the Friends of the Greenhouse meeting and told the council that a wind storm pulled the panels away from main beam. It will be evaluated this spring. There is money in the budget for the repair. The Council requested a breakdown of money spent on the greenhouse. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that the Friends of the Green House have done an outstanding job maintaining the greenhouse with very little funding from the city.

Adjourned at 7:07 p.m. to Tuesday, January 24, 2017 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