

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 26, 2016

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 Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Baribeau, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. - 7

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held January 12, 2016.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 16-002 – Schedule of Bills.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. explained a request that had come in from the Trail Association that was requesting the City of Virginia to send in a letter to MnDOT in support of the use of the Hwy 53 right-of-way in order to connect the snowmobile trails between Eveleth, Gilbert and Virginia. The trail would run east along the back of Mud Lake Road past the homes on the hill and continue NW bound until it reaches Hwy 135 and will utilize the existing culvert system to gain access to the northbound right away.

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to send a letter to MnDOT in support of the use of the Hwy 53 right-of-way in order to connect the snowmobile trails between Eveleth and Gilbert. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to allow John Tourville to work with Jason Berg from Range Family Dental in moving forward with a proposed property acquisition and complete a First Right of Refusal for property near Super One North and to also clear up any outstanding issues with AEOA and Range Mental Health in that area of property. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to approve a 1% rent increase as of April 1, 2016, and approve the April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 budget for Washington Manor. Motion carried. Mayor Cuffe Jr. noted he was not in favor of the 1% increase of the rents, he does approve the budget. Councillor Sipola noted to Mayor Cuffe Jr. that the budget was set taking into account the rental increase.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve the follow through a capital improvement plan for the Washington Manor budget in the amount of \$45,000.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve resolution 16041 for the construction of the Greenhouse restroom facilities in the amount of \$43,460.00 from Lenci Enterprises. Resolution unanimously adopted.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to approve pay estimate #1 to Hoover Construction for Joy Global Site Grading in the amount of \$113,924.67. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to allow Chief Mattson to attend the Chiefs Conference in St. Cloud, April 17-20, 2016 at a cost of \$549.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to allow Matt Kelley to attend the Supervisor Survival in St. Paul, February 8-9, 2016, at a cost of \$548.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to allow Paul Stromberg, and Jen Brozek, to attend the Interview & Interrogation Techniques in St. Paul, March 8-11, 2016, at a cost of \$1,194.00 each. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to allow Chris Rengstorf to attend the Reid Interviewing & Interrogation in St. Paul, March 8-11, 2016, at a cost of \$714.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and Supported by Baranzelli to allow John Swenson to attend the First Line Supervisor Training in Andover, March 15-17, 2016, at a cost of \$664.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to allow Katherine Kral to attend the Advance Narcotics Training in St. Paul, February 29 to March 2, 2016, at a cost of \$677.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to transfer credit card authority to the Finance Director and determine what kind of card and terms she needs with a \$5,000.00 purchasing limit. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the Iron Range Youth in Action Program for a \$500.00 donation. Councillor Jorgensen explained that this organization did not meet the qualifications that were set in place last year by the Council for donations, nor did they complete the required paperwork as part of their request for the donation this year. He also stated that he did not feel this should be awarded this year due to there have has not been any changes from the previous year. Councillor Littlewolf pointed out that she has been appointed by the Mayor to this board and the City has made this donation for several years in the past without question.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to approve a donation of \$500 to the Iron Range Youth in Action Program. Motion carried.

Ayes- 6 Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Sipola, Baranzelli, Cuffe

Nays-1 Jorgensen

Moved by Sipola and supported Baribeau to appoint Jesse Linde to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three year term ending 2-1-19. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to re-appoint Steven Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three year term ending 2-1-19. Motion carried.

Moved by Baranzelli supported by McReynolds to appoint Hannah Sipola to the Library Commission for a three year term ending 2-1-19. Motion carried.

Ayes-6 Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Baranzelli, Cuffe
Nays-0
Abstained-1 Sipola due to family

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to re-appoint Patricia Monacelli to the Library Commission for a three year term ending 2-1-19. Motion carried.

Councillor Sipola explained that Gail Baribeau and Bruce Johnson were the candidates for the Public Utilities Commission for a three year term ending 2-1-19. At the Committee level it was moved and supported to appoint Gail Baribeau to this commission. Councillor Baranzelli spoke up and stated that he will be changing his vote tonight to Bruce Johnson instead. Each Councillor weighed in on the candidates and several noted that Gail Baribeau had several years of experience working on a commission board and has a business back ground working with large budgets and regulatory agencies. Other Councillors noted that Bruce Johnson would be their choice due to the fact he has never served on a commission. That would encourage citizens to participate in city Commissions, he is a mechanic by trade and the Public Utilities is a large mechanical operation. Councillor Baribeau stated that he will be supporting his wife, Gail Baribeau, as she has already been researching the Public Utilities, and understands large budgets and she has the right to serve on more than one Charter Commission within the City of Virginia.

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to appoint Gail Baribeau to the Public Utilities Commission for a three year term ending 2-1-19.

Ayes-3 Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds

Nays-4 Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli, Cuffe Jr.

Motion Fails.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Jorgensen to appoint Bruce Johnson to the Public Utilities Commission for a three year term ending 2-1-19.

Ayes-4 Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli, Cuffe Jr.

Nays-3 Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds

Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to invite Sharon Klumpp from Waters & Company to the Personnel Meeting, to be held on February 9, 2016 to make a presentation for the position of City Administrator. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. read the letter of resignation from John Tourville to the City Council. He will be accepting the position of City Administrator with the City of Chisholm. Each Councillor stated how much Mr. Tourville has accomplished in his career here with the City of Virginia and will be greatly missed.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by McReynolds to direct the City Clerk to check on the designation of the Miners as the new polling place and if not available then the second option would be ISD 2142. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to direct the City Attorney to send a follow up letter to Mr. Toman, 410 5th St. South, clarifying the life safety issues have been taken care of, but the blight issue has not and to apply the appropriate penalty actions. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. noted that properties such as these that have not had the proper maintenance may not currently be unsafe or condemnable but are sliding towards this as each year goes on without needed improvements. Councillor Sipola also stated that the Blight Ordinance found

within the Zoning Ordinance is not as strong in relation to what we can do as a City Council and what we cannot do. Councillor Littlewolf spoke about the initial reading of the proposed property maintenance code last year and will be working with the City Attorney and the Building and Grounds Committee to move it forward.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Virginia Public Utilities Meeting, stating that the gas inserts have helped in compliance issues and has allowed the PUC to produce an increase of 10,000 lbs. of steam per hour. All of the water discharge temps have been met and there have only been three major water breaks within the City this winter.

Councillor Jorgensen reported that the Olcott Fountain Restoration Project has raised approximately \$65,000.00 in private donations toward the required \$100,000.00 for the Virginia Foundation. Once this is reached the next goal will be to reach \$400,000.00. He welcomed everyone to visit the Facebook page that has been created of www.facebookolcottparkrestoration.com to view the video and power point of the project.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the park and rec commission that there was a water main break at the miners on Saturday, January 9, 2016. They completed the project by Monday at 10:00 P.M. The Greenhouse will be moving forward after tonight's meeting to install a bathroom. Councillor Littlewolf also noted that weekly yoga is taking place at the greenhouse and the Annual Green Envy Event will be taking place on March 19, 2016.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to allow the Friends of the Greenhouse to place their advertising requests with the City Clerk and the City would decide what advertising would be paid for on their behalf. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. gave the following updates:

➤ Thanked Kris Johnson for all of her hard work on the development of the City's new website that will go live in the future weeks. A presentation will be made to the public during one of the next City Council Meetings.

- Read a letter that given honorable mention to the Park and Rec Director John Bachman in regards to the actions he took during the water main break to insure players had water, portable restrooms and was able to keep the games on schedule.
- CBDG funds awarded this year were: \$20,000.00 to the Olcott Park Foundation Project and \$10,000.00 to the Lyric Center.
- Thanked Police Chief Nicole Mattson and the Officers for the hard work and the successful capture and arrest of the home invasion and shooting suspects.
- Possible Economic Development Projects: Range Mental Health/ AEOA, Horace Mann Complex for a possible memory care facility with Spectrum Health and possible development of 14 acres in Midway.
- The Mayor will be traveling with Mr. Tourville next week to the Capital to work on funding issues for the Hwy 53 gap and the Miners Memorial Building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

Larry Cuffe, Jr.
Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Pamela LaBine
City Clerk